

WLS Finance Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 26, 2024
In Person Meeting

In Attendance:

Committee Members:

Maureen LeBlanc (District 8): Treasurer
Karen Zevin (District 1)
Barbara Tepper (District 4)

Others:

Nishat Hydari (District 3)
Robert Cartolano (District 9)
Terry Kirchner, WLS WLS Executive Director
Robert Caluori, WLS Chief Financial Officer
Mike Marino, Representative of NYLAF

The meeting started at 5:03 PM.

At Robert Caluori's request, Mike Marino met with the Finance Committee to provide an overview of the New York Liquid Asset Fund (NYLAF) and the products that it offers to its clients. Mr. Marino distributed the attached document (File Name: NYLAF Overview) at the meeting, and proceeded to walk through the information presented and respond to questions. He highlighted the following:

- NYLAF was created in 1998 when several local governments decided to form a cooperative organization to help manage their investment needs, maximize their investment returns, and minimize transaction costs.
- Only eligible participants can join NYLAF. These include municipalities, school districts, BOCES organizations, fire departments, public libraries, and public library systems.
- Today, NYLAF manages approximately \$2.5 billion in assets for local governments, school districts, fire departments, and library systems.
- All of NYLAF's investments conform with New York General Municipal Law; as such, they consist of collateralized FDIC-insured bank deposits and short-term US treasury securities (maturities of 60 days or less.)
- NYLAF is rated AAA by Standard & Poors. It is regulated by the New York Office or the Comptroller and is subject to annual audits.
- NYLAF engages with US Bank for "custody" services and PMA Securities LLC for investment management and bookkeeping services. Combined, these institutions earn fees equivalent to .15 basis points of managed funds.
- At present, funds invested in NYMAX, NYLAF's core investment product, are earning a net (after fees) return of 5.25%. There are no minimum balance requirements and no fees associated with wire transfers. All funds are liquid and readily available.
- Addition information can be found in the attached document.

After Mr. Marino departed, Rob noted that WLS currently earns approximately 3.25% on its investments with TD bank and hold about \$500,000 in deposits that do not earn interest in order to cover the fees

associated with WLS banking activities. Rob has asked TD bank to change the way it handles WLS interest earnings and fees, so that there is more transparency. With this information, the finance committee will be in a better position to compare the investment returns provided by TD Bank to the returns available through NYLAF.

The members of the Committee were in unanimous agreement that WLS should open an account with NYLAF. The matter will be brought before the entire Board at its April meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM

Meeting notes submitted by Maureen LeBlanc