

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: 5/14/2017
Subject: Supervisor's Report



- 1. Financial Report** – April was another normal month. Cash on hand at month end was \$1,532,000. The 12/31 cash projection indicates we will have about \$943,500 in cash on hand at year-end, slightly over the \$927,000 budget. We learned this month that we are going to receive \$47,000 in the first of two 2017 mortgage tax payments. This is \$17,000 over the full year budget of \$30,000. We anticipate a “normal” \$15,000 second mortgage tax payment in November for a total of \$62,000, or about \$32,000 above budget.
- 2. Local Laws 2 & 3** – We will hold public hearings on Local Laws 2 & 3 prior to the 5/18 TB meeting and will do SEQRA reviews on both laws during the meeting. County Planning Board has both laws on their agenda for 5/16. We will consider both local laws for adoption in June.
- 3. Colleen Lutz** – Colleen was appointed to the County Environmental Management Council at the BOS meeting on 5/10. On May 22 she will also be awarded the 2017 Individual Award for “Good Earthkeeping” by the County EMC for her work with Ancram’s CAC and for her efforts to successfully secure culvert grants, Trees for Tribes grants and for her efforts to manage the Ancram culvert project over the past few years. Colleen’s contributions to good earthkeeping and environmental conservation have been made over an extensive career in Ancram Town government. She has served as Secretary of the Town Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, as an Assistant in the Building Department, as a member of the Conservation Advisory Council, as Chair of the Town’s Culvert Committee, as a member of the Town’s Climate Smart Community Task force and as a member of the Youth Commission and Kid’s Camp Board. In all these roles, Colleen worked to make her colleagues and the residents of Ancram aware of the environmental issues facing the community as a routine part of the discussion.
- 4. Doodletown WMA** - Over 30 people attended the May 1 meeting with DEC which had been set up by CAC to review the “plan” for the WMA. Residents expressed concerns about increased traffic and trash, parking along Doodletown & Westfall, hunting and trespassing on private lands adjacent to the WMA, logging and clear cutting 10-20% of the 690 acres, and the use of pesticides to control invasives after the logging and clear cutting is done. DEC has responded to emails from concerned residents, and plans to hold a public hearing once they have completed their “plan”.
- 5. Speed limits** – Discussed the Sawchuck Rd situation with Deputy David Proper, who recommends that we reduce the speed limit to 35, to make it consistent with what is already posted at 35 at the bottom of the hill in Millerton and due to a combination of slick winter roads and slow moving farm equipment in the spring, summer and fall. Jim Miller and I have reviewed Pats Rd again, and strongly recommend that the speed limit on Pats also be reduced to 35 due to the combination of slick winter conditions, slow moving farm equipment in the spring, summer and fall and the added risk of residents walking on Pats. We have received a request from Jerry Peele to take some action to slow people down on Wiltsie Bridge Rd as they drive by his farm. The speed limit there is already 40. The problem is the road rises to create a limited sight distance when driving toward Herondale from Empire Rd, which makes it impossible to see animals crossing the road until it’s too late.
- 6. CAFO General Permit** – We have been asked to join an amicus brief in a lawsuit against DEC for inadequate regulations to control CAFO operations. I have asked for opinions on this from CAC, NYS Department of Ag & Markets, Cornell, DEC and the Ancram Agricultural Advisory Council.
- 7. Summer Job Opportunities** – No one from Ancram applied for the County Summer Intern Job, so I have nominated a student from Hudson at the recommendation of Hudson Supervisor Rick Scalera.
- 8. County** – The NY State Budget requires that counties develop a county-wide shared services plan by August 2017 and that the plan has to be approved, or not, by mid-September. There is no penalty for failing to approve a shared services plan, but the State has indicated that they may match any savings achieved from the shared services plan.