

**Finance Committee Meeting
March 12, 2025**

Attendees

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

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

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

Mr. Merrill confirmed the final sales tax revenue for 2024 was -.6340%, \$199,988 less than the total amount received in 2023. The March 6 Sales Tax report was reviewed and shows a 3.6314% increase relative to 2024. December 31, 2024 Bank balances were reviewed and discussed briefly. A final contingency report for 2024 will be presented at the next meeting.

The 2024 Encumbrance report was reviewed. Mr. Merrill noted that IT has a large amount listed regarding a data storage service, and the department has been working to settle the pricing. Since the department has spent an exorbitant amount of time on other issues, he feels he can excuse the fact that they are a little behind here. Probation requested amounts from seven accounts be encumbered although none of the items or services were obligated in 2024. The remaining items in the report were properly on order and are listed because vendors have not yet submitted invoices. Mr. Wilson made a motion to accept all of the encumbrances except the ones that do not qualify, as discussed, or the storage service request from IT unless the required backup is provided. Mr. Marshfield seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously carried.

In reply to Mr. Cetta's question about typically getting reports from the Treasurer's Office, Mr. Merrill said the Treasurer lets the committee know where she's at on issues that are going on in her office. The Clerk noted such reports would be documented in the minutes.

Treasurer's Office – Beverly Shields

Mrs. Shields reported that regarding Occupancy Tax, the state passed a law in February to start collecting an additional 4% sales tax on short-term rentals effective March 1, which is anticipated to be an additional \$1M for the County. She said there are 10 major platforms, such as Airbnb and Verbo, that will collect the sales tax now. She believes it will take some time to get an accurate reporting of what the specific sales tax on short-term rentals is. In reply to Mr. Marshfield, Mrs. Shields said the previous sales tax was 2% and with the additional 4% bed tax, the County will receive 6%.

Mr. Wilson stated the Town of Sidney originally forecasted \$40,000 revenue from cannabis sales; they now estimate the revenue at \$60,000. Delhi Supervisor Maya Boukai said that the Delhi Planning Board is currently reviewing a proposal to allow the sale of cannabis.

The only not-prefiled resolution was for the payment of audit. Travel, equipment, and fill vacancy requests were approved as presented.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.