

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

April 5, 2022

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

Others present: Leslie Church, Bonnie Percy, Dick Harper, Terry Button, Rick Willson, Pat Killen, Ed Bronson, Carlie Chilson, Nonie Flynn, Emilee Miller, Meghan Kincaid, Marian Walrath, Jeff Ayers, Jessica Mullins, Marsha Devine

Bill & Doug will do the audit this month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Leigh Berry, President of Official Yates Cultural and Recreational Resources, also known as the Community Center, is there to represent the Community Center, but also their capital project. She feels like everyone there is probably aware of their capital project, which is integrate place really, they have come a long way in their planning and in budgeting. They did apply for the TAC grant, which isn't really a great fit and she understands and they have talked to the County about the Recreation grant, which they also did not receive and they have asked for some other kind of support, which also wasn't a great fit. She has come there today to say to the County "let's see how we can work together, what does that look like". They feel they need the support of the County to make a great facility that they don't currently have that applies to every demographic of the County. So it is not just for youth or athletes, it is for everyone, and that is the mission of the Community Center. Leigh would like to start some conversation about how they can work together and gain the County's support.

Leslie Church asked for some clarification of their capital project.

Leigh stated that for them to remain true to what the mission and the vision of the Community Center is, there has to be some sort of indoor facility that can put kids indoors year round. It is great to have a vision of serving the community, providing programing, they can come up with endless ideas for programing, and they can actually garner a great amount of funding for programing, but they can only do it for 3-4 months a year because they have to do it outside. There is just no other facility to them insight and they do partner, they have great partnership with the school. It is hard, they are busy too and they are doing a lot of programs. This phase of their project is indoor development. There is a little bit of outdoor development, a playground, a pavilion, a basketball court, but indoor has a turf facility, hardwood basketball courts, and a walking track, which goes to another demographic. The Community Center would love to see a pool and it always comes up, they have the property and space for it, but that is another phase of development and another funding conversation. It's not just putting up a building, it is a lot of site work, storm water, and it's just a lot, so the budget just keeps growing.

Bill Holgate stated that in 2021 they received some money through the Natural Resources grant for a specific project, it was a playground. This year, they did get turned down and one of the things that was problematic for the people overseeing that grant was the fact that it was just an open ended request and that is not something that they have dealt with, their grant is set up for specifics. One of the things is that the legislature cannot encumber for future legislators. If it is a specific project then they can do it. Bill recommended that they give the legislature more of a history of what has been accomplished. He has to sell this to the people of Starkey who don't necessarily go to Penn Yan. This is why they have the Natural Resources grant, they want things like this in the community, if they can support it, they definitely want to do so.

Leigh stated that there is no way that they can do it on their own, they need to work together as a community. To raise money they need a little bit of money, they need someone to come in and support them and commit.

Bill stated that he doesn't think the legislature has that much information on what it is that they are doing.

Pat Killen stated that they could do a better job selling and promoting what their concept is and that they should look into a grant writer. It is open ended and a hard sell for him at this point. It is a hard sell because they were asking for a commitment of \$20,000 a year for 20 years and that is \$400,000 which is a large amount of money. The people that Pat represents may not even use the facility and they may not see the direct benefit of it.

Leigh stated that it is more than just sports. It has to appeal to the whole community and it has to be available to the whole community.

Carlie Chilson questioned if they made an outreach to the American Legions, the VFWs, Lions Club, the Moose, and the Elks. They offer funding for kids and grants.

Leigh stated that she has and it is very difficult to get a grant for a capital project because they want programing. To get funding to build something is very difficult. They have brought a significant amount of money in from grants. They have been in the papers trying to get the word out.

Steve stated that they have a challenge right now. They can't find employees and nobody can find employees anywhere. They are competing against the rest of the country for attraction of new businesses, trying to keep ones there, and expand. Residents are now demanding these sort of services and the amenities that they didn't have before. If they don't start adding these amenities that employees, residents, and visitors are looking for they are not meeting the needs and they will go where their needs are being met.

Real Property: Meghan Kincaid

Meghan reported that she has submitted her 2021 Annual Report.

Meghan reported that she has completed the 2022 omitted tax calculations and letters. She will be giving them to the town assessors to review and sign when they drop off their files. Letters will be mailed out on or around the beginning of May.

