

**Finance Committee Meeting
October 9, 2024**

Attendees

Committee: Art Merrill, Bud Gladstone, Wayne Marshfield, George Haynes, John Kosier,
Joe Cetta, Eric Wilson, Tina Molé

Staff: Beverly Shields, Penny Bishop

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

On a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Mr. Wilson, the September 25 committee meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

The October 4 Sales Tax report was reviewed. The report indicates a decrease of .7645% which is down relative to last year. In response to Mr. Wilson regarding sales tax revenue on dispensaries, Mr. Merrill said he believes a lot of that income would be from online sales. The August 31 Bank Balance report was reviewed.

There were three not-prefiled resolutions: Designation of Delaware County Economic Development as Tourism Promotion Agency for 2025, BA to accept funding from Bassett Healthcare for SNAP Ed food box project, and payment of audit.

Mr. Merrill stated the Budget Oversight committee would meet after this Finance Committee meeting is over and again in the afternoon once the Board Meeting adjourns and a short Human Resources Committee meeting concludes.

In reply to Mr. Marshfield 's question on the status of the foreclosure sale, Mr. Merrill said he spoke with the County Attorney earlier, and she said she had not received anything for the foreclosures.

Treasurer's Office – Beverly Shields

Mrs. Shields agreed that her office should be able to submit documents to the County Attorney's Office as each property search is completed. She stated she needs to doublecheck the documents that are ready to make sure everything is included which is very time consuming. In response to Mr. Merrill, Mrs. Shields said they are running the 2109 foreclosures on the new software parallel with the previous software.

Mr. Marshfield expressed that ARP committee members were disappointed with the cost of the software maintenance for the new tax software program. In six years, the maintenance cost will be the same as the price of the program. Mrs. Shields said she was not aware the maintenance would be that much. They have spent a lot of time transferring balance and tax data to the new program. The whole process is a work in progress; they just haven't done a foreclosure on the new system yet.

Mr. Cetta asked for confirmation that the new tax software is compatible with the BAS system. Mrs. Shields said it is compatible with BAS as well as several other systems.

In reply to Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Shields said she is working with Assistant County Attorney Jeremy Rase on a contract to work with Dale Lambrecht on conducting an online auction and she noted that an ordinary contract would not work in this situation. She explained that the contract needs to be specialized to address liability during the foreclosure process. Properties that are in a foreclosure sale are generally not in good condition and the county does not allow potential buyers to access the property due to possible liability issues. She confirmed the property does not belong to the county unless it does not sell at the foreclosure sale.

In answer to Mr. Marshfield's question if it is legal to hire the foreclosure sale off to a third party, Mrs. Shields said yes it is but the county would have to pay. Mr. Marshfield stated it is costing the county money by not having any sales for the past five or six years. Mrs. Shields said that some of the records are ready, but for what Amy wants, they have to go back through and search each property all over again. She said there are approximately 150 parcels which is down from 700 to 800 when they start the process in May. At the end of the year when they know about how many properties are left, they hire in some contractors to help out. She has contracted with two people who are working on this now.

Mr. Merrill emphasized the foreclosure sale needs to be done as soon as possible.

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

Upon a motion the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.