

FINANCE COMMITTEE

March 2, 2021

Committee members: Bill Holgate attending by Zoom, Tim Cutler, Dan Banach, Ed Bronson, Pat Killen, Rick Willson.

Others present: Megan Kincaid, Marina Walrath, Dan Long, Doug Paddock, Jim Multer, Bonnie Percy, Dick Harper, Terry Button, Connie Hayes, Nonie Flynn, Carlie Chilson, Earle Gleason, Leslie Church, Ashley Doyle.

Tim and Ed will do the audit this month.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved as presented.

Real Property – Meghan Kincaid

Meghan reported all the towns now have quorums for their Board of Assessment Review.

Meghan explained that she spoke with Scott on if/or should the County have to act as the Board of Assessment Review could the County charge for the service. The County Attorney advised against charging.

Meghan reported Taxable Status Date was yesterday and assessors are finishing up 2021 rolls.

Meghan reviewed what she will be working on in the next month.

ReConnect – Marian Walrath

Marian updated the Committee on the ReConnect Grant.

Marian reviewed the following resolution that would be needed. The Committee approved.

- Assign Appropriate Persons to Security Roles in the USDA's Online Financial Reporting and Compliance System

Planning – Dan Long

Dan reported NYS DOT informed him that the first CARES funding reimbursement was received on 2/22/21 for Yates Transit Service. Yates Transit Service will be giving a quarterly update at the March legislative meeting.

Dan reported the Yates County Planning Board reviewed 4 referrals for February.

Dan reported there were 7 applications received for the Funding for Natural and Recreational Resources. Applications were reviewed along with the recommendations.

Dan reviewed the following resolution that would be needed. There was a lengthy discussion on the recommendations. The Treasurer was asked to find out how much funding is in the reserve account for the Tourism Advisory Council. Dan was asked to send the applications for the NY Wine and Grape Foundation and Fulkerson Winery along with the Guidelines for the use of the Natural and Recreational Resource funding. Further discussion will take place as information is obtained.

- Natural and Recreational Resource Protection Grant-Selection of Grant Awardees and Funding Amounts for 2021

Dan reported the GIS Committee met to review additional apps to install on the public portal and to complete the initial project. The Committee will be looking into how to link the Laserfiche Surveys and Pictometry data to supplement the existing parcel data. The cost to link Pictometry via an application to allow the public to see the aerial photos with parcel data has been quoted at \$1,900.00 as a one-time cost to the County.

Dan reported Bergmann has submitted a draft of the Public Safety Building Facility Needs Assessment however, there is still some information that is missing. Once Dan receives the information the stakeholders will review via Zoom meeting.

Dan reported the National Park Service has provided materials regarding a study to create a National Heritage Area in the Finger Lakes Region.

Doug congratulated Dan on his appointment to the NY County Planners and the New York Planning Federation Boards.

Treasurer – Ashley Doyle/Deputy

Ashley reviewed the 2021 Appropriations, and the Sales Tax Report.

Ashley reported the office continues to take tax payments on parcels with outstanding 2018 and 2019 taxes that are due. Letters have been sent to current owners and interested parties of the due date extension.

Ashley reported Drescher and Malecki began the Yates County audit and will be continuing through March.

Ashley reviewed the following resolutions that will be needed. The Committee approved.

- 2020 Budget Transfers
- Accept and Appropriate Federal Aid (SH)
- Carryover Federal Aid (OEM)
- Accept and Appropriate Federal Aid (OEM)
- Appropriate State Aid (DSS)
- Appropriate Federal Aid (DSS)
- Appropriate the 2021 Workforce Development Budget

County Administrator – Nonie Flynn

Nonie reported on Federal COVID Aid. If the legislation passes, it is estimated Yates County will receive direct unrestricted aid of \$4.9 million. The towns and villages in Yates County would receive aid of \$5.8 million.

Nonie reported on the Gaming Revenue. NYS won the latest round of court battles over casino taxes owed by the Seneca Casinos. This equates to revenue of approximately \$137k per year for Yates County. This revenue stream began in the last quarter of 2014, however, we have not received this revenue since the third quarter of 2017. If we receive back payments, this could be over \$400k that we have not budgeted for in 2021. Seneca Nation could still appeal.

Nonie reviewed the following resolutions that would be needed. The Committee approved.

- Calling on the Governor and State Legislature to Reduce State Funding Cuts to Counties for SFY 2021 and Find Alternatives, Rather Than State Aid Cuts to Counties, to Close Out Year State Budget Gaps

- Calling on the Governor and State Legislature to Permanently Extend All Existing Local Sales Tax Rates, and Allow All Counties to Set Their Local Rate up to Four Percent Under Local Law
- Calling on the Governor and State Legislature to Provide More Options for Local Governments to Invest Their Cash
- Calling on the Governor and State Legislature Leaders to Restore Reductions to Counties Sales Tax
- Appoint Tourism Advisory Committee member

Airport – Dick Harper

Dick reported the Sewer Project is in the final project closeout process.

Dick reported the FAA requested changes to the Environmental Assessment. Passero has modified the document and resubmitted to the FAA for final approval.

Dick reported the Agreement with BETA Technologies for installation of electric charging stations for airplanes and autos at the airport has been signed.

Dick reported Passero is preparing a proposed plan for deicing equipment and facility. An agreement regarding deicing fluid disposal is likely necessary.

Chairman Paddock

Doug explained that there was a request from the Committee to Preserve the Finger Lakes and Seneca Lake Guardian to pass a resolution in opposition to Greenidge Generation permits and expansion for bitcoin operation. Information forwarded to Legislature via email on February 16. Doug questioned the Committee as what their feelings were regarding a possible resolution. The consensus of the Committee was to not send a resolution forward.

Ed moved to enter executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person or persons with the Committee Members, Legislators and County Administrator present. Seconded by Pat.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.