

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE & RULES

DATE: JUNE 9, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS MONROE
GIRARD
SOKOL
WOOD
FRASIER

OTHERS PRESENT:

PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARTIN AUFFREDOU, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS MERLINO
SEEBER
SIMPSON
TAYLOR

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS WESTCOTT
STROUGH

RON MONTESI, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY
JOHN SALVADOR, JR., WARREN COUNTY RESIDENT
GEORGE WEINSCHENK, WARREN COUNTY RESIDENT
ROBERT SCHULZ, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
FRANK PASSARO, JR., WARREN COUNTY RESIDENT
JUDITH WHITMINE, WARREN COUNTY RESIDENT
CHARLENE DIRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Monroe called the meeting of the Legislative & Rules Committee to order at 1:02 p.m.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the agenda were distributed to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. Monroe advised that Item No. 1 on the agenda pertained to the Adirondack Wide Invasive Species Prevention Program Framework Agreement and he noted a draft outline of the agreement was included in the agenda packet. He explained that last fall the Fund for Lake George, the Lake George Regional Review Board and several other organizations drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to raise support for an Adirondack Wide Invasive Species Prevention Program. He said the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) had asked to have some input into the program and had helped with revisions to the framework agreement. He stated the Governor's Office wanted to announce the program and had requested that signatures be obtained in support of it. Mr. Monroe announced that signatures had been obtained from representatives of Towns, Counties and agencies within the Adirondacks, as well as the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), NYS DEC and the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC). He noted the signatures had been attached to a general statement of need for an Adirondack Wide Invasive Species Prevention Program. He commented the Governor had included \$1 million in his proposed budget for the program which had been approved by the legislature. Mr. Monroe informed that the NYS DEC had taken the necessary steps to have the program in place for 2015 before the State budget was approved. Because of the length of time necessary for review of contracts by the State Comptrollers Office, he continued, nine less expensive boat washing units were purchased at a cost of \$5,000 each. He explained these less expensive units did not have recycling capabilities, on-board water or the ability to suction up the water. He said this meant it would be necessary to have a disposal area, a 500-gallon tank as a source of water and a means to refill the water tank on a regular basis. He commented the point of buying the less expensive units was to allow the execution of the contract for less than \$50,000.

Mr. Monroe advised the contract would include a substantial payment to Paul Smith's College to administer the Adirondack Wide Invasive Species Prevention Program. He noted that some representatives of local government felt that they could administer the program just as well as Paul Smith's College if it was changed to a grant program. He commented that only \$8,000 had been included in the budget for education and there was a lot of support for educational efforts, such as billboards on the Northway. While it was great to have the \$1 million in funding, Mr. Monroe said, many of the involved parties felt the program could be administered much more efficiently for 2016 if it was changed to a grant program. He expressed the reason for the framework agreement was to determine if there was support throughout the region for the details which would fix some of the problems with the program. Mr. Monroe briefly reviewed some of the key points of the Adirondack Wide Invasive Species Prevention Program Framework Agreement with the Committee members; *a copy of the draft agreement is on file with the minutes.* Mr. Monroe pointed out the NYS DEC had been adamant that if the intent was to initiate a grant program for 2016 for the Adirondack Wide Invasive Species Prevention Program, then it would be necessary to commence working on it immediately. He noted that Paul Smith's College was aware they would not be administering the program if it became a grant program and they were amenable to this change. Mr. Monroe requested the Committee's support of the Adirondack Wide Invasive Species Prevention Program Framework Agreement.

Mr. Sokol asked if Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, had reviewed the Adirondack Wide Invasive Species Prevention Program Framework Agreement. Mr. Auffredou responded that he had briefly reviewed the agreement but he wanted to review it further and he anticipated completing his review before the June 19, 2015 Board Meeting. Mr. Monroe opined the importance of the agreement was that it was an indication of broad support for an Adirondack Wide Invasive Species Prevention Program.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Ms. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the Adirondack Wide Invasive Species Prevention Program Framework Agreement contingent upon the review and approval of the County Attorney. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the June 19, 2015 Board Meeting.*

