

MADISON COUNTY FINANCE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Meeting Agenda - Thursday, September 26, 2024

Call Meeting to Order

The Board convened at 9:00 AM in the Supervisor's Chambers, second floor, County Office Building, Wampsville, NY. Supervisor Roberts, Supervisor During, Supervisor Corbin, Supervisor Winn, Supervisor Stokes were present.

OTHERS PRESENT:

County Attorney Tina Wayland-Smith, Second Assistant County Attorney Melissa Felton, County Clerk Mike Keville, Board Clerk Emily Burns, BOS Conf. Secretary Jennifer Keville, Treasurer Cindy Edick, Finance Director Lou Anne Randall, PIO Samantha Field, Chairman Cunningham, Vice Chairman Walrod, Supervisor Pinard, County Administrator Mark Scimone, Chief Assistant District Attorney Robert Mascari, Deputy Treasurer Ryan Chaires, County Attorney Intern Trey Gates, Assistant Director of Finance Keith Lummis, Supervisor Cavanagh, and Supervisor Daviau.

A quorum being present, Chairman Matthew Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

Approval of Minutes

1. 08/29/2024 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

On motion by Supervisor Corbin, seconded by Supervisor Winn, the motion was made to approve the August 29, 2024 draft minutes. The motion was passed.

Finance/Payroll

Lou Anne Randall, Finance Director

- In the recent department head meeting, discussion was had concerning ongoing payroll issues, so a training session is scheduled for **October 9 & 10** for all payroll liaisons to help address these problems.
- It was noted that employees had received letters from St. Joe's about Excellus possibly withdrawing from negotiations. One Group has been contacted for alternatives, and updates will be provided.
- Continuing to work on fringe benefits.

Treasurer/Budget Officer

Cindy Edick, Treasurer

1. Sales Tax Report

Treasurer Edick reported that, through September, tax revenue for the year is \$415,876 ahead of 2023, which is an increase of 1.58%.

2. 2025 County Budget

Treasurer Edick shared her efforts to gather estimates to present today. The numbers are still rough because fringe benefits for all departments are being calculated, and retirement costs are significantly increasing for next year. After reviewing the majority of changes from the budget hearings, estimating the unknowns, assuming that we are going to remove some projects and one-time expenses to be funded with the host community benefit revenue (typically done in the past years) and, using the same amount of the appropriated fund balance (increased to \$7,750,000 in 2024 budget) the figures came out very close to the cap. There is still work to be done, especially regarding the carryover for funding operations each year. Overall, the budget is coming along and continuing to be worked on.

3. Clockville Water District- Long-Term Financing

Treasurer Edick explained that the County has been issuing BANs to fund the capital part of the Clockville Water District. Because of rising interest rates, we've held off on long-term debt. The County can only issue BANs for up to five years and have been for a few already. Cindy feels it's best to recommend switching to serial bonds, allowing

district payments to reduce the project's principal. This should minimize cost increases for the 182 units in the district. Cindy thought perhaps the Town of Lincoln might consider taking over the district. Cindy shared the plan for now to again issue BANs when the current notes mature in November. These will be callable if decisions are made next year. This will cost a bit more, and she will need to add some legal expenses to the budget, but a reminder that it will not impact the full County budget, as district users cover the funding.

Real Property Tax Services

Ryan Chaires, Deputy Treasurer

Ryan provided an overview of the 2024 auction, which sold properties accumulated over the past two years (no auction last year). The total gain, including the surplus law, is \$120,000, but without this law, the gain would have been \$1,029,000, which negatively impacts the county. To prevent surplus issues in the future, is a sale of vacant land, commercial property, or property being on the abandoned residential roll. Ryan thanked both Lennox and Cazenovia for their efforts in getting their rolls in despite a tight schedule. There were a few last-minute hiccups, including the need to pull some properties due to bankruptcy filings. The office remains committed to assisting homeowners in any way possible.