Meghan reported that all towns have enough B.A.R. members for a quorum. She will be holding the Board of Assessment Review training for the newly appointed/reappointed members on 4/21.

Meghan reported that she attended the Real Property Director's Winter Conference on March 14-16.

Meghan reported that the town assessors will be bringing her their files this week that she will use to process the 2022 Tentative Assessment Rolls. Tentative values come out on May 1st. Property owners that are interested in challenging their tentative assessment to their town's Board of Assessment Review should contact their Town Assessor. The grievance procedure information is available on the Yates County Real Property's webpage, as well as on the Department of Taxation and Finance's website. Meghan reported that she has also begun the preliminary paperwork and coordination with the village tax collectors for the upcoming village tax billing season. Village tax bills come out on June 1st.

Meghan clarified some of the differences between the Enhanced STAR Credit, Enhanced STAR Exemption, STAR Exemption, and the STAR Credit.

ReConnect: Marian Walrath

Marian reported that ReConnect 1 Phase 1 design is complete. Including the backbone (Phase 1A) and Italy distribution (Phase 1B) networks. In April the fielding of Phases 2 & 3 will start.

Marian reported that the following RUS (Rural Utility Service) approvals are in process:

- The Change of Scope Request for Phase 1A has provisionally passed RUS environmental approval process.
- The Preliminary Plans and Specifications (P & S) presentation for Phase 1A meeting took place March 29.
- The Nokia Equipment Waiver Request is still in process.
- They are preparing the Change of Scope and Budget Reallocation for Phase 1B for submittal to RUS.

Marian reviewed the Make-Ready Applications.

Marian reported that once the RUS approves the Change of Scope Phase 1A, the material procurement will proceed. Material storage options are being evaluated.

Marian reported that New York Engineering Services intends to hire 4 full time local employees. The positions are for Outside Plant Telecommunications Inspector and Utilities Structure Technician.

Marian reported that the goal is to start Phase 1A construction in the summer of 2022. There is a more detailed 3-year plan available.

Marian reviewed the grants status of the grants they have applied for and continue to apply for. Marian reported that they are exploring a possible Northern Borders Regional Commission grant for dedicated fiber run and equipment between the County Office building and the new Highway facility for supporting a backup disaster recovery site initiative.

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

- Authorize Chairwoman to Sign Contract with Labella Associates for One Touch Make Ready Services for Phase 1B of the Yates County ReConnect Project

Planning: Jeffrey Ayers

Jeff reported that there were 3 Planning Board applications received for the month of March, from Barrington, Benton, and Penn Yan. They were all determined to have no countywide impact.

Jeff reported that Yates County hosted a training webinar of “How Appealing-The Role of the Zoning Board”. Next month the training “Here Comes the Sun-Shaping Solar and Battery Storage Projects” at 6 p.m. in the County Chambers.

Jeff reported that YTS would like to present at the 4/11 legislative meeting to report on their STOAs quarterly update. They have just submitted their Annual Report to the state.

Jeff reported that the cartographic support through additional rounds of district map edits continues.

Jeff reported that Yates County is supporting the Keuka Housing Council in applying for a CDBG sewer and well grant.

Jeff reported that the Planning Department is working to provide points towards the Clean Energy Communities 2.0, NYSERDA grant program as well as Climate Smart Communities Certificate program.

Jeff reported that the effort to support Schuyler and Yates County's HHWD is beginning.

The County has asked GFRPC about hiring them directly for the Local Solid Waste Management Plan. The number that they came back with is \$80,421.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to have Jeff move forward with hiring GFRPC for the Local Solid Waste Management Plan.

Liam Williams, from Troup 218, recommended several good recycling information websites. They have been added to the county's recycling website. He is wished luck on getting his Environmental Science Merit Badge.

Jeff reported that there is a new web application in the YC GIS Portal and it is called "Benton Zoning Map".

Jeff reported that the award and rejection letters went out on 3/18 for the Natural and Recreational Resources grant. Contracts will be formalized in the upcoming month.

