

**Finance Meeting
March 8, 2023**

Attendees

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

Staff: Bev Shields, Amy Merklen, Penny Bishop

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

On a motion by Mr. Tuthill seconded by Mr. Kosier, the Committee entered into an executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Committee reconvened in regular session.

Treasurer's Office – Beverly Shields

Mrs. Shields expressed that Denise VanDusen has offered to come out of retirement to help out in the Treasurer's Office due to Ms. Moxham's illness.

On a motion by Mr. Gladstone seconded by Mr. Haynes a fill vacancy was authorized to rehire Mrs. VanDusen on a part-time basis. On a motion by Mr. Taggart seconded by Mr. Tuthill a fill vacancy was authorized to fill the Treasurer's Office tax and title search position. On a motion by Mr. Haynes seconded by Mr. Taggart, the committee authorized the temporary move of Tia McEntee to principal account clerk.

Mrs. Shields reported that the auction scheduled for July has been cancelled due to the lack of help. In reply to Mr. Gladstone if the auction will be rescheduled, Mrs. Shields said it may be held in the fall, perhaps September. The April 1 auction which is for 2018 taxes is still on. There are 67 parcels up for auction. The committee scheduled to meet on Wednesday, March 29 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room to review the properties in the sale.

Mrs. Shields remarked that for foreclosures, Sullivan County does not necessarily make villages whole. She said counties could charge villages to do the foreclosures. Mr. Merrill stated he would go with Mrs. Shield's lead on this. Mrs. Shields explained it is better if the county does the foreclosures. Mistakes are made when small municipalities attempt to do their own foreclosures. She noted the State comptroller is pushing villages to work out agreements for this process. In answer to Mr. Marshfield regarding inter-municipal agreements, Mrs. Shields stated we have stipulations with all of the villages except Walton. The signed stipulation goes on file at court. In answer to Mr. Gladstone if all foreclosure proceeds are split with every municipality, Mrs. Shields said only the towns are made whole. Mr. Gladstone noted the county suffers the loss. Mrs. Shields indicated the county and villages receive a percentage of the split proceeds and villages are not necessarily made whole.

Mrs. Shields indicated that they need to hire help for the auction and will need to contract with a service. Mr. Merrill requested some contract figures for committee consideration. Ms. Molé offered to volunteer her help at the foreclosure auction.

- January 2023 Bank Balance report was reviewed.
- 2022 Year-end Transfers report of was reviewed.
- 2022 Encumbrance report was reviewed.

Clerk of the Board – Penny Bishop

Mrs. Bishop announced she renewed the contract with Burke Group for GASB 75 valuation services. The four-year contract cost will average approximately \$3,000 per year.

In reply to Mr. Marshfield, Mr. Merrill confirmed the gas tax resolution would eliminate the collection of sales tax of gasoline in excess of two dollars per gallon.

Ms. Molé stated there would be a guest at the Board Meeting. She will be introducing Harris Weiss who is Governor Hochul’s Southern Tier Regional Representative. Mr. Marshfield said it would be a good opportunity to voice the County’s opposition to New York State’s proposal to end the Affordable Care Act enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (eFMAP) being passed on to counties.

In reply to Ms. Molé, Mr. Tuthill noted village elections will be held on March 21 with newly elected village officials to take office on April 1.

There were two not-prefiled resolutions for review.

Travel, equipment and vacancy requests were approved as presented.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.