County Clerk's Office / DMV

Mike Keville - County Clerk

August 2024 Clerk Report:

The Numbers:

DMV

MTD- \$97,675.23; 9% DECREASE

YTD- \$937,019.35; 13% DECREASE

YTD W ONLINE- \$1,068,133.21 3% DECREASE

Recording Clerk

Recording Fees

MTD- \$51,260.00 40% INCREASE

YTD- \$476,948.50; 29% INCREASE

Mortgage Tax

MTD- \$40,190.25; 14% INCREASE

YTD- \$389,241.7; 10% INCREASE

Transfer Tax

MTD- \$111,448.00; 71% INCREASE

YTD- \$691,914.00; 29% INCREASE

Records Management - We are scheduling with the new software company for installation. We hosted Oswego County's RMO & Director of Records Management yesterday. We have a meeting scheduled to address improving the use of the DSS remote storage basement.

DMV - Busy September. Some staffing adjustments will be made in the next couple of weeks with one of our Senior MVR's being promoted to a position in the Sheriff's Office. Increase in Spanish-speaking customers, utilizing the state's call line for language assistance.

Clerk's Office - Led a regional meeting of County Clerk's. One of the discussions centered around increasing access to our land records for smoother and more accurate work by other industry stakeholders, including codes officers, and land surveyors. Attended a round table this week for NYSAPLS and GIS professionals on the same topic. We will be holding a passport fair in October.

Historian - Walking tour with 40 people in Cazenovia, history of industry along Chittenango Creek. Upcoming Johnny's Pier 31 History Where You Eat - sold out. October 5th Freedom walk in Peterboro. Cazenovia Cemetery event the weekend before Halloween.

Resolutions

1. Adopting Local Law No. 4 for the Year 2024
2. Authorizing the Chairman to Enter into an Agreement and Modifying the 2024 Adopted County Budget for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant

3. Authorizing Participation in a Federal Traffic Safety Grant and Modifying the 2024 County Budget
4. Authorizing the Chairman to Accept a Victim Assistance Program Grant Award from the New York State Office of Victim Services for FY 2022-2025 & Modifying the 2024 Adopted County Budget
5. Authorizing Acceptance of Grant Award from NYS Office of Children and Family Services to Madison County Sheriff's Office for Madison County Children's Advocacy Center and Modification of the 2024 Adopted County Budget
6. Authorizing the Modification of the 2024 Adopted County Budget - Clockville Water District
7. Authorizing the Modification of the 2024 Adopted County Budget (Child Care Block Grant)
8. Authorizing the Modification of the 2024 Adopted County Budget (Preschool)
9. Authorizing the Modification of the 2024 Adopted County Budget (Occupancy Tax)
10. Authorizing the Modification of the 2024 Adopted County Budget (Community College Tuition)
11. Authorizing the Modification of the 2024 Adopted County Budget (Building Improvements Reserve)

Supervisor Corbin asked Treasurer Edick to explain this budget modification. Cindy clarified that this modification will help ensure that the fund balance at year-end does not exceed the threshold set in our fund balance policy. Given the various buildings and building needs, it will allocate funds specifically for those purposes, not meant for smaller items. A resolution passed in 2009 established a reserve requiring \$200,000 to be set aside each year; while the initial year was completed, subsequent years have not been funded.

12. Authorizing Town, Village and City Municipal Grants from Host Community Benefit and Modifying the 2024 Adopted County Budget

On motion by Supervisor During, seconded by Supervisor Corbin, the motion was made to review and approve Resolutions 1 - 12. The motion was passed.

Other Committee Business

1. Outside Agency 2025 Budget Requests

- Treasurer Edick distributed a Not-for-Profit/Other Agency Grants spreadsheet showing a 3% funding increase for agencies that requested a funding increase. A letter was sent to all agencies, and only those that responded received the 3% increase reflected in the proposed budget.
- Supervisor During reported that she and Supervisor Cavanagh attended a meeting with the Madison County Fair Board. Discussion was had on how the County can support the Fair beyond financial assistance.

Preferred Agenda

It was the consensus of the Finance Committee to allow any eligible resolutions from today's meeting to be added to the preferred agenda.

Next Meeting - October 24th, 2024 @ 9:00AM in the Chambers

Adjourn

The Committee adjourned at 10:22 AM on motion by Ronda Winn, seconded by Melissa During. Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Keville on behalf of Chairman Matthew Roberts.