

**Finance Meeting
June 14, 2023**

Attendees

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

Absent: John Kosier

Staff: Beverly Shields, Amy Merklen, Penny Bishop

Mr. Merrill called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

On a motion by Mr. Taggart and seconded by Mr. Tuthill, the draft minutes of the May 24 and June 1 Special meeting were unanimously approved.

The Sales Tax report updated June 13 was reviewed which indicates a decrease in collection of 2.5477 percent compared to the same time period last year.

Mr. Merrill reported the Probation Department is contracting with Enterprise Fleet Services to lease vehicles. Ms. Molé indicated they have been discussing that for a while because leasing vehicles has worked out for the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Gladstone indicated the department has had trouble getting models they wanted. In reply to Mr. Marshfield, Mr. Gladstone said they will be leasing one vehicle.

Clerk of the Board – Penny Bishop

Mrs. Bishop informed the committee that Christa Schafer has been working with the IT Department and USL Financials to streamline the budget process. Historically, Mrs. Schafer had to create the budget worksheets for each department with Excel and once all of the budgets were approved, the data had to be imported into USL. It has been a cumbersome process over the years. USL Financials has worked up a budget module and ran the prototype on June 8 for Christa, Penny, and Kathy to preview. The module would simplify the annual budget process altogether. The quote for the budget add-on is approximately \$30,000 and would be ready by August. Mr. Taggart made a motion to approve the cost of the USL budget module. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marshfield and unanimously carried.

Following up on the request to increase the amount of meal reimbursements, Mrs. Bishop noted the current reimbursement is \$5 for breakfast, \$8 for lunch, and \$15 for dinner. She has reviewed a number of meal reimbursement receipts, mostly from the Albany area, and lunch costs were anywhere from \$10 to \$21 and dinner receipts were \$21 to \$29. She noted that the IRS reimbursement rate for meals is 50% of the cost. Her suggestion was to increase breakfast to \$8, lunch to \$12, and dinner to \$18. Mr. Taggart made a motion to approve the suggested rates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Haynes and failed by a tied vote of three to three (Merrill, Marshfield, Tuthill). Mr. Marshfield made a motion to increase the reimbursements to \$10 for breakfast, \$15 for lunch, and \$20 for dinner. Mr. Haynes seconded the motion and the motion passed five to one (Taggart).

Treasurer's Office – Beverly Shields

In regards to the agreement of the Power Authority Payment in Lieu of Taxes in the Town of Delhi, Mrs. Shields said the committee needs to either agree or disagree. In response to Mr. Taggart,

Mr. Tuthill explained the agreement is a one-payment deal of \$12,000 for the parcel located on the corner of Platner Brook and County Route 16. In answer to Mr. Taggart, Mrs. Shields said the \$12,000 payment would be split. Mr. Taggart said he is against the agreement. Mr. Tuthill stated this is the best their assessor can offer but he noted they have another offer for the Power Authority. He stated he would like this matter to be tabled until the next meeting.

County Attorney's Office – Amy Merklen

Ms. Merklen noted the Senate passed the bill for the foreclosure moratorium, however, it is still pending in the House. Mr. Merrill stated that if the moratorium goes through, we will not be doing any more foreclosures. Mrs. Shields indicated their office is all ready to have another foreclosure auction. Ms. Merklen noted the House is currently out of session and that New York has not changed its laws to conform with this. If the auction were to be held, she could not say what would happen with the excess money. Mrs. Shields indicated an email needs to be sent to the court. Ms. Merklen will review the documentation before the email gets sent.

On a motion by Mr. Taggart, seconded by Mr. Gladstone the Committee entered into executive session to discuss litigation.

Committee reconvened in regular session.

Mr. Haynes noted that regarding DPW requesting the additional \$600,000 from general, the DPW fund balance is \$7,426,000 which will be reduced by \$400,000 for T&L. He said generally the target for that fund is \$6,000,000. He indicated they will be drawing down more of the DPW fund balance in the fall.

Ms. Molé informed the committee that there are some issues going on with the project to rebuild the homeless shelter at 161 Main Street in Delhi. She indicated the parcel is not big enough to build according to the plans. It was a two-story building and the plans are for a one-story. The Village of Delhi is giving DSS a hard time because their zoning requires 9,000 square feet and the proposed plans would be 2,500 feet short. Kent Manual thinks that at best, if the Village does give the County a variance, it would take at least 2 months. We are at Day 29 of the bids and she feels the bidders need to know about the delay. The bidders are expecting the contracts to be completed this summer but we will be held up for at least another two months. Ms. Molé confirmed the lot is too small but another major issue is the plan does not meet the setback requirement. Mr. Tuthill explained that the building has been gone long enough that we have to comply with current regulations. This has to go to the Planning Board which moves it over to the appeals board. The appeals board has 62 days to hold a public hearing then send it back with a variance to the planning board and wait another 62 days. Mr. Tuthill explained if the County had rebuilt the two-story house on the same site, it would have been grandfathered in. Once they clean up the lot and nothing is there for a year, it is considered vacant. Ms. Molé indicated if we don't meet the setback or lot size, and politically they don't want it there, it would be very easy for the village to say no. Ms. Molé will invite Kent to the DSS meeting on Monday.

Regarding the invitation for the IRT Distinguished Visitors Day Luncheon on July 13, Mrs. Bishop announced that the link sent out to Supervisors to RSVP has not been working.

Travel, equipment and vacancy requests were approved as presented. Upon a motion, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.