



YATES COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
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Leslie Church  
Chairwoman  
Emilee D. Miller  
Clerk

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES-FEBRUARY 3, 2026**  
**BILL HOLGATE, COMMITTEE CHAIR**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Holgate, Rick Willson, Dan Banach, George Lawson, Doug Paddock

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Nonie Flynn

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Leslie Church, Dick Harper, Terry Button, Leigh MacKerchar, Ed Bronson, Sarah Purdy, Jesse Jayne (Zoom), Jessica Mullins, Emilee Miller, Meghan Kincaid, Jeff Ayers, Leigh Battin, Pat Christensen

Committee Chair Holgate called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Holgate & Banach will sign the audit this month.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**REAL PROPERTY: Meghan Kincaid**

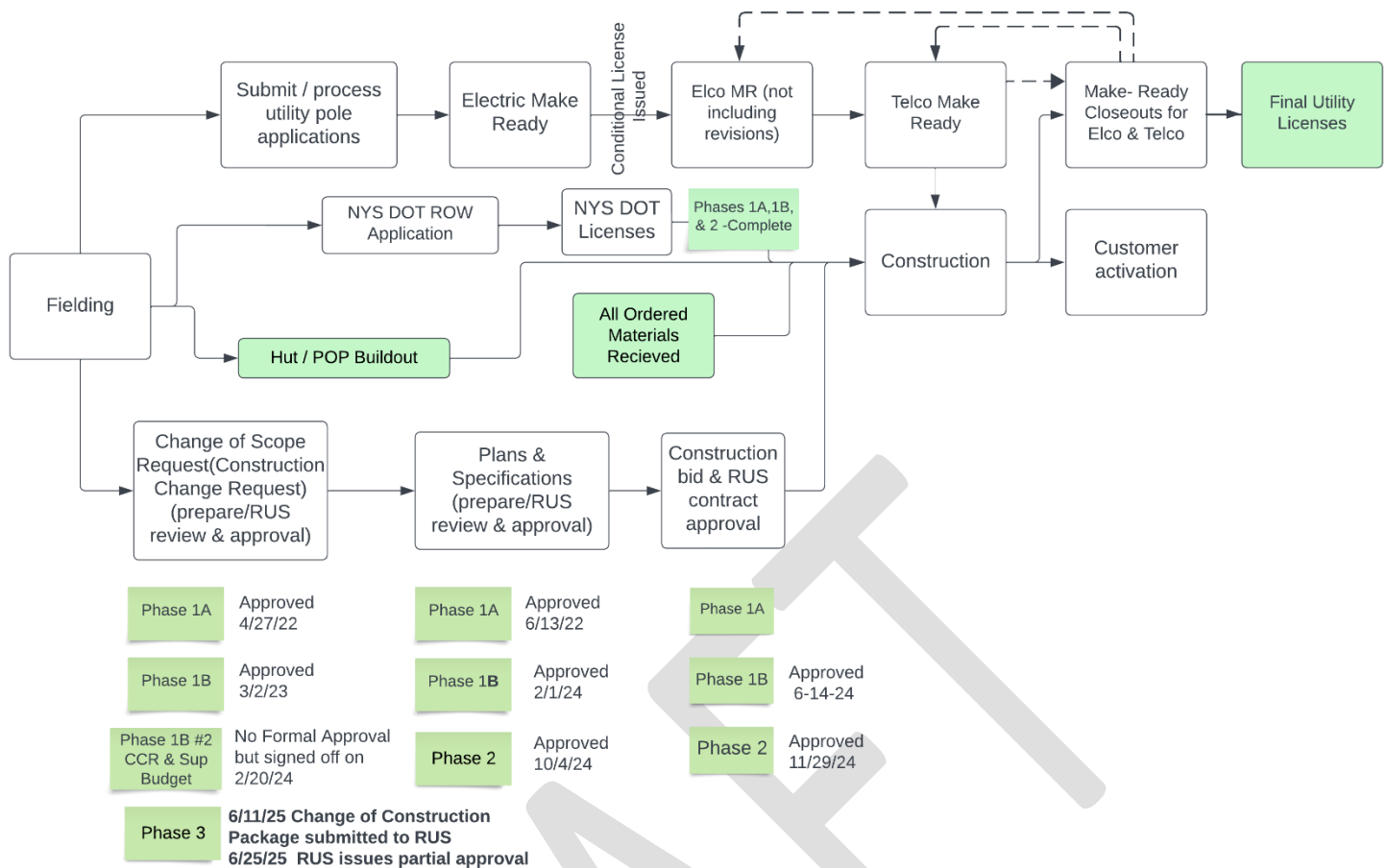
Ms. Kincaid reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Town Reassessments
  - 3 towns currently underway with reassessment projects for 2026
- Board of Assessment Review (B.A.R.)
  - Couple reappointments
- New Veterans Exemption
  - New veterans exemption for veterans with 100% disability rating
  - The governor did sign
- Exemption changes – Village of Dresden
- Taxable Status Date
  - Due March 1<sup>st</sup> to assessors
- Upcoming
  - Omitted tax calculations & letters
  - Processing sales through 2025
  - Annual report

