

Treasurer

Ronald E. Dougherty County Office Building 56 Main Street Owego, NY 13827



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James P. McFadden Treasurer **Katie Chandler** Deputy Treasurer **Stephanie Jerzak** Chief Accountant

FINANCE, LEGAL & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - FINANCE January 10, 2023, AT 10:30AM

ATTENDANCE:

Legislators: Sauerbrey, Mullen, Monell, Ciotoli, Roberts, Brown, Standinger, Weston
Staff: McFadden, Haskell, Freyvogel, DeWind, Parke
Absent: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the December 13th, 2022, Finance Committee were read and a motion to approve by Legislator Ciotoli, seconded by Legislator Roberts and unanimously carried.

FINANCIAL: Treasurer McFadden reviewed the YTD Office budget report for fiscal year 2022, highlighting that all revenue lines reached or exceed 100%. He also mentioned anticipated FEMA funds of 41K as result of the COVID FEMA claim. Expenses show a savings in salary due to some gaps in service.

NEW BUSINESS: Occupancy tax finished at 316K for 2022, a 24% increase over 2021. Treasurer's Office handling fee totaled \$15,822.80, Economic Development's portion totaled \$75,158.27, with a reserve contribution of \$55,474.77. Air BnB remitted just over 20K in occupancy tax this year. Chair Sauerbrey asked if local motels that work with DSS are submitting occupancy tax. Treasurer McFadden replied that they submit occupancy tax for any public bookings they take, but there is a line for exempt income such as DSS. All hotel/motels on record have been keeping current with payments, with the exception of two that missed their 4th quarter payment.

: Community College billing for 2022 increased 218K or 8% over 2021, while the number of students decreased. Overall, the County paid 3M to community colleges in 2022, which equals 12% of the 25M tax levy. Treasurer McFadden predicts that Community Colleges will begin to close as the number of students decline, and with the ability for students to attend 4-year State schools for free. Legislator Standinger asked in the free tuition would apply to SUNY Broome since it is a State school, Treasurer McFadden replied that it did not since SUNY Broome was still a two year school.

: Treasurer McFadden suggested the Legislature begin to think about making arrangements with Villages in relation to demolition charges. In the past the County had to pay for a large demolition in full, currently there is a property coming up for foreclosure that may need to be demolished and the County should be prepared. Discussion followed.

PERSONNEL: None

RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: 11:00 AM