Mr. Monroe informed that Item No. 2 on the agenda concerned a New York State Constitution Article 14 Amendment to create a municipal land bank for utilities, highways, bridges and small projects. He explained that New York State Constitution Article 14 was the Forever Wild Clause and created an obstacle for many small projects, particularly in Essex and Hamilton Counties. He said the Forever Wild Clause created an obstacle for utility placements and he added that a couple of years prior there had been an issue with the Village of Tupper Lake. He explained that Tupper Lake had all of their utilities brought in from one direction and wanted to create a redundancy by bringing in additional utilities from another direction. He commented the project engineers had wanted to run the utilities down State Route 56 but they could not because 2 miles of the road was designated as State land. Without a Constitutional Amendment, he continued, the Village of Tupper Lake would have had to avoid the 2 mile stretch of road and run the power lines into the woods to avoid the State land.

Mr. Monroe explained that a Constitutional Amendment had to pass 2 consecutive legislative sessions in order to be adopted. He said a draft amendment had been submitted and had passed the first legislative session but due to some technical issues with the language in the draft amendment, the deadline for the second legislative session had expired before it could be re-submitted. He apprised that the deadline to use the Federal funding for the installation of the power lines in Tupper Lake was about to expire so the NYS DEC and the APA approved running the utilities down the 2 miles of State land. He said the legal authority of the NYS DEC and APA to grant this

approval was questionable. He added that the Constitutional Amendment which authorized the Village of Tupper Lake to run power lines down the 2 miles of State land had been passed after the project was completed. He noted another example was the Racquet Lake water supply where they had proposed a Constitutional Amendment to use 1 acre of Forest Preserve for a well project. He added this amendment also had to pass 2 consecutive legislative sessions and a State-wide ballot before Racquet Lake was able to proceed with their well project. For Warren County, Mr. Monroe explained, the problem was with the Middleton Bridge Project where it made sense to build a new bridge 2.5 miles north of the existing bridge; he noted Middleton Bridge led to the Towns of Chester and Horicon. He explained there were arguments that along the shore of Schroon River was Forest Preserve land but there were also arguments that it was not. He asked Mr. Auffredou for further explanation.

Mr. Auffredou explained the land in question, which included two 20-foot wide strips along each side of the Schroon River, had been deeded to the State in 1979 by the American Graphite Company. He noted the deed had specifically mentioned the provision of the Environmental Conservation Law which said that if land was gifted to the NYS DEC under this provision then it did not become part of the New York State Forest Preserve; however, he informed, the NYS DEC had taken the position that these lands were within the State Forest Preserve. Mr. Auffredou apprised there was an opinion from the New York State Board of Equalization and Assessment which indicated the lands were not in the State Forest Preserve. He said that meant the property should remain exempt State land but if it was in the State Forest Preserve, it should be taxed. He noted these two State agencies were in conflict with this land which had halted the Middleton Bridge Project. Mr. Auffredou stated the request for a Constitutional Amendment to create a municipal land bank made sense to try to resolve the issues between these two agencies. He reiterated that the American Graphite Company had been clear they did not want the donated land to become Forest Preserve.

Mr. Monroe commented there had been discussions within local government for several years pertaining to a Constitutional Amendment to create a municipal land bank to deal with problems such as this one. He noted there was a land bank for State highways and there had been some discussion about using that. He explained this would be to create a municipal land bank for utilities, highways, bridges and small projects. He stated this was something that Warren County should support because it was a common sense solution to problems which otherwise required a great effort in the State legislature, as well as a State-wide ballot. He indicated the NYS DEC had created a draft of the legislation which would accomplish this but they had not shared it publically yet. He requested the Committee's support of the concept of an amendment to the Forever Wild Clause of the New York State Constitution to create a municipal land bank for utilities, highways, bridges and small projects.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Ms. Wood and carried unanimously to authorize a resolution supporting an amendment to New York State Constitution Article 14 (Forever Wild Clause) to create a municipal land bank for utilities, highways, bridges and small projects. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the June 19, 2015 Board Meeting.*

