

Finance, Ways and Means Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2021 9 a.m. via Zoom

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

ALSO: Finance Director Lou Anne Randall
County Clerk Mike Keville
County Attorney Tina Wayland-Smith
Assistant Finance Director Keith Lummis
Treasurer Cindy Edick
County Administrator Mark Scimone
Chairman John Becker (9:13)
Director of Emergency Management Services Dan Degear (9:15)
Supervisor Pete Walrod (9:17)

Chairwoman Yvonne Nirelli called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. via Zoom.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Motion by C. Moses to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2021 meeting; seconded by J. Cunningham. Motion unanimously approved.

II. County Clerk:

County Clerk Michael Keville reported that DMV earnings are up 57% YTD compared to 2019, retaining over \$600,000 for the County. Recording fees are up 48% YTD compared to 2019; retaining \$193,000 for the County. Towns and villages will receive mortgage tax distributions of \$704,312 for the period of October 2020 to March 2021. The County will receive mortgage tax distributions in the amount of \$224,000 for the period of January 2020 to April 2021. The mortgage tax collection is determined by New York State Tax Law. This tax is tracked according to the township where the tax is collected. Villages receive twice their proportionate assessment ratio of the total collected for their township wherein they are located.

Clerk Keville continues to search for the right candidates to fill the new DMV representative positions. He expressed appreciation to the Committee for their support in adding these two positions. Supervisor Matt Roberts acknowledged Clerk Keville's presentation at a recent Oneida Rotary meeting. It was a positive learning experience for many of the Rotary members.

III. Finance Director:

Finance Director Lou Anne Randall reviewed the utility cost analysis from Eric Ryan Corporation with the Committee. Director Randall relayed comments to the Committee from IT Director Paul Lutwak in regards to the cost analysis. There are charges listed as cell phones or jet packs that are used for emergency purposes only. Once the COVID emergency is over, these charges will be removed and the phones will be disabled. Also, add on charges exist for services provided by Verizon that are necessary for the Sheriff's Office specifically. The Eric Ryan Corporation commended staff as the amount of savings identified by the audit is substantially lower than most audits. Chairwoman Yvonne Nirelli commended Director Randall and the Finance Department on the hard work done to accomplish these positive results.

Director Randall and Treasurer Cindy Edick recently met with representatives from Three + One Co. Inc. The

representatives agreed to allow more time for Director Randall and Treasurer Edick to review the recommendations. County Administrator Mark Scimone clarified that it is in the County's best interest to move forward with Three + One Co. Inc. services and that it wouldn't be beneficial to try to invest without their guidance. Debt services could also play a part in how investment options might be decided. More information on the investment recommendations will be provided by Three + One Co. Inc. at the next meeting with Director Randall and Treasurer Edick.

The Annual Update Document is expected to be completed and filed by Friday April 30th.

IV. Treasurer::

Treasurer Cindy Edick informed the committee that today is the closing on the serial bonds for the Courthouse, HVAC, and the Highway Facility. Standard and Poor's rated these bonds as AA minus. Tax searches are being processed in a high volume possibly due to refinancing. The executive order that pertains to evictions and foreclosures currently expires May 1, 2021 but could be extended to August 2021. This makes the status of this year's real estate auction uncertain. Currently there are 140 parcels that would be going to auction with unpaid taxes from April 30, 2019. This number continues to decrease as delinquent taxes are paid.

Treasurer Edick led a discussion on the \$3.5 million settlement agreement and the grants made to cities, towns, villages and special districts. Historically, the County has received these funds in the spring of each year yet it was not received until September in 2020. Once these funds are received from New York State, resolutions detailing the payments will be presented to the Board of Supervisors. Fifteen percent (\$562,500) of the 20% Host Community Benefit withheld in 2020 was received from New York State and will be distributed to municipalities accordingly. The remaining 5% (\$187,500) will be distributed when it is received.

Sales tax increased by 8.99% (\$646,548) compared to 2020. The April 7th sales tax distribution included a state tax and finance reconciliation item that may have created an uptick for upstate counties as a redistribution of funds because of the pandemic.

V. Resolutions:

1. **Authorizing town, village and city municipal grants from Host Community Benefit and modifying the 2021 adopted county budget.**
2. **Authorizing the chairman to enter into an agreement with the Haven at Skanda and to modify the 2021 adopted county budget.**
3. **Modify the 2021 budget for drinking water enhancements grant renewal.**
4. **Authorizing the modification of the 2021 adopted budget for funding received through the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN).**
5. **Authorizing the modification of the 2021 adopted county budget (County Road Fund).**
6. **Authorizing the modification of the 2021 adopted county budget (OVS Grant).**
7. **Authorizing the modification of the 2021 adopted county budget (E911).**

Resolutions 1-7 were reviewed and C. Moses made a motion to approve the resolutions; seconded by M. Roberts. Motion unanimously approved.

VI. Next Meeting Date: May 27, 2021 at 9 a.m.

VII. Adjournment:

The Committee adjourned at 9:43 a.m. on the motion of C. Moses and second of M. Cavanagh. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Heidi LaSalle on behalf of Chairwoman Yvonne Nirelli and approved on May 27, 2021.