

Finance, Ways and Means Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2021 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chairwoman Yvonne Nirelli via Zoom
Vice Chairman Cliff Moses
Supervisor Mary Cavanagh via Zoom
Supervisor Matt Roberts
Supervisor Jim Cunningham

OTHERS PRESENT: Finance Director Lou Anne Randall
County Clerk Michael Keville
County Attorney Tina Wayland-Smith
Treasurer Cindy Edick
Chairman John Becker
Public Information Officer Samantha Field
County Administrator Mark Scimone
Deputy Treasurer Rebecca Marsala

A quorum being present, Chairwoman Yvonne Nirelli called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. in the Supervisors Chambers.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Motion by C. Moses to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2021 meeting; seconded by M. Cavanagh.
Motion unanimously approved.

II. County Clerk

County Clerk Michael Keville spoke of the concern that exists with water entering the basement of the County Office building, where permanent records are stored. In late August, rain water collected in the junction box near the DMV and entered the building through the electrical conduits. No records were damaged during this event but research for long term shelving units for permanent records is underway.

Clerk Keville reported a 2.5% increase for this September over September 2019. Business has slowed as a result of the auto manufacture supply chain issues. Year to date totals for DMV are 30% more than 2019 allowing for a \$1.3 million retention for the county YTD. DMV clerks are finally able to complete required training during this rare slow period. Clerk Keville is canvassing auto dealers to see who might consider sponsoring a branding contest with area high school students. This was an idea sparked at the recent NYSEC conference.

Clerk's Office transactions were 21% more than September 2019. Clerk fees increased to \$55,000 for the month of September allowing for a year to date increase of 33%.

Clerk Keville informed the committee of several projects that County Historian Matt Urtz has been working on. Most recently he assisted with "If Tombstones Could Talk" which took place on September 25th at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Canastota. At this event, approximately one hundred spectators listened to tales told by five reenactors portraying early residents of Madison County. On August 30th, Historian Urtz assisted with "History Where you Eat" held at Madison County Distillery in Cazenovia. This well attended event focused on the history of distilling as well as the history of Stone Quarry Hill Art Park. According to Clerk Keville, Historian Urtz is hoping to add two display cases in the lobby of the County Office Building. One case would display historical artifacts and the other would be utilized to promote historical events taking place within Madison County.

III. Finance Director:

Finance Director Lou Anne Randall reported to the Committee that the department has been assisting Bonadio with the deferred compensation audit. The department has also been working on wrapping up the first round of the Madison County Local Eats program and is preparing for round two which is expected to start mid-October.

After a recent meeting with Three + 1 Co. Inc., Treasurer Cindy Edick, Assistant Director of Finance Keith Lummis and Finance Director Randall will consider investing another \$5 million into a money market. This investment was recommended by Three + 1 Co. Inc.

Finance Director Randall requested the consensus of the committee to write off \$3,466.32 in health insurance premiums dating back to 2019 due from Joan Searles. Ms. Searles currently in a nursing home and the likelihood of collecting this money is highly unlikely. The committee unanimously agreed to Director Randall's request.

IV. Treasurer:

Treasurer Cindy Edick provided an update on the 2022 budget. Figures pertaining to vehicle leases and fringe benefits are still not finalized and remain a large part of the budget. The 2022 budget consists of mostly operating costs and no mini projects with intention of a 0% tax levy.

NYSAC recently provided new community college chargeback rates that are likely to be approved by the SUNY Board in mid-October. Three of the four community colleges most widely attended by Madison County residents will see significantly increased rates, with Mohawk Valley Community College increasing by 25%, Tompkins-Cortland Community College increasing by 32%, Herkimer County Community College increasing by 22%, and Onondaga Community College decreasing by 3%. Edick has increased the 2022 budget for college chargebacks by \$75,000, to \$2,150,000, because of these anticipated rate changes.

Compared to 2020, year to date sales tax increased by \$4,773,349 (25.49%) through September 13 2021. If this positive trend continues, the 2022 budget for sales tax receipts could potentially increase. Edick has provided 2022 sales tax estimates to the towns that receive their sales tax as a credit. On average, the towns should expect to receive a 20% increase in sales tax revenue next year. Final figures will be provided to the towns in mid-late October.

.

Construction on Clockville Water District is wrapping up. Debt options are being considered and grants are being researched.

Treasurer Edick clarified that the borrowing method and life of landfill cells 8 & 9 was based on the engineer's findings.

Treasurer Edick commended Director of Real Property Rebecca Marsala for the hard work put forth in coordinating the 2021 online land auction. Director Rebecca and her department worked with many other departments including Sheriff's, Facilities, Planning, Clerk's, Finance, and County Attorney's to make this year's sale a success.

V. Real Property:

Director of Real Property Rebecca Marsala informed the committee that in an attempt to limit overtime, the Post Office will be slowing down the mail again. Mail delivery went from one day delivery to two day delivery a few years ago. The current slowdown will add another day to the delivery to make it a three day delivery. This will create a longer wait for Treasurer's to receive post marked mail. In accordance with the NYS Real Property Tax Law, Madison County is required to accept the postmark date.

With the cooperation of many departments, the 2021 online land auction was a huge success and profited approximately \$402,000. This auction was so successful, that there should be no reason to have another in person auction. The last minute cancellation of the 2020 land auction due to COVID-19 caused an extra-long process for the 2021 auction. Through this process, while maintaining COVID-19 regulations set by NYS, many property related issues were solved.

VI. Resolutions:

1. Authorizing Town, Village, and City Municipal Grants from Host Community Benefit and modifying the 2021 adopted County budget.
2. Authorizing the modification of the 2021 County budget (1362-Tax advertising & Expense).
3. Authorizing the modification of the 2021 adopted County budget (1681 Information Technology ARPA).
4. Authorizing the modification of the 2021 adopted County budget (5110-Maintenance of Roads & Bridges).
5. Authorizing the modification of the 2021 adopted County budget (5132-Highway Facility).
6. Authorizing the modification of the 2021 adopted County budget (8342-Clockville Water District No.1).
7. Authorizing the modification of the 2021 adopted County Budget (5130- Road Machinery).
8. Authorizing the modification of the 2021 adopted County budget (DSS Foster Care).
9. Authorizing the modification of the 2021 adopted County budget (4308-Mental Clinic).
10. Authorizing the modification of the 2021 adopted County budget (1165 District Attorney).
11. Authorizing the modification of the 2021 adopted County budget (Occupancy Tax).

C. Moses made a motion to review and approve resolutions 1-11; seconded by J. Becker. During review of resolution #1, Treasurer C. Edick requested to amend the Distribution of Host Community Benefit by removing “Madison County \$1,757,812” and to update the total to \$1,992,188. With this update, the Motion to approve all resolutions was unanimously approved.

VII. Preferred Agenda:

A motion was made by C. Moses to include resolutions 1 and 2 on the Preferred Agenda. This motion was second by M. Roberts. Motion unanimously approved.

VIII. Next Meeting: October 28, 2021 at 9 a.m.

I. Adjournment:

The Committee adjourned at 9:37 a.m. on the motion of J. Becker; seconded by C. Moses. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Heidi LaSalle on behalf of Chairwoman Yvonne Nirelli and approved on October 28, 2021.