**RECONNECT: Jeff Ayers**

Mr. Ayers reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- ReConnect 1 Engineering & Construction



- Customers Connected
  - 43 Customers right now that the County is getting paid for
- Phase Updates
  - Phase 1A Trunk Route-Closed out
  - Phase 1B- Close Outs Submitted to RUS-1/28/26
    - ◆ There is some outstanding testing and paperwork to close this phase out
  - Phase 2
    - ◆ YES finishing closeout paperwork for RUS approval (still a large splicing invoice from H&M pending)
  - Phase 3
    - ◆ Requested YES to move forward on the scheduling of Phase 3 construction timeline, despite only having the overhead Change of Construction approved by RUS (not the underground)
      - Will likely be procurement timing issues for the winning construction bidder and it is their estimation that there is more risk to delay than to proceeding
    - ◆ 7 splitters for Phase 2 need to be added to the Phase 3 build contract, as well as, a small section of backbone in Potter
    - ◆ YES is decommissioning sections of Phase 3 that are already served
      - They will be removed before the Plans and Specs process

➤ Once the maps are firmed up they will be shared with the Legislature

- Permitting
  - Will move forward on permit requests when the build of Phase 3 is firmed up
- Empire
  - It has been mentioned in meetings that Empire is looking at the network, at areas they might like to build to, and are considering a possible counter offer
- Nokia Equipment
- COB POP AC
- Engineering
  - New engineering contracts for Phase 3 decommissioning, Phase 3 backbone, and additional grant work pending per last month's Resolution
  - Weekly engineering meetings have not resumed in the new year as there is no ongoing construction
- Marketing
- Overall Schedule
- Financial Reporting
  - GFLRPC paid all the 2025 pole rental fees in the amount of \$39,000
  - Only have \$194.16 in pending costs right now so we will skip an FRS this month and roll that over on to next months
- Materials & Storage
- Make-Ready Construction
  - In close-outs on 14 Apps
- Grant Applications

### **PLANNING: Jeffrey Ayers**

Mr. Ayers reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Yates County Planning Board
  - Sarah Purdy is now Chairwoman of the Planning Board
  - New Dundee member lined up to replace Caryl Sutterby
- Public Transportation
  - Ken Bosey was the contact, but has stepped away
    - The general counsel for the group is acting as the new contact
    - Requested a progress meeting
  - CARES Act payment still pending for YTS
    - Should more or less conclude financial business with them
    - Still have some drug and alcohol reporting stuff from last year to finish-up
- Solid Waste
  - Genesee-Finger Lakes to present next month
  - Household Hazardous Waste Grant opened for the 2025 event
- Natural & Recreational Resources Grant
  - One request not funded as it was to replace a culvert on a private road and it didn't fit the criteria
- Housing-CDBG
  - Working on closeouts and annual reports

- Had applicants come in that didn't meet the requirements which resulted in a good amount of leftover funds
- NYS EFC-Septic System Replacement Grant-Round 5
  - Will include advanced systems
  - Contracts in place for maintenance before you can receive the funds
  - It is a higher bar, but they will get more money per project
- GIS
  - New flood maps released by FEMA for the County

Mr. Holgate questioned the Committee to see if the following resolution(s) should proceed to the Legislative Meeting. After discussion/edits, there were no official objections.

- Amend Resolution No. 40-26 A Resolution to Hold a Public Hearing on the Yates County Local Solid Waste Management Plan and Directing Public Notice Thereof
- Resolution Authorizing the County of Yates to Submit a Letter of Support for Wildlands Network in Connection with the Nature Conservancy's 2026 Climate Resilience Grant Program
- Natural and Recreational Resource Protection Grant-Selection of Grant Awardees and Funding Amounts for 2026

**FINANCE: Leigh Battin**

Mrs. Battin reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- JP Morgan P-Card Program
  - As of the end of 2025, they had only received rebates for Quarter 2 spending
    - For a total of \$30.62
    - Rebates are anticipated to increase as activity does
    - JP Morgan submits to the State first and then the State takes their time reviewing everything
      - ◆ JP Morgan has to wait for the State to approve before sending the rebates to the County
  - 8 P-Card users
    - Good feedback so far
- Cannabis Tax
  - Received a payment of \$13,029.54
    - Both the Town of Milo and the Village of Pen Yan will each get \$4,886.08
    - County keeps \$3,257.39
- Postmark Changes
  - Postmark will not happen the day the mail is received, it will be postmarked the day it is processed
  - Department of Finance will be following the date of the postmark for any payments they receive, any occupancy tax, any property tax payments, anything they receive.
    - They have put a notice on the website and put a notice in the office
- Annual TASC Audit/Meeting
  - Representative coming down to Yates County for another meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> and requested they meet this day
- January/Upcoming Meetings
- 2025 Appropriations
- Sales Tax Report
- Additional

