

To: Ancram Town Board
From: Art Bassin
Date: September 12, 2017
Subject: Supervisor's Report



- 1. Financial Report** – We prepaid the \$242,000 remaining balance on the plow truck loans in August, leaving us with about \$842,000 in the bank and a year-end 2017 projection of about \$700,000. We will add the annual interest and principal savings of \$84,000 to the contingent account budget over the next three years, so we build back our reserve account and maintain our ability to borrow in the future. Our next major equipment purchase will probably be a grader, which could cost between \$120,000 and \$250,000.
- 2. Highway** – Hall Hill was reopened 8/18. Costs to install the culvert so far are about \$50,000, about \$10,000 under the \$60,000 we had expected. Jim Miller plans to add guard rails and pave over the culvert later in the fall.
- 3. Kids Camp and Pool** – Camp ended 8/18, and the pool closed the end of August. Pool/Camp donations and fees this year totaled about \$28,000, about \$5,000 higher than budgeted and \$2,000 higher than last year. Excluding our spending in the bathrooms and pump house (about \$9,000), costs related to the pool came in slightly under budget, but camp costs came in about \$11,000 over budget because we hired 12 counselors this year, compared to the 8 we had last year and budgeted for this year. This increase in camp counselors was triggered by the record number of kids who applied for camp (85 signed up this year, and 60-70 attended on a daily basis compared to about 65 applications in 2016 with 50 to 60 attending daily) and because of the large number of 4 and 5 years olds this year (22) who required closer supervision. For 2018 we will discuss and decide whether to limit the total number of kids who can attend camp, and whether to increase the minimum age requirement from 4 to 5 or 6. Our Camp Director, Samantha Mason, has indicated she plans to be back next summer. I am continuing discussions with our Head Lifeguard and Pool Manager about their availability next year.
- 4. 2018 Town Hall Snow Control Bid** – The Town Hall snow plowing contract is up for bid again this year. I will send you a copy of the bid notice separately. Once we get bids back we will have to decide if we want to accept one of the bids or have the Highway Department do the snow control at Town Hall this winter.
- 5. Unsafe buildings** – Code Enforcement Officer Ed Ferratto will be notifying owners of buildings that may become “threats to public safety” to take steps to secure their buildings. At some point in the future it is likely that we will need to take action under LL #2 of 2015 if owners do not take steps secure their buildings. Ed Ferratto and I are consulting with an attorney about how to best proceed.
- 6. Long Lake Home Owners Association** – Long Lake HOA will request TB consent to allow them to form transportation companies as required by NYS to own and operate their water and wastewater facilities. We should have documents to review before our 9/19 meeting. These consents were originally approved by the Ancram TB back in 1992.
- 7. Climate Smart Community Task Force (CSCTF)** – The CSCTF is looking into installing an electric vehicle charging station at Town Hall, and has recommended that the Town join the Mid Hudson Street Lighting Consortium, which will give us access to better LED street light options. CSCTF is also coordinating the energy code training process. These three initiatives, plus conducting an energy audit and the Town’s adoption of the NYS Unified Solar Permit earlier this year, could qualify us for a \$50,000 climate smart community grant from NYS.
- 8. 2018 Tentative Budget** – The Budget Workshop will be on 9/16, and the public hearing on the Tentative Budget will be held prior to the 9/19 TB meeting. At this point we are projecting a 1% (\$7,000) drop in the tax levy with a contingent (reserve) account of about \$134,000, about \$80,000 higher than the budgeted contingent account in 2017 of \$56,000. Any additional spending decisions (raises, health insurance increases, etc.) will result in a reduction of the contingent account if we want to keep 2018 taxes equal to or slightly under 2017.