Item No. 3 on the agenda, Mr. Monroe said regarded some Town boundary issues to be presented by John Salvador, Warren County resident. Mr. Salvador recalled that he had spoken at two previous meetings of the Legislative & Rules Committee about the need to correct the Town boundary lines. He said during the first meeting he had presented an 1858 statute which clearly defined the Town boundaries, particularly in the Towns of Queensbury and Bolton. Subsequent to that meeting, he continued, he had located a map created by the United States Census Bureau which clearly mapped the Town of Bolton to be in full agreement with the 1858 statute; he displayed the United States Census Bureau map to the Committee members. Mr. Salvador advised he had also located a series

of maps created by the NYS DEC between 1958 and 1964 which also concurred with the 1858 statute. He said the purpose of the NYS DEC maps was to show the encroachments on the Lake George shoreline. Mr. Monroe asked the creator of the maps and Mr. Salvador replied Blackwood, Kessler and Bartlett, Inc. on behalf of the New York State Department of Public Works, District 1, NYS DEC. Mr. Salvador displayed maps from the Town of Queensbury, the Warren County Highway Department and the LGPC Boater's Map and he opined that all of these maps were incorrect. He stated there was no excuse for not recognizing the maps which he had presented because every competent surveyor's office in the area had a full set of them. Mr. Salvador expressed it was common knowledge that the waters of Lake George were in the Town of Bolton and he saw no reason why they could not move ahead with the process of correcting the boundary lines. He said the boundary line between Warren and Washington Counties was incorrect and if that was corrected the Towns would follow suit. Mr. Salvador announced that he had filed a grievance with the Town of Queensbury Board of Assessment Review for his boathouse and 15 of his docks located in the Town of Bolton (according to the maps) and he anticipated receiving a ruling shortly. He stated an advisory or resolution from the Board of Supervisors should be issued to clarify the boundary lines.

Mr. Monroe said his understanding was that the Warren County Real Property Tax Services (RPTS) tax maps were correct and consistent with the maps presented by Mr. Salvador. He noted the relevant Departments of Warren County agreed with Mr. Salvador's position and Mr. Salvador replied affirmatively. Mr. Monroe asked if the issue was the taxation of the structures in the waters of Lake George and Mr. Salvador replied the structures were beyond the Town of Queensbury boundary lines and were not located within the Town where taxes were levied. Mr. Girard indicated the issue was confusing to him and he requested some clarification of the implications for Warren County. Mr. Auffredou stated he did not believe there were any implications for Warren County pertaining to this issue. He said this information was not new as it had been reviewed during the last couple Legislative & Rules Committee Meetings. He indicated that the County Treasurer agreed with the maps and boundaries as presented by Mr. Salvador. Mr. Auffredou commented that Mr. Salvador might have an issue with another government entity or entities; however, he continued, the issue was not with Warren County as he had stated in previous meetings. On the issue of taxation, he said, Lexie Delurey, Director of RPTS, had obtained a 2002 opinion on the assessment of boathouses on Lake George from New York State. He explained the opinion was in reference to a boathouse in the Town of Fort Ann that extended onto Lake George which was owned by New York State but located in the Town of Bolton. Mr. Auffredou stated the 2002 opinion was made by James. J. O'Keeffe, Associate Counsel for the New York State Office of Real Property Services (NYS ORPS), who indicated that his interpretation of Real Property Tax Law was that the boathouse was taxable, assessable property in the Town of Fort Ann, notwithstanding the fact that it may be located within the Town of Bolton. Mr. Auffredou explained the boathouse was essentially accessible from, affixed to and an amenity of property located in the Town of Fort Ann. He informed that if he had been asked for an opinion on this matter, he would have provided the same opinion received from Mr. O'Keeffe.

Mr. Auffredou stated this was an issue which was before the Town of Queensbury Board of Assessment Review and perhaps the Towns of Bolton and Fort Ann Board of Assessment Review; however, he continued, he did not see the need for any action to be taken by the Legislative & Rules Committee and he did not recommend any action be taken. Mr. Salvador acknowledged he had received a copy of the opinion from Mr. O'Keeffe and he said he had addressed those issues and sent a letter to Mr. Auffredou in return; Mr. Auffredou informed he had not received the letter. Mr. Salvador indicated that when the Town of Fort Ann undertook the issue which resulted in Mr. O'Keeffe's opinion, they had no appreciation of the fact that the Town boundary lines were incorrect. He stated the fact that the boathouse was accessible from property located in the Town of Fort Ann was irrelevant. He expressed some people had commented that he received a benefit from the fact

that his boathouse was in another Town which he said was also irrelevant. Mr. Salvador apprised that none of the opinions which had been received from the NYS ORPS were predicated on the fact that what was being assessed was outside of the boundaries of the Town. Mr. Auffredou disagreed and read from the August 1, 2002 opinion of Mr. O’Keeffe, as follows:

As you describe the situation, the boathouses are secured to the up land in Fort Ann, as well as to the bed of Lake George. The boundary of the Town only extends to the shore of Lake George. The boundary at that point is with the Town of Bolton, Warren County.

Mr. Auffredou said that according to the opinion it seemed as if Mr. O’Keeffe was fully aware of the boundaries when rendering his decision. Mr. Monroe asked if the opinion had been issued by the NYS ORPS and Mr. Auffredou replied affirmatively. Mr. Monroe said this was an opinion and the courts could later differ on that opinion; however, he stated, it was the County’s position that this was not an issue to be determined by them and Mr. Auffredou agreed. Mr. Salvador mentioned that the Town boundary referred to in the opinion had no definition. He said it became necessary to analytically define the boundary line and as he had suggested in the past, the mean high water mark was the logical definition. He explained that once the definition of the elevation of the boundary line was defined, it could be determined if the boathouse was attached to land in the Town of Fort Ann or not. Mr. Salvador expounded that his boathouse, located in the Town of Bolton, was not attached to land in the Town of Queensbury. He agreed the boathouse may be accessible from the Town of Queensbury but he reiterated that this was irrelevant. Mr. Monroe commented that the Committee had an understanding of what Mr. Salvador’s argument was but he did not understand what Mr. Salvador was proposing the County do to resolve the issue. He indicated this matter could be decided in court but he did not understand what the County could do. Mr. Salvador reiterated that the issue had been presented to the Town of Queensbury Board of Assessment Review on Grievance Day and Mr. Monroe commented that seemed to be the proper approach.

George Weinschenk, Warren County resident, said he had first become aware of this issue in the early 1980’s and no progress had been made since that time. He commented the opinion read by Mr. Auffredou stated that the boathouses were not on Town of Fort Ann property but were on State property. He mentioned it was clear that if the boathouses were beyond the mean high water mark then they were located in the Town of Bolton. He expressed that meant the Towns of Lake George and Queensbury had been collecting taxes on properties which were not in their Towns and as a result their assessments were higher. He said that meant the Towns of Lake George and Queensbury were taking tax monies from all of the other Towns that were not on Lake George because their assessments were artificially inflated.

Mr. Weinschenk stated the tax warrants would be issued in the next couple of months and this issue should be dealt with prior to that. He expounded that the decision reached by the Hon. David B. Krogmann, Supreme Court Judge, was that they did not have the right to tax these properties. Mr. Auffredou interjected that Judge Krogmann’s decision did not reach the issue of taxation of those structures. He said these opinions from the State cited Real Property Tax Law 546; he commented in these instances if you had a structure on State land and you owned the adjoining land, the structure was a taxable assessment to the Town in which the adjoining land was located. He informed that Judge Krogmann’s decision went to the authority of municipalities under their land use codes to approve the construction of docks and boathouses on Lake George. He reiterated that Judge Krogmann’s decision did not reach the issue of taxation. Mr. Weinschenk asked if this meant he could construct anything he wanted on State land, provided it met State standards and the Town would have no authority to stop him but when the structure was completed the Town would tax him on it. He said this was his understanding of Mr. Auffredou’s statement and Mr. Auffredou disagreed.

