

## FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

March 8, 2022

Committee members: Bill Holgate (Zoom), Doug Paddock, Tim Cutler, Mark Morris, Dan Banach

Others present: Leslie Church, Bonnie Percy, Dick Harper, Rick Willson, Charlie Chilson, Ed Bronson, Pat Killen, Jesse Jayne (Zoom), Terry Button (Zoom), Nonie Flynn, Emilee Miller, Tim Groth, Meghan Kincaid, Marian Walrath, Jeff Ayers, Jessica Mullins, Marsha Devine

Doug chaired the meeting this month.

Doug & Tim will do the audit this month.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as submitted.

### **ReConnect: Marian Walrath**

Marian provided the ReConnect 1 Engineering update. The Phase 1 Design is complete. Marian reported that what is really holding them up right now is that once they do the Design Engineering portion anything that is a change from their original application has to go to Rural Utility Service (RUS) for approval. They have submitted changes to RUS and they are still awaiting approval before they can move forward.

Marian provided the ReConnect 1 Construction update. The goal is to start Phase 1A Construction mid-year of 2022. The fees imposed by New York State per mile are not holding them up. Senator O'Mara is now jointly sponsoring a Bill to exempt Municipalities and Non-profits from the imposed fees. They have calls twice a month with their General Field Representative, Rob Fry, and he keeps trying to push the Engineering Group along. Marian stated that during their next regular meeting, they may need to be reminded that Yates County submitted the request in the middle of November 2021.

Marian reviewed the status of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Broadband Infrastructure Program (NITA-BIP) and the ReConnect 3 Grant.

### **Real Property: Meghan Kincaid**

Meghan reported that John Sigmon was appointed to fill the vacancy on the B.A.R. for the Town of Italy for a term ending 9/30/2025. Potter and Torrey still have Board of Assessment Review vacancies. Anyone that is interested in serving on their Town's B.A.R. should contact their Town Clerk.

Meghan reported that Claudia put together Tax Maps and Aerial Pictures of the properties on the County Treasurer's Tax Auction List. They then took pictures of the properties from the road and uploaded them for the Treasurer's Office. There were a total of 28 parcels.

Meghan reported that she met with the Yates County Assessors on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two people from the Batavia Office of Real Property Tax Services also attended.

Meghan reported that she will be attending the Real Property Director's Winter Conference March 14-16.

Meghan reported that they are working on processing sales filed by 3/1 for assessors, working on her Annual Report, and they are assisting Assessors as they work to wrap up their 2022 Tentative Assessment Rolls.

**Planning: Jeffrey Ayers**

Jeff reported that the February 24<sup>th</sup> Planning Board meeting was not held due to absence of a quorum. There was one application from the Town of Starkey and after talking to Soil & Water, Jeff exercised his authority, making the determination that it had no county-wide impact. The Yates County Planning Board will be hosting 6 Hancock Estabrook municipal trainings this year. There are 6 Yates County Planning Board members that need their terms extended.

Jeff reported that Scott Falvey is currently reviewing the YTS contract. YTS would like to come in April to do their presentation for the legislature.

Jeff reported that the grant application for Household Hazardous Waste Day for \$9,123 was submitted on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Jeff reported that the Solid Waste Management and Household Hazardous Waste Day will both be managed by the Planning Department through the Finance Committee. Scott Falvey is currently reviewing the changes to the laws.

Jeff reported that there is a new web application in the Yates County GIS Portal called the “Yates County Agricultural District”. All municipal Planning Boards can use this tool to determine whether or not a parcel is within 500 ft. of the Ag District boundary. Certain actions within 500 ft. of the Ag District automatically trigger review by the Yates County Planning Board.

Jeff reported that the Ad-Hoc Natural and Recreational Resources Grant Award Committee met after the full legislature meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Jeff questioned if they should accept the Rushville application for the grant even though it was submitted 3 days late.

It was the consensus of the committee not to accept the Rushville application. The deadline is stated on the Yates County website where they obtain the application, but not on the application itself. The committee has requested that the deadline date be added to the applications going forward.

Jeff reported that Middlesex has begun the process of updating their 1965 Comprehensive Plan.

Jeff reviewed the following resolutions that would be needed. After discussion the Committee approved.

- Acceptable Training for the County Planning Board, Town & Village Planning Boards, and Town & Village Zoning Board of Appeals Members
- Resolution Authorizing the Chairwoman to Enter into an Agreement for Transportation
- Natural and Recreational Resource Protection Grant-Selection of Grant Awardees and Funding Amounts for 2022
- Reappoint Members to the Yates County Planning Board

**Finance: Jessica Mullins**

Jessica reviewed the 2022 Appropriations.

Jessica reported that the Committee members should still be getting the updates that Sherry sends out regarding sales tax. The county's sales tax is still trending nicely and should continue to do so for a bit longer with the gas prices increasing.

Jessica reported that they currently have auditors in their office and they will be there for the next 3-4 days. They have been in constant contact with the auditors and have been collecting/submitting documentation as needed. The auditors may return, but they most likely have all the information they need.

