

**Finance Meeting
January 25, 2023**

Attendees

Committee: Art Merrill, Wayland Gladstone, George Haynes, John Kosier, Wayne Marshfield, Jeff Taggart, Mark Tuthill and Tina Molé

Staff: Beverly Shields and Penny Bishop

Mr. Merrill called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

On a motion by Mr. Taggart and seconded by Mr. Gladstone, the draft minutes of the January 4 committee meeting were approved.

On a motion by Mr. Kosier and seconded by Mr. Taggart, the draft minutes of the Special committee meeting on January 18 were approved.

Treasurer's Office – Beverly Shields

Mrs. Shields introduced a not-prefiled resolution for the sale of tax acquired property to Andrew N. Hinkley for \$6,871.70. She distributed a list of cancelled taxes on six properties and noted a resolution will be introduced at the next Board meeting for the properties. In addition, she gave out a list of 2016-2017 property taxes assessed to George Hasay from the Village of Fleischmanns totaling \$23,910.48, which has been sent up for legal review in regards to foreclosure.

She referenced a map of property in the Town Colchester and noted a roadside parcel that cannot be a building lot and indicated the County Highway Department inquired about the lot which is 290' x 335' to see if it could be added to their inventory to be included with the bridge. After a discussion on the lot, Mr. Taggart made a motion to give the lot to DPW. Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Haynes seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

The April 1 County-Owned Auction List was shared and discussion ensued. A Middletown property located in the Village of Fleischmanns has code enforcement issues. The building was given to the Church of God years ago by William Hrazanek and a question has come up about purchasing the property for \$20,000. Mr. Kosier made a motion to approach the village about the back taxes. Mr. Taggart seconded the motion and the motion was carried to contact the village about the property.

Mark Project – Steve Finch, President

Steve Finch gave a brief overview of his history with the Mark Project and stated he was in attendance to see what possibilities there would be to help set up affordable housing. He asked if it would be feasible to refurbish homes into condos. The Mark Project is aware of some rundown county-owned properties going through the tax auction. For instance, there is a large house on Walnut Street in the Village of Margaretville that is falling into disrepair that could be made into two homes.

In answer to Mr. Kosier if the housing is to support low income residents, Mr. Finch said it would be to benefit housing for the workforce.

Mr. Marshfield remarked that anything that helps the County as a whole does not necessarily apply to all of the towns. If the plan is to refurbish dilapidated homes, the next step is to get the auction list from the Treasurer's Office.

Mr. Finch asked if they do identify candidate properties to refurbish, if it is okay to return and address the Finance Committee. Mr. Merrill agreed that would be fine.

Clerk of the Board – Penny Bishop

The Sales Tax Report was distributed indicating an increase in collection of 7.5944 percent over last year.

On a motion by Mr. Taggart seconded by Mr. Kosier, the Committee entered into an executive session to discuss negotiations.

Committee reconvened in regular session.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tuthill and seconded by Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Taggart, the committee agreed to send a letter in conjunction with the Chairman of the Board to the Village of Delhi and the Delhi Community Coalition. The letter would be to support a resolution requesting New York State to reinstate the host benefit payments to the Village for hosting SUNY Delhi but the letter would not be in support of additional PILT to the Village.

The not-prefiled resolutions were reviewed.

Travel, equipment and vacancy requests were approved as presented.

Meeting adjourned at 11.40 p.m.