Mr. Auffredou commented his intent was only to point out that Judge Krogmann's decision had nothing to do with the issue of taxation. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Weinschenk asked how the Towns of Queensbury and Lake George could tax these structures when according to maps and statutes dating back to the 1800's those structures were not within the boundary lines of those Towns. Mr. Auffredou responded the issue was before the Town of Queensbury Board of Assessment Review. He stated for the record that there were opinions from the State Board of Equalization and Assessment and the NYS ORPS, as its successor, which seemed to support an argument that a dock or boathouse affixed to land in the Town of Queensbury, which may be located or extended over the boundary line into the Town of Bolton, was assessable, taxable Town of Queensbury property. Mr. Monroe advised the County Attorney's opinion was fairly clear and it seemed clear to him that the only way this issue would be resolved was through the courts. He said the County agreed with Mr. Salvador's position as to where the boundary lines were located but there was the remaining question pertaining to the assessment. He commented there were some fairly clear opinions which were not necessarily binding in a court of law.

Mr. Salvador pointed out that none of the opinions issued by the State had dealt with the fact that owners of boathouses and docks on Lake George paid a fee to the State in order to occupy their land. He said it was necessary to register these structures and pay the fee annually and as such they were tenants on State land. He said he did not feel it was proper for the Towns to issue tax bills to the tenants without permission. Mr. Auffredou reiterated this was not an issue for Warren County.

Mr. Monroe advised that Item No. 4 on the agenda pertained to the draft public commentary policy prepared by the County Attorney. He said the County had never had a public commentary policy pertaining to the Committee Meetings that he was aware of, although he believed public commentary was addressed in the Rules of the Board pertaining to Board Meetings. He said the public commentary policy had been drafted by Mr. Auffredou and he had reviewed it and found it acceptable. Mr. Auffredou said a public commentary policy had been discussed for the last several months. He explained the intent had been to bring some structure to the public comment period of Committee and Board Meetings and Public Hearings while affording the Chairman of the Board or Chairman of the Committee the discretion to allow for additional time, as needed. He informed the policy provided guidelines and assistance as to when public comments would be allowed during meetings and hearings. Mr. Auffredou briefly reviewed the public comment policy entitled "Warren County Board of Supervisors Rules and Procedures for Public Participation at Board of Supervisors Meetings and Board of Supervisors Committee Meetings" for the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes*. In general, he pointed out, the policy limited the length of presentations to 15 minutes and the length of public comments to 3 minutes; however, he reiterated, it also afforded the Chairman the discretion to allow additional time, as needed. Mr. Monroe said he felt the public commentary policy presented addressed all of the issues he was aware of and he recommended the Committee approve it, as presented. Ms. Wood mentioned that she had sent some comments to Mr. Auffredou after reviewing the first draft of the policy and it seemed as if all of them had been incorporated into the second draft.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the public commentary policy entitled "Warren County Board of Supervisors Rules and Procedures for Public Participation at Board of Supervisors Meetings and Board of Supervisors Committee Meetings" as prepared by the County Attorney. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the June 19, 2015 Board Meeting.*

Mr. Auffredou stated for clarification purposes that this policy was not a local law and could be changed at any time by a resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

Item No. 5 on the agenda, Mr. Monroe informed was a referral from the Public Safety Committee requesting action urging the County to request that expenses associated with river gauges to be funded on a Federal level. He noted information about the expenses associated with river gauges no longer being funded by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) was presented at the May 26, 2015 Public Safety Committee Meeting. He added these expenses would be imposed on the local governments and he proposed authorizing a resolution urging Federal Legislators to adopt legislation that these expenses be funded on the Federal level.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to authorize a resolution urging Federal Legislators to adopt legislation stating that expenses associated with river gauges would be funded on a Federal level. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the June 19, 2015 Board Meeting.*

Mr. Monroe apprised that Item No. 6 on the agenda concerned a resolution adopted by Wyoming County in support of New York State Senate Bill S.4240 and New York State Assembly Bill A.6425 to amend County Law in relation to community and economic vitality, nutrition and healthy families, and 4-H/youth development under a form of organization and administration approved by Cornell University. He read Wyoming County Resolution No. 15-198 to the Committee members; *a copy of the resolution is on file with the minutes.* He noted this legislation would eliminate the outdated term "home economics" and focus on economic and community vitality, nutrition, health families and agriculture.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Ms. Wood and carried unanimously to authorize a resolution supporting New York State Senate Bill No. S.4240 and New York State Assembly Bill No. A.6425 to amend County Law in relation to community and economic vitality, nutrition and healthy families, and 4-H/youth development under a form of organization and administration approved by Cornell University. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the June 19, 2015 Board Meeting.*