- Last week, they had their first round of letters to non-compliant short-term rentals go out by Deckard
  - 4 properties reached out to register
  - a few properties reached out that they received the letter in error due to issues with the tax map ID number
    - ◆ Contacted Deckard Rep and they are getting it fixed as soon as possible
- Occupancy tax comparison for 2025 versus 2024 will be in the March agenda

Mr. Holgate questioned the Committee to see if the following resolution(s) should proceed to the Legislative Meeting. After discussion/edits, there were no official objections.

- 2025 Budget Transfers
- Appropriate Aid (Treasurer)
- Appropriate Aid (Finance)
- Appropriate Aid (Airport)
- Appropriate Reserve Funds (Telephone Reserve)
- Appropriate Aid (Public Health)
- Appropriate Aid (Central Communications)
- Appropriate Aid (Real Property)
- Appropriate Aid (Public Defender)
- Appropriate Aid (Planning)
- Appropriate Aid (Social Services)
- Appropriate Aid (Social Services)
- Appropriate Aid (Social Services)
- Appropriate Aid (Community Services)
- Appropriate Aid (Community Services)
- Appropriate Aid (Highway)
- Appropriate Aid (Highway)
- Appropriate Building Reserve Funds
- Appropriate Carryover Aid (Sheriff)
- Appropriate Carryover Aid (Sheriff)
- Appropriate Carryover Aid (Public Health)
- Appropriate Carryover Aid (Public Health)
- Appropriate Carryover Aid (Community Services)
- Appropriate Carryover Aid (Community Services)
- Appropriate Carryover Aid (Community Services)
- Appropriate Carryover Aid (Community Services)
- Appropriate Carryover Aid (Planning)
- 2026 Budget Transfers
- Appropriate Assigned Fund Balance
- Appropriate Cannabis Tax Revenue (Finance)
- Appropriate Aid (Community Services)
- Appropriate Aid (Community Services)
- Reappoint Chair to the Flint Creek Administrative Board
- Reappointment to the Flint Creek Administrative Board
- Appointment to the Flint Creek Administrative Board

**TREASURER: Patricia Christensen**

Agendas, Minutes, Audio, and more at <https://www.yatescountyny.gov/AgendaCenter/Finance-Committee-8>

Mrs. Christensen reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Tax Collection 2026
- Miscellaneous Items Completed
- Web Training for Tax Collection System
  - The flag system hasn't been utilized
    - Helps with the delinquent bills greatly, because a parcel can be flagged that's delinquent and it can come off if payment is received
    - All the flagged parcels can be pulled for the auction, reducing the work
  - Schedule A for delinquents
    - Template created for Scott
- State-Owned and Franchise Properties Tax Bills
- Meeting with Attorney Scott Falvey regarding tax foreclosure procedures
  - Auction for 3 years to get caught up
- Meeting with County Administrator, Jessica Mullins

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR: Jessica Mullins**

Mr. Holgate questioned the Committee to see if the following resolution(s) should proceed to the Legislative Meeting. After discussion/edits, there were no official objections.

- Set Date for Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 1-2026 Entitled “A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law Section 3-C”
- Authorize Chair to Sign Agreement with MRB Group for Grant Writing Services

Mrs. Mullins reviewed/reported on the following topics and the report was accepted as information:

- Set date for “Override Tax Cap local law.”
  - RESOLUTION to set date for public hearing for March 2026’s Legislative meeting.
- Sales Tax Sharing Recommendation for 2027 Budget
- NYS Executive Budget for 2027 was released on January 20, 2026, Governor Kathy Hochul unveiled her proposed budget for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2027. Jessica provided the NYSAC County Impact report to the Legislature via email that details areas of the proposed budget that would have a direct or indirect impact on county operations, including various departments, services, and programs. It is considered an interim report at this time.
  - Overall, total spending in the Governor’s proposed SFY 2027 budget would rise to \$260 billion, an increase of about \$8 billion over the adopted SFY 2026 budget (+3). The largest increases in spending are related to Medicaid state spending, Capital projects, and Agency Operations. Federal operating aid is projected to fall by \$10 billion or -11%.
- Again, working with MRB grant writing services for the upcoming ESD Infrastructure grant, distribution #2. March Finance Committee, I will bring forward the MRB-approved project applications to the Legislature to vote on which project they would like to submit for the upcoming Infrastructure grant.
  - RESOLUTION: Renew contract with MRB for Grant Writing Services for the 2026 year.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

*Emilee D. Miller*

Emilee Miller

Yates County Clerk of the Legislature

DRAFT