

**Finance Committee Meeting
September 24, 2025**

Attendees

Committee: Art Merrill, Wayne Marshfield, John Kosier, Joe Cetta, Eric Wilson, George Haynes
Absent: Wayland Gladstone
Staff: Beverly Shields, Amy Merklen, Penny Bishop

Mr. Merrill called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

On a motion by Mr. Cetta, seconded by Mr. Kosier, the September 10 committee meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

There were four not-prefiled resolutions: A change order for the landfill rain cover reducing the final contract amount by \$92,042.50, a budget amendment to transfer funds from personal services to cover credit card fees for the Treasurer's Office, a budget amendment for legal aid to indigents which will move \$100,000 from contingency to pay the professional attorney fees, and payment of the audit.

Treasurer's Office – Beverly Shields

Regarding the Treasurer's budget amendment resolution, Mrs. Shields explained that they always budget \$13,000 for the credit card fees and every year it has been okay. This year, the credit card company changed the fee structure and the fees have put them \$33,000 over budget. In reply to Mr. Marshfield, Mrs. Shields said the county collects 3% which helps pay some of the cost of the fees. The percentage charged by the county has not increased as government is allowed to charge 3%. She said fee revenues are \$5,000 over what was budgeted. She noted the credit card fees changed in June. She furthered that they have been collecting a lot of taxes paid by credit card. In reply to Mr. Cetta and Mr. Marshfield, Mrs. Shields said she would look at other options for a credit card provider and research if the county would be able to charge higher credit card fees. Mr. Marshfield stated that one good thing is that the County is getting the money for the taxes.

Mrs. Shields presented budgets for review. She reported that interest rates have gone down and the plan is for two more decreases this year and one at the start of next year. Mrs. Shields stated that the bonds are callable next year for \$3.14 million. She concurred that the bonds are for the towers. April 1 will be the first time we could pay on the bond, and it could be paid off. Mr. Merrill said that would be discussed at budget meetings.

In reply to Mr. Wilson, Mrs. Shields said she would find out and let committee members know what the current interest rates are.

Mr. Kosier questioned if the traffic diversion revenue is included in the Treasurer's budget. Mr. Merrill said that would only come through the Treasurer's Office as a passthrough item.

Traffic diversion revenues would be listed in the District Attorney's budget. Mr. Cetta stated the county keeps 20% of the traffic diversion revenues.

Mr. Merrill stated that Margaretville Mayor John Hubbell brought him a letter from the mayors regarding sales tax. He distributed the letter for the committee members to read and discuss at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Budget meeting discussions will start at the next regular Finance Committee meeting, October 8 with additional meetings scheduled as follows:

October 16 at 9:00 a.m.

October 21 at 9:00 a.m.

October 22 at 10:30 a.m. at regular FC meeting.

October 23 at 12:00 noon

October 28 at 9:00 a.m.

October 29 at 9:00 a.m.

October 30 at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Cetta made a motion to enter executive session for real estate negotiations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marshfield and unanimously carried.

The committee reconvened in regular session.

The County Attorney will pen a not-prefiled resolution for Board approval to add approximately three more acres to the 4-H Camp Shankitunk property expansion contract.

Travel, equipment, and fill vacancy requests were approved as presented.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.