

**Finance Meeting  
September 27, 2023**

Attendees

Committee: Art Merrill, Wayne Marshfield, Jeff Taggart, Mark Tuthill, John Kosier,  
Wayland Gladstone, George Haynes, Tina Molé  
Staff: Bev Shields, Amy Merklen, Sherri Falcone, Penny Bishop

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

On a motion by Mr. Taggart, seconded by Mr. Marshfield, the draft minutes of the September 13 meeting were unanimously approved.

The August 2023 Bank Balance report was reviewed.

Clerk of the Board – Penny Bishop

Mrs. Bishop announced she has received the NYS 2024 Equalization Rates and has prepared a not-prefiled resolution for Board approval. Mr. Merrill indicated that when the rates decrease, the taxes increase. He noted Roscoe School District is the only school district in the state that has a special equalization rate and Colchester school taxes went up 38%, and he has heard from many unhappy taxpayers. The resolution will be presented at the afternoon Board meeting.

The Clerk noted that a question had come up about all Supervisors having a county email for conducting county business. She stated the IT Director had also spoken with her about the Delhi Telephone Company seeking to manage long-distance service for the county. DTC feels they can offer competitive rates. Mr. Merrill noted that the company Spy Glass has contacted him about offering their service which would compare costs of phone services and show where savings could be made.

Treasurer's Office – Beverly Shields

Mrs. Shields asked to extend Mrs. VanDusen's employment as they are still short staffed. She noted funds are available to keep her on. Mr. Taggart made a motion to keep Mrs. VanDusen on the payroll. The motion was seconded by Mr. Haynes and unanimously carried.

Ms. Molé reported that at the Department Head meeting last week, she asked that all committee meeting minutes be emailed to the COB's office for posting on the home page of the County website. Ms. Merklen noted it is okay to post draft minutes, alternatively, the minutes could be emailed for committee approval. In addition, all legal notices are to be posted on the website. When legal notices are sent out to the Mountain Eagle and Hancock Herald, they also need to be sent to COB for posting.

On a motion by Mr. Taggart, seconded by Mr. Marshfield and unanimously carried, the Committee entered into executive session to discuss budget negotiations.

Committee reconvened in regular session. Travel, equipment, and vacancy requests were approved as presented.

Upon a motion, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.