

**Finance Committee Meeting  
July 10, 2024**

Attendees

Committee: Art Merrill, Wayland Gladstone, Wayne Marshfield, John Kosier, Joe Cetta, Tina Molé  
Absent George Haynes, Eric Wilson  
Staff: Sherri Falcone, Amy, Merklen, Penny Bishop

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

On a motion by Mr. Marshfield, seconded by Mr. Cetta, the minutes of the June 26 committee meeting were unanimously approved.

The June 29 Sales Tax report was reviewed. The report indicates a decrease of 4.4500% relative to last year. A graph showing sales tax revenue over the past five years was included on the report.

Ms. Molé stated representatives from the Mayor's Council asked to address the Finance Committee at the July 24 meeting to talk about sales tax. The clerk reminded the committee that Auditor Thomas Smith from EFPR Group is scheduled to be at the July 24 meeting to review the 2023 County Financial reports. Mr. Merrill recommended having the Mayor's Council attend the August 14 FC meeting.

Real Property Tax Services – Sherri Falcone

Mrs. Falcone is requesting to purchase four new tax bill printers. She said the five-year service contract on the current printers is up in September as the printers were purchased in 2019 and need to be replaced. She noted that two of the printers are not working at all. In reply to Mr. Merrill, she said the purchase price for four printers is \$44,366.98 plus the service contract at a cost of \$154.00 per month.

Mr. Marshfield distributed a report regarding the County ARPA funds as of July 5 and noted there is approximately \$1 million left to spend which has already been allocated. Mr. Cetta confirmed the next ARPA meeting is scheduled for September 10.

Ms. Molé announced that Bovina passed a resolution to negotiate with the County for a Tax Assessor Pilot program. Mr. Merrill noted the County would need a formal request from the town. County Attorney Amy Merklen confirmed that Bovina has a 45-day permissive referendum before they can approach the County. In the meantime, the contract has been drafted for the county to provide the services. A resolution would need to be brought to the Board once the referendum has passed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Kosier, seconded by Mr. Cetta and unanimously carried, the Committee entered executive session to discuss potential litigation.

Committee reconvened in regular session.

Mr. Cetta led a discussion regarding the temporary closure of the Sands Creek bridge in Hancock. The bridge would be closed for 36 hours at the start and again at the end of construction, and it is a long route around. Hancock Supervisor Jerry Vernold attended the Public Safety Committee Meeting on July 8 and shared his concerns about the closure and is seeking solutions to ensure the safety of those who live and visit the area during the time of the road closure. Committee recommends that Hancock stage

an ambulance at the bridge construction site since there would be foot traffic for emergency service personnel to cross the bridge and access the ambulance. Hancock has three ambulances, and a county ambulance would not be necessary. In addition, the county would not be paying fees to Hancock Emergency Services to stage their own ambulance at the construction site.

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

Upon a motion the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.