

**Finance Committee Meeting  
Executive Session  
March 27, 2024**

Attendees

Committee: Art Merrill, Wayne Marshfield, John Kosier, Joe Cetta, Eric Wilson, Tina Molé

Absent: Wayland Gladstone, George Haynes

Staff: Beverly Shields, Penny Bishop, Glenn Nealis, Shelly Johnson-Bennett

Mr. Merrill called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

On a motion by Mr. Cetta, seconded by Mr. Kosier, the minutes of the March 13 committee meeting were unanimously approved.

The February 29, 2024, Bank Balance report was reviewed. The March 13 Sales Tax report was reviewed. The report indicates an overall decrease in sales tax of 6.0440% compared to the same time period last year. Mr. Kosier declared that last year was a record setter for sales tax revenue.

Mr. Merrill reviewed 4 not-prefiled resolutions: A DSS resolution to increase petty cash from \$250 to \$500. The last time their petty cash was increased was 1985; BOE had two budget amendments to address the state pre-paid postage grant; and the payment of audit resolution.

Upon a motion by Mr. Marshfield, seconded by Mr. Kosier and unanimously carried, the Committee entered executive session to discuss contract negotiations.

Committee reconvened in regular session.

Mr. Cetta moved to provide support for the Village of Sidney FEMA flood mitigation project through the Planning Department. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marshfield and Mr. Wilson and approved by voice vote: 5 Approved (Wilson, Marshfield, Kosier, Cetta, Merrill), 2 Absent (Gladstone, Haynes).

Mr. Merrill noted the county's support will help ensure the work that has been done over the past 12 years will not be a waste and would help finalize the project. Mrs. Johnson-Bennett said over \$20 million has already been invested in the project.

In reply to Mr. Kosier regarding the old DPW Facility in Delhi, Ms. Molé said the County Attorney is looking into how we must auction the building.

Mr. Marshfield reported that the Department of Social Services expects a reduction in revenue for Veterans Services of \$76,307 due to reduced reimbursement. In the past, they were reimbursed 100% with the understanding that 100% of our veterans are referred from Social Services, which is not the case. Approximately 30 to 40% are referred from DSS so now the feds and state want the county to pay the extra in the amount of \$76,000. Mr. Merrill explained that the financial impact will affect both Social Services and Veterans Services budgets next year. VA Director Mark Dunlap is tracking referrals from DSS for budget consideration this fall.

Ms. Molé remarked that a week from Monday, April 8, is the solar eclipse at 2:18 in the afternoon. We've been approached by employees if they will be allowed to go outside to observe the eclipse and will the county purchase glasses that could be used to view the eclipse. Mr. Marshfield noted I Love New York is promoting this as a huge tourist attraction in the northern part of the state. Ms. Molé said they would allow employees to observe the eclipse on their break, but the county will not purchase the glasses.

#### Treasurer's Office – Beverly Shields

In response to Mr. Marshfield regarding misinformation going around about foreclosure sales, Mrs. Shields said she sent emails to all of our representatives regarding this. Mr. Marshfield stated the NYS Association of Counties defended counties by saying counties take losses on some and receive gains on some of the foreclosures and that basically the way it's being done is the way it should be done. Mrs. Shields said that Joe Gerberg, who wrote the entire law that is in the Governor's budget, said it works for the counties. It's not on counties where this money goes. It's on the courts. Taxpayers have 3 months to request the surplus from the courts. In reply to Mr. Merrill, Mrs. Shields said she does not want to have to make the decision on the surplus. She confirmed that NYSAC worked on this with State Tax and Finance. Joe Gerberg, who wrote the Article 11 law, was going to retire, but he stayed on for this law. He has it pretty well set up to work the best way for counties so the surplus stays in the county and will not have to be sent to the state. In reply to Mr. Marshfield, Mrs. Shields said Democrats are against the law. They want to give no taxes to seniors, veterans, and disabled who are a very large part of our county's population and that would decrease tax revenue in Delaware County. She said they also want to change the chronological order of paying taxes, so the oldest taxes are paid before the newest taxes. Mr. Kosier opined there would be no foreclosures in that situation. Mrs. Shields said the law was changed in the 70s to the current order because so many people were behind two years. She remarked they are tearing the proposal apart. There is a lot of ongoing discussion at the state about this law, and they probably will not have a budget by April 1 given Good Friday and Easter.

Travel, equipment, and fill vacancy requests were approved as presented.

Upon a motion the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.