

**FINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE**  
**January 18, 2022**

Present: Tom Osborne, Chair; Phil Hathway, Vice-Chair; Ron Burns; Jeffrey Nellenback; and Josh Leviker.

Others present: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Lisa Virkler, Richard Chartrand, Ian Gilbert 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 2:49 p.m.

Legislator Burns made a motion to approve the November 16, 2021 committee meeting minutes as recorded, seconded by Legislator Hathway and carried.

**Bonding Process – Joan McNichol, County Attorney**

Joan McNichol reported that there was a successful meeting between the Bond Council, Treasurer's Office and herself the week before to discuss the process. The Public Hearing on one bond up to \$50 million will be held at the March Board meeting by recommendation of the County's Bond Council. One bond will save on rating agency fees, advertising fees, attorney fees, accountant fees, and overall, less interest. The Bond for the Hospital project was already approved by a prior resolution but will still be included in the new resolution. Bond Council stated that it isn't necessary to hold a public hearing, however Joan felt that due to the amount of the bond it would be wise. The actual bond can take 4 to 6 weeks to receive funding.

Legislator Hathway questioned what the saving for one bond would be, there wasn't a figure to report. Legislator Dolhof stated that interest rates are expected to go up in March and was wondering if this process could be completed prior to that. Ryan Piche explained that the Town and Village of Lowville have held up the process on the SEQRA so that it won't be completed until April, which is why the County has decided to declare itself Lead Agency on the project. The Town and Village of Lowville have had more than enough time to move things forward and now that the County will be Lead Agency things can progress.

Legislator Hathway made a motion to fix the date of the public hearing on the county entering a \$50 million bond for Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. and declared Lewis County as Lead Agency on the projects, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

Then on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at a Special Board meeting the Board of Legislators can accept the bond with the negative declaration and award the bid contracts to move the project along faster.

**2022 Finance & Rules Committee Goals – Ryan Piche, County Manager**

Ryan Piche recommended the following Finance & Rules goals for 2022:

1. Financing for Facilities Improvement Project (\$20M) and LCHS Project (\$30M)

2. Onboard Purchasing Director and update purchasing policies accordingly.
3. Update Standing Rules to move Planning to Finance & Rules Committee as well as make a few minor changes to reflect current practices.
4. American Rescue Plan Projects Roll Outs (Façade second round of funding; continuation of Broadband Expansion)
5. New County website with branding and creating a branding policy.
6. Yearly updates from Auditors, Budget Sessions, and at least one update presentation on the Health Insurance Plan.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Amending and Adopting the Standing Rules of the Board of Legislators.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
2. Appointing Brian Reape as the Farm Bureau representative on the Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors for a term of February 2, 2022 through December 31, 2022.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
3. Authorizing Agreement between the County of Lewis and C&S Engineers, Inc. to provide Professional Architectural and Engineering Design and Cost Estimate for the Lewis County DMV Addition Project.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
4. Amending the Purchasing Card Policy & Procedures for the County of Lewis.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0
  
5. Waiving March, 2022 Health Insurance Premium Contributions for All Participants in the Lewis County Health Plan.  
AYE   5                        NAY   0

**Motions:**

1. Legislator Osborne made a motion to authorize Information Technology Director, Conner Biolsi to send out an RFP for a new county website design and implementation, seconded by Legislator Burns and carried.

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Burns made a motion to adjourn at 3:16 p.m., seconded by Legislator Hathway and carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board