

FINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE

August 17, 2021

Present: Legislators Tom Osborne, Ian Gilbert, Greg Kulzer, and Phil Hathway. Legislator Ron Burns joined by phone.

Others present: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Lisa Virkler, Richard Chartrand and Andrea Moroughan; County Manager Ryan Piche; County Attorney Joan McNichol; Treasurer Eric Virkler; Human Resource Director Caitlyn Smith; and Information Technology Director Conner Biolsi.

Committee Chair Tom Osborne called the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Legislator Hathway made a motion to approve the July 19, 2021 committee meeting minutes as recorded, seconded by Legislator Gilbert and carried.

County Investment update – Three Plus One

Tyler Frame from Three Plus One explained that they are just a data company that collects data, analyzes it, and makes recommendations. Three Plus One's sole goal is to be an objective third party to make sure organizations are maximizing their financial resources. Due to the amount of work that the Treasurer's office does having an independent party review data as their sole purpose really makes an important difference. There has been a substantial difference in county investment revenue since October 2020 with an estimated \$170,000.00 increase.

NYSAC and NACO both felt that CashVest by Three Plus One is a best practice, which is an honor. The Lewis County CashVest score, much like a report card, is 87 and within the next quarter should reach in the 90's. This keeps everyone accountable and aware of what the goals are, what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done. Three Plus One is working with 24 other counties and several school districts.

Legislator Hathway questioned in what time period was the \$170,000 generated, Tyler explained that one third of it has been realized and by using the data they have collected the other two thirds should be realized over the next twelve months, in total a time frame of one and a half years. Eric Virkler thanked Taszden for the time she has put into this and appreciated that she was the bank guru. There has been a reduction in bank accounts over this time. The relationships that Three Plus One have been able to provide have been incredibly valuable. Community Bank was able to raise the interest rates for the county just by having Three Plus One negotiate with them. They have brought several investment options with other banks to our attention.

Façade & StreetScape Improvement Project – Ryan Piche, County Manager

Ryan presented a brief outline of the Façade & StreetScape Improvement Project. This project was replicated after something similar in Livingston County and was presented by Kevin in Planning a few months ago. It is ready for movement forward with the first round of funding available in the amount of \$250,000 open to main street businesses across the county, with

approval from the board. All of the marketing and application materials are ready. Ryan stated that he was asked by NYSAC to present the counties plan for the American Rescue Plan Act funding because of how far ahead Lewis County is compared to other counties at the September Conference.

Legislator Hathway questioned what the reach out program will look like, suggesting that there could be Village meetings, Ryan responded that information will be direct mailed to any Chamber member and social media outlets. He also stated that the IDA would be taking on most of the marketing of the program but agrees that meeting with each Village could be beneficial as the ideal situation would be to have the money distributed equally amongst the Villages. Any entity that gets approval would have to match 25% of the project total and this program would cover the other 75%.

In response to Legislator Chartrand, Ryan explained that there would be no option to include retro payments for projects already in the works or recently completed. Ryan explained any Village that wants to spruce up benches, lighting, signs would be an acceptable project, citing that Legislator Hathway's suggestion was a good one. Once the project has been initiated there should be before and after photos to show the board.

COLA Increase for Management Exempt Employees discussion

Ryan began the discussion by stating that Management Exempt and Management Confidential Employees typically follow the Union Contract for any COLA increase but because the Union Contract still hasn't been finalized it is being brought forward now. The Management Exempt and Management Confidential are not in any Union but will mirror the Road Patrol contract by eliminating the PPO Health Plan for any new employees effective January 1, 2022 for a 3% increase.

A 2% COLA increase was planned for in the 2021 budget and the additional 1% would be roughly \$25,000. Legislator Kulzer questioned if Management Exempt received a stipend for working through Covid-19, Ryan explained that no one received any type of hazard pay for working through Covid-19 however some Management Exempt Employees did receive some over-time pay through a grant Public Health received. This was for hours of work that happened on weekends and weekdays after normal business hours.

Legislator Kulzer voiced his recollection of how in the past each Management Exempt position was evaluated to determine a specific raise for each person, instead of just raising everyone up at a certain percentage. Ryan stated that it wasn't happening in a consistent way which is why the Board of Legislators adopted the Management Exempt Compensation policy creating a step system. Legislator Kulzer felt that Elected Officials knew what their salary was when they were running and shouldn't be allowed to get the COLA increase. Ryan explained that in the policy that was adopted Elected Officials are eligible for COLA, they are not eligible for longevity or any step increases.

Legislator Osborne made a motion to bring a resolution forward to the full board authorizing a 3% COLA increase retro active to January 1, 2021 for all Management Exempt and Management Confidential Employees including Elected Officials other than the District Attorney

as that salary is set by NYS, seconded by Legislator Gilbert and carried. Legislator Kulzer was opposed.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Introductory Local Law No. 2-2021 “A Local Law to Authorize Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established by General Municipal Law § 3-c (A/K/A “2% Tax Cap”) for the Lewis County 2022 Budget and setting the public hearing for October 5, 2021. *Several of the Committee members felt that this was not necessary as it just ends up being rescinded later.*
AYE 0 NAY 4
2. Resolution authorizing agreement with the New York State Board of Elections for the Technology Innovation and Election Resource (TIER) Grant program in the amount of \$28,118.33 and approve the budget appropriation in the Board of Elections accounts.
AYE 4 NAY 0
3. Resolution authorizing and approving the terms and conditions set forth in the Janssen New York State-Wide Opioid Settlement Agreement between Janssen, the State of New York and the Participating Subdivisions, of which the County of Lewis is one. *Legislator Hatthway voiced his opinion that this money should be split equally amongst the schools, Joan explained that there are strict requirements on this money and will need to be looked into further.*
AYE 4 NAY 0
4. Resolution authorizing and approving the Planning Department’s three-year “Façade & Streetscape Improvement Program Project in the amount of \$450,000.00 and appropriate Round One (1) funds in the amount of \$250,000.00 utilizing Capital Reserve Account HAZ - American Rescue Plan Act with 75% funding of eligible improvements to mixed-use and commercial buildings and properties, and streetscape enhancements in all villages and hamlets in Lewis County.
AYE 4 NAY 0
5. Resolution establishing standard workdays for elected and appointed officials and reporting the days worked to the New York State and Local Employees’ Retirement System.
AYE 4 NAY 0
6. Resolution setting the computation for the 2022 workers’ compensation participant assessments of the Lewis County Self Insurance Plan.
AYE 4 NAY 0

The following motion was made:

1. Legislator Osborne made a motion to authorize Social Services Commissioner Jennifer Jones to refill one (1) Caseworker position effective immediately due to resignation, seconded by Legislator Kulzer and carried.

At 3:51 p.m. Legislator Gilbert made a motion to enter executive session for labor negotiation update, seconded by Legislator Kulzer and carried.

At 4:16 p.m. Legislator Hathway made a motion to enter regular session, seconded by Legislator Osborne and carried.

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Gilbert made a motion to adjourn at 4:16 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hathway are carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board