

**Taxation/Information Technology Committee Meeting
November 27, 2017**

Members present: Legislator Hathway, Legislator Moser, Legislator Dolhof, Legislator King, County Attorney Joan McNichol, County Manager Ryan Piche, Information Technology Director Adam Zehr, Real Property Director Candy Akin and media representatives Steve Virkler and Nick Altmire.

3:00 p.m. Information Technology (report attached)

Adam began by updating everyone on the Broadband Program. There was a meeting with municipalities at Lowville Town Office on November 15th to talk about the Towers. The first step will be to put the transmitters on the existing 911 Towers and then after that there will need to be between 50 and 60 additional towers erected to get the coverage needed. Adam will send out the map/list that shows the landowners that would be ideal for location purposes. There are bi-weekly calls going on with Mohawk to keep everyone up to date on progress. Once all the tower locations have been selected, agreements will be put in place and then while construction is going on installation of receiving devices will be offered to local residents. The lease agreements will be for 25 years at \$2,400 a year and the towers will be roughly 180 to 199 feet tall. For tax purposes Candy mentioned that the parcel will be divided out for the tower location with the new parcel number having a suffix at the end to indicate it is where the tower is located. The tax bill will then be forwarded to Mohawk. Solar Farms will also be done in a similar way. Adam is working with Joan on an assessment for cyber protection. NYMIR offered to help with this process so he will follow up with them on it. Adam finished by announcing the new website has went live and it seems to be really well received. He is always open to suggestions on how to make it better for the public.

3:18 p.m. Taxation (report attached)

Candy began by responding to a question about a line item in her budget that still had a considerable amount of money in it and her response was because they hadn't received an invoice for their data processing yet. She did mention that she thought they would have some money left at the ends of the year because she didn't anticipate using all of her postage as well as a couple other line items.

She touched on the Eligible Fund Veteran's exemption and that it had increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500. Steve Kilionski was drafting a letter to all local veterans to let them know. Candy pointed out that she had submitted the departments' mission statement for the new website and is also hoping to start a Facebook page, which has the support of local assessors. Ryan made note that Joan should come up with a policy for all departments that have Facebook pages to make sure we cover any liability issues that could arise. Candy went on and touched on the cemetery addresses that IT needed and the number changes for Lake House Road and Lily Pond Road residents.

Legislator Hathway voiced his opinion that if a reduced PILOT agreement is finalized the company should have to drop all assessment challenges. He went on to suggest that future negotiations or PILOT's should have some clause in them that the company can't challenge the assessment of the property. Legislator Hathway went on to urge that a resolution should be done that states the Board of Legislators view, that they won't sign off on a PILOT agreement without some type of language that during the PILOT the company can't challenge the assessment. Legislator Dolhof cautioned that he didn't think that is something that can be put in a PILOT agreement as the PILOT has nothing to do with an assessment. Legislator Hathway still felt a resolution stating their views on this would be a good idea. Legislator Dolhof

tried to explain the point of view of the IDA that trying to keep the doors open on a company while they transition to a new product/venture is better than letting it close.

Legislator Hathway motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3.50 p.m., seconded by Legislator Dolhof. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser
Deputy Clerk, Board of Legislators

Encl.

DRAFT



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- Personnel Review
- Budget Review - Department is on budget, report provided
- Resolutions

- Broadband Program Updates
 - Meeting with municipalities at Lowville Town Office on November 15th
 - The Mohawk team did a great job and the information was very well received by the mayors and supervisors
 - Mohawk will be contacting land owners for land lease opportunities
 - They are aiming to meet their goal of a phase 2 completion by December 2018
 - Aggressive timeline, but they are committed to make it happen

- New website
 - Website is live at www.lewiscounty.org
 - Edits will continue and we are working to clean up any errors on the site
 - Will continue to expand features to make it easy for the County Departments and the public to obtain the info they need.

- NYSAC Webinar on Cyber-Protection for NYS Counties
 - Joan and I attended the webinar on November 21st
 - Lots of good information shared from several presenters
 - Opportunity for us to receive a free risk assessments from The Multi State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) a division of the Department of Homeland Security
 - Will work with Joan to fill out necessary paperwork to take advantage of this free service provided to NYS Counties
 - Joan is going to follow up with NYMIR to see where we are with the assessment they are going to provide for us as part of the cyber-policy

- Ongoing projects
 - Munis GL and payroll support, Munis Contract Management implementation, backup server project, backup internet and new firewall project

REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES

Candy Akin - Director

Committee Meeting – November 27, 2017 – 3:00 pm

Committee:

Phil Hathway - Chairman
Bryan Moser
Larry Dolhof

Ryan Piche - County Manager
Terry Clark – Clerk of the Board

Resolutions:

None

Budget Report:

Department is on budget. YTD report attached.

New Business:

Our office has been working closely with the treasurer's office in preparation of county/town taxes. School, village and special district relevies have been entered into the system. Omitted and prorated taxes have also been entered with final reports submitted to Patty for county and town taxable values.

Steve Kilionski has drafted a letter to send to the veterans currently receiving the Eligible Fund veteran's exemption. He will be attempting to reach out to all veterans entitled to the increased exemption.

I submitted a mission statement to the IT Dept for our new webpage. We have created new documents for the website that will be in fillable PDF format to assist the public with common requests such as address changes, removal of deceased owners, split or combined parcel requests. We will also be starting a Real Property Facebook page that will be linked to our webpage. We will utilize this social media outlet to remind property owners of upcoming tax bills, grievance days, filing deadlines and any other worthy real property news. The assessors are very receptive to this.

E911:

We have assigned and/or corrected 14 E911 addresses since our October 23rd meeting. We identified and addressed all cemetery locations in Lewis County as requested by the IT Dept.

Letters were sent out to affected property owners in Brantingham regarding Lake House Rd number changes and Lily Pond Rd number changes. We have been contacted by two owners with questions/concerns.

Old Business:

Lyonsdale Biomass and the IDA entered into an amended and extended PILOT agreement. The amended PILOT reduces the payment from \$225,000 to \$100,000 and extends the agreement one year. This results in the county receiving \$27,357 for 2016 due 3/1/2017. Prior to the amended agreement, the annual payment to the county was \$62,977. Under the new agreement the county loses approximately \$35,621 in tax dollars. A public hearing was held on 8/29/2017. Rocky Fawcett attended. Lyonsdale Biomass does not intend to drop their assessment challenge; rather they are hoping that the extension of the agreement will give them time to come to a settlement with the taxing jurisdictions. Their challenge is for a reduction in assessment from 10 million down to 370,000.

Sales:

All sales through October 30th have been entered and are on the website.

End of Report