Mr. Monroe advised that Item No. 7 on the agenda pertained to a resolution adopted by Fulton County requesting the Governor and State Legislature to amend the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law to allow all terrain vehicles (ATV's) up to 1,500 pounds to be registered. He said he was familiar with this matter as a resolution had been adopted by the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board (APLGRB) of which he was a member. He commented that the APLGRB had forwarded their resolutions to all of the Counties in the Adirondacks and Fulton County had forwarded their resolution to Warren County. He explained that currently UTV's (utility task vehicles) which were larger than ATV's and allowed people to ride side-by-side, could not be registered because they weighed in excess of 1,000 pounds and this legislation would allow ATV's and UTV's weighing up to 1,500 pounds to be registered.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to authorize a resolution requesting the Governor and State Legislature to amend the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law to allow ATV's up to 1,500 pounds to be registered. *The necessary resolution was authorized for the June 19, 2015 Board Meeting.*

Lastly, Mr. Monroe said Item No. 8 on the agenda concerned a resolution adopted by Fulton County requesting the Governor and State Legislature to amend the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law regarding designation of highways and travel by ATV's. He indicated the APLGRB had also passed a resolution for this matter and forwarded it to all of the Counties in the Adirondacks. He advised the language of the statute in the Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 2405 did not allow Towns and Counties the flexibility to open roads to adjoining trail systems and lands for the completion of the trail systems. He said the legislation allowed Towns to designate sections of Town highways for

travel by ATV's where it was "otherwise impossible" to connect two segments of a trail system; however, he explained, the requested change in legislation was to remove the "otherwise impossible" language to allow Towns the flexibility to allow trail connections using Town roads.

Ms. Wood asked if the legislation would only apply to Town roads or to County and State roads which run through the Town. She explained that the Town of Thurman had a lot of County roads and she was concerned with the liability of the Town if people caused damage to a County or State road while traveling from one section of a trail system to another. Mr. Monroe said he did not think a Town would have the authority to designate a County or State highway for travel by ATV's; however, he suggested the matter be tabled and referred to the County Attorney for clarification. A brief discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to table the matter of requesting the Governor and State Legislature to amend the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law regarding designation of highways and travel by all terrain vehicles and refer it to the County Attorney requesting that he provide an opinion as to whether or not this would provide Towns with the authority to designate County and State roads as such.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Robert Schulz, Town of Queensbury resident, who said he had previously brought to the Board of Supervisors the issue of the lack of proper civic education in the public school system, as well as the State and public school's participation in the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) Consortium for the Common Core Standards assessment and the unconstitutionality of it. During his last attendance at a Legislative & Rules Committee Meeting, he continued, Mr. Auffredou had indicated that he would send a letter to the New York State Board of Regents, the New York State Education Commissioner and each of the regional school districts. He asked if Mr. Auffredou had anything to report as a result of his letter and Mr. Auffredou responded that he had not received any responses to his letter.

Mr. Schulz stated he had a letter he had written which was addressed to the Warren County Board of Supervisors, the Washington County Board of Supervisors, the Queensbury Town Board, the Fort Ann Town Council and the Lake George Board of Education. He proceeded to read the letter to the Committee members; *a copy of the letter is on file with the minutes*. In the letter, Mr. Schulz indicated that on February 3, 2015 he had served each entity with a First Amendment Petition for Redress of Grievances regarding the unconstitutional civic education in public schools which did not comply with State Education Law. He said the multi-State assessment system based on the Common Core Standards was in violation with the Constitution of the United States of America. He noted that his Petition of Redress had included a statement of facts and remedial instructions in the form of two resolutions. Mr. Schulz informed that he would embark on a hunger fast beginning July 1, 2015 and consume only water until he received a written response from each of the parties the letter was addressed to and he said the written responses should either refute the facts stated in the resolutions or agree to the remedial instructions. He beseeched the Board of Supervisors to support and defend the New York State and United States Constitutions by adopting the resolutions he had drafted.

As there was no further business to come before the Legislative & Rules Committee, on motion made by Ms. Wood and seconded by Mrs. Frasier, Mr. Monroe adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist