

Treasurer

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

FINANCE, LEGAL & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - FINANCE JANUARY 11th, 2022 AT 10:30AM

ATTENDANCE:

Legislators: Nine Legislators

Staff: McFadden, Dewind, Jerzak, Chandler, Haskell & Freyvogel

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the December 14th, 2021 Finance Committee were read and a motion to approve by Legislator Hollenbeck, seconded by Legislator Standing and unanimously carried.

FINANCIAL: None

OLD BUSINESS: Treasurer McFadden presented the Treasurer's Office 2021 budget report with highlights. A tax gain of 694K represents all parcels taken to auction in 2021, with the exception of the Town of Owego and Land Bank parcels. The Treasurer's 5% fee on occupancy tax was recently booked and came in just under 14K. The Treasurer's Office also received a bail forfeiture of \$9,000 from Family Court, this is a rare occurrence. Lastly, American Rescue Plan Act funds are beginning to be distributed with 850K going to outside support.

NEW BUSINESS: The 2021 College Chargeback spreadsheet was shared with the Legislature. Chargebacks totaled 2.7 million dollars this year, an increase of 483K over 2020. The increase is due to a 4.3% increase in students, late billings due to Covid, and the State allowing schools to bill retroactively after 2020 tuition rates were unfrozen. Treasurer McFadden pointed out that this accounts for 12% of the tax levy as a State mandated service.

: Occupancy tax trends and occupancy tax hotel/motel allocation were reviewed. Occupancy tax made a strong come back in 2021 totaling 255K. 2020's total collection was 116K. This was due to Airbnb starting to remit occupancy tax for rentals in Tioga County, occupancy limits being increased after Covid shutdown, and increased compliance by hotels.

: Treasurer McFadden will report December Sales Tax figures at the February meeting.

: 340 parcels with 2020 delinquent taxes are moving towards foreclosure. Kevin Humes is currently preparing foreclosure packets to be mailed to any interested parties.

: Casino revenue for 2021 will total around 1.4 million dollars, and 1 million has been transferred to the Land, Equipment & Infrastructure reserve per Reso 33-20. Chair Sauerbrey suggested to the Legislature that casino revenue be earmarked for the

Communication Tower project in case we do not receive grant funds. There are currently 2 grants available for a total of 12 million dollars. Legislator Weston stated moving the funds would help secure the grant and get started on the project.

PERSONNEL: None

RESOLUTIONS/PROCLAMATIONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: 11:15am