The preliminary report for the TASC meeting will be ready before the end of the week. The annual TASC meeting has been scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Carlie questioned how the increase in gas prices will be handled within various departments.

Nonie stated that if the departments go over their allotted fuel budget, they can pull it from other areas of their budget or that would qualify as a transfer from contingent because it is something unanticipated, unexpected, and unplanned for. Jessica added that they do have the quarterly reports, so they can check to see where they stand percentage wise for their budget. They can monitor this going forward and see if there is anything they need to change.

Dick stated that the Office of Emergency Management and the Sheriff carry over a lot of grant money. Some of these grants are three years old now. Dick questioned if there is an expiration on those that they need to be concerned with, how do they track that, and should they be trying to close those out in a timely manner so they don't lose the funding?

Nonie stated that there are always expirations on grants that are given and that the Sheriff knows the deadlines. Sometimes it might be a Fiscal Year 19 grant, but it may not be awarded until the end of 2020. The state is usually late in awarding their grants. It might look like it's a really old grant, but the Sheriff may not have heard about it until a year after it was awarded. Nonie hasn't seen them lose any funding on the Sheriff's grants.

Bonnie stated that when they do the quarterly appropriations that they should show the gasoline and diesel costs from the Sheriff's Office and Highway Departments to see how they are running.

Jessica stated that next month she will present on the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and she can break that out or highlight it to make sure everyone is aware.

Bill and Tim both agreed that Department Heads should be managing their grants. Bill stated that he doesn't think the legislators need to be looking at deadlines and everything. Department Heads have always done a great job managing that.

Doug questioned why they are already taking funds out of the Contingent fund.

Nonie stated that it was a position funded after they completed their budget. It was not on Amy, it was a position that was funded after they had done the budget. Nonie told her that it would qualify as a Contingent expenditure.

Jessica reviewed the following resolutions that would be needed. After discussion the committee approved.

- 2022 Budget Transfers
- Appropriate Additional Gifted/Donated Aid (Veterans Services)

- Amend Resolution No. 81-22 (Appropriate Carryover of ERAP State Aid)

**Treasurer: Marsha Devine**

Marsha reported that they may have to push back the date of the property auction to allow more time for processing and property owner buy-back. The auction is typically scheduled for the third week in June, but at this point, they are not setting the date. The County Attorney is looking at things such as it costing too much for the county to remediate a property and as a result they wouldn't get a return on it. There are some properties that they have taken off the tax rolls because they didn't want the liability or the cost involved in pursuing the clean-up & sale of them was too much.

Dan questioned the Torrey Station situation. They have gotten to this point a couple of times and it never happens. He questioned if Marsha has any confidence that this time something will be done about it.

Marsha stated that she thinks they are getting to a perfect storm. They have been in contact with the DEC representative and they have been in contact with the DEC attorney, Dudley Low. He is in the middle of working on a settlement. Last week Marsha received a call from the attorney of the property owner wanting to know exactly what the past due taxes owed were. She confirmed with Scott that there are no taxes owed on the property. Marsha then received a call from the property owner wanting to know if there were any taxes owed on the property. It looks like they are trying to get the property off their backs. They would like to settle and don't really want to have anything to do with it. They cannot afford what they perceive to be the cost involved in taking the tanks out and remediating any spills that may have occurred. When Marsha spoke to the DEC attorney, he didn't have figures on what that would cost. They do not know the extent of the spill, if one has occurred. The property owner has another week to settle with the DEC and they have 30 days to settle with the Town of Torrey. If the property is sold and remediated, it will come back on the tax rolls.

**Airport: Dick Harper**

Dick reported that they are continuing with the discussion regarding the deicing project. One of the major concerns is that while the deicing trailer was bid and approved they ran into the "Buy American" requirement. They have been looking at other options, but Passero is concerned that we will run into the same issue with a truck. They are trying to work through the whole process and that is kind of key to the whole deicing project.

Dick stated that last August they had a severe rainstorm that took out the wildlife fence. It was temporarily repaired, but they wanted to see if they could move it to prevent this from occurring again. They got the clearance from Passero, that there was enough room where they want to put it. They went out to multiple companies to get quotes for this. When this originally happened, they thought that they could get funding through FEMA, but it may not actually be FEMA fundable. They are going to have to get the fence installed one way or another. They may have to look at funding from somewhere else. They want it authorized for Leslie to sign a contract to proceed and have Double M Fence install it.

Dick reviewed the following resolution that would be needed. After discussion regarding the need for the fence and the funding the committee approved.

- Authorize Chairwoman to Sign Contract With Double M Fence

**Clerk of the Legislature: Emilee Miller**

Emilee reviewed the following resolutions that would be needed. After discussion the Committee approved.

- Authorize Chairwoman to Execute NYSDOT Aviation Project Funding Agreement and Related Documents Project: Purchase of 2 Fuel Trucks for Fueling Aircrafts 2021 Air'99 Grant, Project Identification Number 6906.89

Mr. Morris moved to enter executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular individual, with members of the committee, other members of the legislature and the County Administrator present.

Seconded by Mr. Banach.

VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.