

**Finance Committee Meeting
December 11, 2024**

Attendees

Committee: Art Merrill, Wayland Gladstone, Wayne Marshfield, George Haynes, John Kosier,
Joe Cetta, Tina Molé, Eric Wilson
Staff: Beverly Shields, Penny Bishop, Kathy Preston

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

On a motion by Mr. Gladstone, seconded by Mr. Cetta, the November 26 committee meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

A report of year-end transfers from contingency was reviewed. The balance of the contingency account is \$656,534.10.

The December 6 Sales Tax report was reviewed. The report indicates sales tax revenue is down over a percent at -1.5810% relative to last year of approximately \$104,000 and overall, the revenue is behind 2023 about a half a million at this time. Mr. Merrill stated the end of the year is never very positive and noted that in the previous year, the last 4 out of 5 deposits were negative compared to the year before.

Treasurer's Office – Beverly Shields

Mrs. Shields presented a not-prefiled resolution to levy the 2024-2025 returned school taxes. She had made a notation of an increase or decrease compared to the 2023 school tax levy for committee information.

Mr. Merrill presented two additional not-prefiled resolutions: appropriation and reallocation of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding and the payment of audit.

Regarding prefiled Resolution 207, Levy of Taxes for Special Districts for today's Board meeting, Mr. Merrill stated he would be sure to ask Supervisors if any changes were needed before the resolution is voted on, because once the resolution is passed, it will be final. He reported that there is one change for the East Branch Water District in the Town of Hancock. The amount has been adjusted to \$31,550.87 a change of -13¢. The clerk said the adjustment had to be made because the water district report they had requested weeks ago finally came in on Monday. Mr. Merrill stated one other matter he would announce is that the amount to raise for the Long Eddy Fire District is \$0.00 because right now, the fire district is not active. In addition, the Long Eddy Fire District budget was not signed by the fire commissioners and Sullivan County would not raise taxes for the district because the budget request was not valid. As solicited by Delaware County, Long Eddy FD submitted a letter rescinding their budget request for 2025. Mr. Merrill stated the fire district does not want to dissolve and is working to reorganize.

Upon a motion by Mr. Kosier, seconded by Mr. Marshfield, the committee entered executive session to discuss contract negotiations.

Committee reconvened in regular session.

In response to Mr. Merrill regarding retail dispensary sales tax revenue, Mrs. Shields stated that 25% of the sales tax collected stays with the county and 75% goes to the village and town. Mr. Wilson said he understands that the Village of Sidney opted out and would not receive any of the revenue. He explained that the Town of Sidney had a tie vote, and the default was that municipalities are automatically opted in unless they chose to opt out. With the tie vote, the Town remained eligible for this revenue. Mr. Merrill said towns must split the 75% revenue with villages according to an agreement made between the municipalities. Mrs. Shields noted if no agreement is in place, then the monies shall be evenly divided between the town and village. The third quarter dispensary sales tax received in October was \$5,688.72 based on sales of \$145,503.92 in the Town of Sidney. Mrs. Preston noted the sales tax rate is just shy of 4% and calculates out to .039097. In reply to Ms. Molé if there are any restrictions on how this revenue can be used, Mr. Wilson said he is not aware of any restrictions. In response to Mr. Merrill, Mr. Wilson said Otsego County receives a sizeable amount of dispensary revenue.

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

Upon a motion the meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

**Finance Committee Meeting
December 23, 2024**

Cancelled.