

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: 6/10/2017
Subject: Supervisor's Report



- 1. Financial Report** – May was another normal month. Cash on hand at month end was \$1,496,000. The 12/31 cash projection indicates we will have about \$934,000 in cash on hand at year-end, about \$10,000 less than we projected last month and slightly above the \$927,000 budgeted. We still have about \$53,000 of possible revenue and cost opportunities which if they materialize, could improve our year end cash position. FAC is looking into investing some of our cash in CDs with short term maturities. We currently earn about .25% on our municipal money market account which averages about \$1.2 million over the year, generating about \$3,000 in interest. If could double the .25% rate by laddering CD's we could add another \$3,000 annually without giving up much in terms of liquidity. Another option would be to prepay the remaining \$240,000 on our 1.99% truck loan, which would save about \$9500 over the next three years.
- 2. Local Laws 2 & 3** – We will consider adopting Local Laws 2 & 3 at the 6/15 TB meeting.
- 3. Memorial Day Parade** – While the parade was cancelled due to the rain, the Memorial Day Ceremony was held in the Ancram Fire House, with about 100 people attending. Jim MacArthur hosted the event, with members of the Cadby Shutts VFW Post and volunteer firefighters from Ancram and Taghkanic participating.
- 4. Kids Camp and Pool** – We have 75 kids signed up for camp, 20 of whom are under 5, so Camp Director Samantha Mason plans to hire one additional camp counselor, and has put a freeze on new applications and plans to start a waiting list. Thanks to Annie Walwyn-Jones, Murdoch Morrison and all the volunteers they recruited to help out with the Ancram Neighbors Network (ANN) Memorial Day Weekend Pig Roast, ANN raised a record high \$5,300 to help support the kids camp and pool. Total donations so far are slightly over \$18,500 thanks to the ANN Pig Roast, the Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation, which is donating \$7500 again this year, and to about 50 individuals and businesses which have contributed to support the camp and pool. We will continue to solicit donations from the Ancramemail list and hope to raise a total of about \$25,000, which is about what we received in donations last year, before the camp and pool open early in July. Again this year we will be providing USDA free lunches to all campers and kids at the pool.
- 5. 5/23 Grievance Day** - The BAR reviewed 5 cases, and agreed to 3 modifications. Assessor Ken Leggett had reviewed and agreed to “stipulations” on 6 cases prior to the BAR meeting, and made 4 corrections. Our assessments are at 100% of market value according to the State. Assessor Leggett continues to work with the County Office of Real Property to update assessments based on changes in market conditions.
- 6. Doodletown WMA** – Neighbors living adjacent to the DWMA and the Ancram and Taghkanic CACs continue to be engaged in an active email exchange with DEC Wildlife Manager Mike Clark. DEC is continuing to build parking areas off Westfall and Doodletown, and continues to work on the WMA Plan, which should be done over the next few months and be presented at a public hearing. Questions have come up which DEC has not yet responded to, about whether DEC is going to do a SEQRA review and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) based on their plans to clear cut up to 20% of the 690 acre area.
- 7. CAFO General Permit** – As I reported last month, we have been asked to join an amicus brief in a lawsuit against DEC for inadequate regulations to control CAFO operations. Earthjustice, the firm that is suing DEC, claims that DEC is not following EPA regulations requiring that CAFO nutrient management plans be filed with DEC, and that these plans and data confirming compliance with them be available to the public. I have asked for opinions on this from CAC, NYS Department of Ag & Markets, Cornell, DEC and the Ancram Agricultural Advisory Council. So far, only one comment. I don't think there are any large cattle operations (over 300 head) in Ancram subject to CAFO, so this may not be of immediate interest to us.
- 8. CSCTF** – The CSCTF is looking into energy code training, electric vehicle charging stations and LED street lights. Along with the unified solar permit and the energy audits previously approved by the Town, implementing two additional energy saving actions would qualify us for up to a \$50,000 NYSEDA grant.
- 9. Columbia County** – The next Shared Services Panel meeting is 6/22. I won't be able to attend, and have asked Deputy Supervisor Hugh Clark to attend representing Ancram.