

**Finance Committee Meeting
November 13, 2024**

Attendees

Committee: Art Merrill, Bud Gladstone, Wayne Marshfield, George Haynes, John Kosier,
Eric Wilson, Joe Cetta, Tina Molé
Supervisor: Maya Boukai
Staff: Beverly Shields, Penny Bishop, Amy Merklen

Mr. Merrill called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

On a motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Marshfield, the October 23 committee meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

The November 13 Sales Tax report was reviewed. The report indicates sales tax is down over a percent at -1.31% less than last year. Mr. Merrill noted that sales tax had jumped up in 2022. He said this is our peak time right now but warned the state will make end-of-the-year adjustments soon.

In reply to Mr. Merrill, Mrs. Shields confirmed she is working with Systems East in regard to exporting tax collection data which would then need to be imported into USL. USL submitted a quote to the Clerk in the amount of \$5,000 to provide an import program. Mrs. Shields is checking with the vendor to see if this data transfer programming is covered under the contract. In addition, Mrs. Shields confirmed the bond on the towers will be paid in 2027.

In reply to Mr. Marshfield pertaining to the sales tax report and the amount allocated to Solid Waste, Mr. Merrill explained \$25,855,975 has been collected to date, of which \$1,684,088 was allocated to Capital Solid Waste and \$4,276,526 went to the Landfill fund. In total, \$5,960,614 of \$25,855,975 (25%) has been disbursed to Solid Waste. He expressed that \$11,000,000 was earmarked for the biodigester and if they had to put that amount into the budget, it would be a 22% increase and would have to be collected from taxpayers. Rather, it is money that was set aside through this process to cover these projects. Mr. Haynes stated the plan in 2024 is to fund the landfill heavy which would carry them through next year and for the year after, most of the allocation would be for capital solid waste to help pay for the biodigester. He stated the funds being used to set up the capital accounts this year are coming out of the post-closure account which will have to be returned to that fund. He confirmed the overall sales tax budgeted is \$21,500,000 which includes the portion allocated to Solid Waste.

Mr. Merrill referenced the negative EOY adjustments on the report for 2022 and 2023 which are -2,448,185 and -2,255,233 respectfully. He noted that last year about this time, practically every payment was negative compared to the previous year. Mr. Haynes stated the committee estimates the revenue from sales tax low because they are not sure what it will be. Mr. Merrill agreed and said it is not guaranteed revenue. He stated the surplus sales tax revenue makes the budget fluid.

Mr. Haynes clarified that Solid Waste receives 25% of the sales tax revenue. In 2023, the sales tax revenue was \$31.3 M and Solid Waste received \$7.8 M. He stated that the Solid Waste budget is based on the estimated sales tax revenue of \$21,500,000. Because sales tax fluctuates every year, they will remain conservative with the numbers and will operate with an amount they are confident would be received. Mr. Gladstone noted a lot of negative payments this year. He observed that last year 11 of the payments were negative compared to the previous year and the snowball is rolling. Mr. Merrill confirmed the most negative part of the year is coming up.

Mr. Wilson remarked that this will be the first year for Sidney to be able to use the forecasted medical marijuana sales tax which was very helpful to plan their budget.

Mr. Merrill stated other anticipated revenue would be coming from the courts through the traffic diversion program. That revenue would help all the municipalities. Mr. Marshfield noted that the Village of Delhi does not have a court because they have a combined court with the Town of Delhi. All of Delhi's diversion revenue would go to the Town of Delhi. Mr. Kosier said that the Village of Hobart also does not have a court. Their court business is handled by the Town of Stamford.

In answer to Mr. Marshfield regarding the Fuel Master equipment authorization from Public Works, Mr. Haynes explained the request is to use the remaining funds of \$67,000 from the ARP allocation. The second purchase request for \$122,000 is to pay the balance of the fuel island project from DPW's equipment budget.

In answer to Mr. Marshfield, County Attorney Amy Merklen said she has received some information about the foreclosure properties. Mrs. Shields confirmed they have submitted property information for three towns. She agreed the foreclosure sale would not be until Spring.

The payment of audit was the only not-prefiled resolution.

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

Upon a motion the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.