Jeff reported that the Finger Lakes Land Trust has asked for a letter of support for an application to purchase a conservation easement on the Henderson Farm. Marsha and Meghan are going to provide the Committee and Legislature with more information regarding this prior to the Legislative Meeting on Monday.

Jeff reported that the 10th Annual LULA (Land Use Leadership Alliance) Training Program, centered on the 9E plan for Keuka and Seneca Lake is going to be on April 25.

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

- Authorize Chairwoman to Sign Inter-Municipal Agreement with Schuyler County for Household Hazardous Waste Day Services
- Authorize Yates County to Submit an Application to the Office of Community Renewal for a Community Development Block Grant on Behalf of Yates County

The Committee requested more information as stated above for the following resolution.

- Authorize Letter of Support for Finger Lakes Land Trust to Submit an Application to NYS Dept of AG and Markets for the Purchase of a Conservation Easement on Henderson Farm

Finance: Jessica Mullins

Jessica reviewed the 2022 Appropriations.

Jessica reviewed the Sales Tax Report. It is still trending nicely, with the gas pricing remaining high. She will provide the information regarding the effect this is having on the departments at the May meeting.

Jessica reported that the Auditors have everything they need and are working on drafting the financial statement.

Jessica reported that the Annual TASC Meeting was held on Monday, March 21st virtually. The new 2022 board members were appointed, resolutions passed, and financials approved for 2021. The procurement report, investment report, certified financial audit, and annual report have all been submitted in PARIS to NYS. The budget report will be completed and submitted in October 2022. The TASC annual audit has been completed by Drescher & Malecki and copies are available for review in the Finance Office.

Jessica reported that the AUD for Flint Creek for 2021 has been filed, completed, and submitted to the state. A copy has been sent to Ontario County and if anyone would like a copy, they should reach out to Jessica.

Jessica reported that MUNIS is going to be updated starting in June 2022. The system that they currently have is no longer going to be supported as of 10/2022. More information is to come from Tim Groth.

Jessica reviewed the following resolution that would be needed. After discussion the Committee approved.

- 2022 Budget Transfers
- Appropriate Additional State Aid (Social Services)
- Appropriate Additional State Aid (Social Services)

Treasurer: Marsha Devine

Marsha has been working on the foreclosure process with the County Attorney. The Foreclosure Property Auction process is delayed due to a procedural issue with the 2020 delinquent taxes. The Attorney will be filing a new Notice of Petition and letters to the property owners and stake holders with delinquent 2020 taxes. It is anticipated that the Auction will be held in October 2022. March Notice of delinquency letters for 2021 taxes were mailed out on 3/3/22. The initial STAR report for Real Property has been completed. The tax reconciliation will take place in April.

Marsha reported that the TCS PreLaunch was well attended by employees in the Finance/Treasurer Office. This upgrade will add functionality and the ability to customize more fields, along with batch processing of payments. NYSAC Finance School is scheduled for May 11-13, 2022 in Syracuse. Marsha has completed 3 KnowBe4 training modules.

Marsha reported that she has reviewed the Franchise properties with Jessica Mullins. Franchise property unpaid tax notices were mailed out on March 15th. She is working on three estates.

Marsha reported that Larry Crook arranged a presentation for them on the options for automating some of the payment processing from MSB to TCS. For now, they agreed to keep the process they have.

County Administrator: Nonie Flynn

Nonie reported that they are still waiting on the Seneca Nation Gaming Revenue. This is dated back to 2017 and is approximately \$652k. Annual revenue going forward should be approximately \$137k per year.

Airport: Dick Harper

Dick reported that the contract is in progress with Double M Fence for repair of nuisance wildlife fence that was damaged in the August 2021 storm.

Dick reported that they are obtaining flight path easements identified under the Environmental Assessment.

Dick reported that the Beta Technologies project is still stalled waiting on NYSEG.

Dick reported that the NYS DOT has executed the grant for the purchase of two fuel trucks. Passero is working on the bid documents and will review with the Airport Council at the end of April and they are hoping to go to bid in May or June.

Dick reviewed the following resolution that would be needed. After discussion the Committee approved.

- Accept Bid for the Penn Yan Airport Emergency Weather Grant Generator Purchase and Installation
- Accept Bid for the Penn Yan Airport Deicing Vehicle Purchase

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.