

FINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE
November 16, 2021

Present: Legislators Tom Osborne, Ian Gilbert, Ron Burns and Phil Hathway. Legislator Kulzer was excused.

Others present: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Jerry King, 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 3:07 p.m.

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

Annual Investment Report – Eric Virkler, County Treasurer

Eric reported that the adopted Investment Policy states that he needs to present an annual report to the board each year. Three Plus One has worked with the county on investment opportunities. He reported that on December 7th of 2020 the CD accounts at JP Morgan Chase Bank were closed and the \$17,554,617 was transferred to the general checking account. On December 18, 2020 a new account was opened at Chemung Canal Trust Company and \$22,000,000 was transferred from the general checking account to CCTC. Beginning on December 21, 2021 the county began purchasing CDARS (which is an investment instrument similar to CD's) from Chemung Canal for several different amounts and staggered terms. On June 24, 2021 the 6 month CDAR from CCTC was redeemed and deposited into the general checking account.

Prior to working with Three Plus One, funds held on deposit were earning 0.01% at Community Bank. Three Plus One was able to negotiate on our behalf with Community Bank to increase our interest rate to 0.30% and even though the rate has decreased to 0.20% the impact of this negotiated rate will be approximately \$54,000 over twelve months. As of November 1, 2021 the current investments on hand are \$18,000,000 with Chemung Canal Trust and \$12,000,000 with Community Bank. The interest earned so far this year through October 31, 2021 is \$89,290 with an estimated \$19,000 for the remainder of the year. The interest rates are low right now which is why it seems low compared to past years.

Our Cash Vest Score, which is a score received from Three Plus One to evaluate our policies and processes went from 40 back on August 31, 2020 to 91 as of August 31, 2021. The county will continue to maintain or improve that score.

New County Logo/Re-Branding – Rachel Grunert (video)

A short video from Rachel Grunert, who couldn't attend in person, was played. Rachel explained that good logo is simple, relevant, and versatile. The logo is simple due to the clean lines, simple shapes and abstract but recognizable landmarks. The logo is relevant because it

represents points of pride in our community like the Tug Hill Plateau, Foothills of the Adirondack Mountains, Black River and Black River Valley. The logo is versatile because it can be used in full-color, grayscale or monoline and be consistent enough to maintain identity. She went on to explain that some might think that this doesn't represent what Lewis County means to them because they would typically think agriculture, dairy, snowmobiling, maple syrup, which goes to show that Lewis County means something different to everyone. There would be no way to have a successful logo with all of those different things in it.

All of those ideas are in a way represented in the proposed logo. The Tug Hill Plateau represents snowmobiling, hiking, ATV's, skiing, snowboarding, tubing, hunting, and maple syrup. The Black River and Black River Valley represent agriculture, small business, hiking, ATV's, fishing, kayaking, boating and hunting. The Foothills of the Adirondacks represents hiking, kayaking, tourism, and small business. Another consideration that was made when designing the logo was to make sure it would be cohesive with other local entities such as the Chamber of Commerce, Naturally Lewis, Lewis County Public Transportation, Lewis County Health System, and Lewis County Public Health by mirroring some of the natural blue and green colors.

The logo would also work with a new designed website by using similar colors and font to create icons for each department, which would create a strong brand identity. There were examples given of how the logo would look on letterhead, business cards, printed material, clothing and decals. Ryan Piche shared Oswego County's logo which he felt was too busy. Legislator Virkler stated that she felt a logo shouldn't need an explanation. Legislator Dolhof liked the logo but felt the gray scale version didn't work well. Legislator Osborne agreed with Legislator Dolhof. There was further discussion on the logo and how it should be for both residents and tourists as well as how it would work with our new website. Rachel Grunert would be able to create templates for departments to use.

The Finance & Rules Committee came to a consensus to recommend this logo to the full board for use on re-branding efforts for Lewis County government.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Introductory Local Law No. 6-2021 "A Local Law Providing For Increases To Salaries For Certain Local Officials" and setting the public hearing for December 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
AYE 4 NAY 0
2. Amending the 2022 Tentative County Budget Regarding the Safe Harbor Program.
AYE 4 NAY 0
3. Amending the Investment Policy & Guidelines for the County of Lewis.
AYE 4 NAY 0
4. Authorizing One-Year Renewal Agreement between the County of Lewis and ICU Security & Private Investigations for Unarmed Security Guard Services at the Department of Motor Vehicles Building at a rate of \$32.50 per hour for 37.5 hours per week from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.
AYE 4 NAY 0

5. Re-appointing Charles Truax, Jr. to the Lewis County Ethics Board for a term of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024.
AYE 4 NAY 0

6. Authorizing County Treasurer to Make Necessary Budget Transfers to close the books for the 2021 fiscal year.
AYE 4 NAY 0

7. Transferring and Appropriating funds to the Capital Reserve accounts.
AYE 4 NAY 0

8. Updating Designated Depositories.
AYE 4 NAY 0

Motions:

1. Legislator Osborne made a motion to authorize County Attorney Joan McNichol to refill one (1) full-time Secretary to the Assistant County Attorney position effective immediately due to resignation, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

2. Legislator Osborne made a motion to authorize Recreation, Forestry & Parks Director, Jackie Mahoney to refill one (1) full-time Crew Leader position effective immediately due to resignation, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

3. Legislator Osborne made a motion to authorize Social Services Commissioner, Jennifer Jones to refill one (1) full-time Program Examiner position effective immediately due to resignation, seconded by Legislator Hathway and carried.

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Burns made a motion to adjourn at 3:44 p.m., seconded by Legislator Gilbert and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board