

**FINANCE & RULES COMMITTEE**  
**July 14, 2025**

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

Legislator Osborne called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Legislator Osborne moved to approve the June 17, 2025 committee meeting minutes as recorded, seconded by Legislator Nortz, and carried.

**Strategy and Policy for Sustainable Employee Health Insurance Fund Balance – Eric Virkler, Treasurer**

Eric Virkler presented a draft policy for health insurance funds, highlighting a recommended minimum fund balance of \$3 million, noting that if the balance falls below this threshold, health plan premiums may need to increase by 5% above the recommendation from the actuarial. Currently, the fund balance is approximately \$650,000, supported by a recent \$2.1 million infusion from the hospital, with expectations of an additional \$2 million from New York State to help meet the minimum requirement.

The steering committee is tasked with reviewing the fund balance twice a year, although discussions occur more frequently. They also have the ability to adjust rates with board notification. The lack of board representation on the steering committee was questioned, prompting clarification that board members have been invited previously but are not traditionally part of the committee. The conversation shifted to the newly formed health advisory committee, which aims to include more employee representatives beyond just bargaining units. It was noted that legislators would be invited to all future meetings.

At 12:49 p.m. Legislator Frost moved to enter an executive session for a Cybersecurity Plan update, seconded by Legislator Nellenback, and carried.

At 1:01 p.m. Legislator Nellenback moved to enter regular session, seconded by Legislator Frost, and carried.

Legislator Frost moved to create a cybersecurity committee, seconded by Legislator Osborne, and carried.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Adopting the Lewis County Incident Response Plan.

    AYE   5             NAY   0  

2. Adopting the Mobile Device Use Policy.

    AYE   5             NAY   0

3. Adopting the amended Investment Policy & Guidelines.  
AYE 5                      NAY 0
4. Adopting the Health Plan Fund Balance Policy. *Legislators Lyndaker and Nortz were opposed.*  
AYE 3                      NAY 2
5. Awarding bid and authorizing contract with Elite Excavating and Demolition Inc. for the demolition and removal of a building located at 6314 West Main Street, Turin for a cost not to exceed \$24,450.00.  
AYE 5                      NAY 0

Legislator Osborne moved to authorize closing non-essential county offices on Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for the annual employee appreciation and recognition event, seconded by Legislator Frost, and carried.

There being no other business to come before the committee Legislator Nellenback moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:11 p.m., seconded by Legislator Frost, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board