

FINANCE & RULES COMMITTEE
January 21, 2025

Present: Tom Osborne, Chair; Jeff Nellenback, Vice-Chair; Herb Frost; and Barry Lyndaker. Vincent Nortz was excused.

Legislator Osborne called the meeting to order at 2:43 p.m.

Legislator Osborne moved to approve the November 19, 2024 committee meeting minutes as recorded, seconded by Legislator Nellenback, and carried.

Finance & Rules Committee Goals– Tim Hunt, County Manager

Tim Hunt outlined the 2024 goals, emphasizing the continuation of broadband expansion and the completion of the New York State DEC Smart grant project. The establishment of a community engagement specialist position was discussed, with plans to develop a community engagement strategy by March or April. The group also reviewed local laws concerning bed tax compliance and the need for a registry.

Additionally, there was a focus on revitalizing vacant properties, particularly the reuse of Lyons Falls School and Glenfield School, with a target to have Glenfield School back on the tax rolls by December 31, 2025. Enhancements to land use policies for solar development and monitoring the National Grid transmission expansions were also addressed.

The meeting included updates on the county assessor and real property data collection, with a success report expected in September. Candy is set to present next month, and the group aims to secure authorization for her to enter into inter-municipal agreements with towns. There was a strong emphasis on improving budget and audit reporting, with a preference for monthly updates. A proposal for a public dashboard to simplify financial information and enhance transparency was discussed, along with the need to consolidate budget information to improve public understanding.

The group discussed economic development initiatives, including identifying vacant properties and establishing a new business in Glenfield by July 1, 2025, supported by investments from the Complete Streets project. Tim highlighted the importance of sewer infrastructure for economic development. The annual tax foreclosure process was confirmed to be on track, with auctions expected in August or September.

The establishment of a micro-transit service in Lewis County was proposed to address transportation gaps, particularly for after-hours needs, utilizing a partnership with VIA.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Requesting NYS Home Rule Legislation to continue sales tax increase of one percent (1%) for an additional two-year period.
AYE 4 NAY 0

2. Appointing Peg Nuspligler of Lyons Falls as a member of the Lewis County Ethics Board for a 3-year term.
AYE 4 NAY 0

3. Authorizing bid award and agreement between Lewis County and Logical Operations, Inc. for Information Technology Training services at a cost not to exceed \$27,010.00 payable from the NYS Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity grant.
AYE 4 NAY 0

4. Authorizing Lewis County to apply for 2025 NYS Empire State Development County Infrastructure Grant Program funds up to \$500,000.00, with the 50% required match provided by Lewis County, for road and complete street infrastructure improvement projects in several Lewis County villages.
AYE 4 NAY 0

5. Setting a public hearing with reference to inclusion of agriculturally viable land into the Certified Agricultural District #6 for Tuesday, March 4th at 5:00 p.m.
AYE 4 NAY 0

6. Standard Work Day Reporting for Election Commissioners Linday Burriss and Ann Nortz; as well as Deputy Election Commissioner Devin Kogut.
AYE 4 NAY 0

There being no other business to come before the committee Legislator Nellenback moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:27 p.m., seconded by Legislator Frost, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board