

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PARK OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT (O&M)

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2015

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS MERLINO
KENNY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS MONROE
DICKINSON

OTHERS PRESENT:

VOTING MEMBER:

ROBERT BLAIS, MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKE GEORGE
JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

JOANNE CONLEY, ASSISTANT TOURISM COORDINATOR

LEISA GRANT, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK

PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD

FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS SEEGER

BROCK

MICHAEL CONSUELO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LAKE GEORGE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CVB

DAVID STRAINER, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT

THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*

DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*

MOILY GANOTES, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

In the absence of the Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman Merlino called the meeting of the Park Operations & Management (O&M) to order at 10.23 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mayor Blais and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to Correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing with the agenda review Mr. Tennyson distributed current photos of the Festival Space to the Committee members. He said the project was on schedule to be completed by the spring of 2016. He indicated the construction of the Skate Park was moving along quickly.

Mr. Tennyson presented a request for authorization to reimburse the Village of Lake George in the amount of \$3,061.39 for various maintenance, repairs and event expenses at the Charles R. Wood Festival Commons.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mayor Blais and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the September 18th Board Meeting.

Next Mr. Tennyson presented a request to authorize appropriation of funds in the amount of \$3,061.39 from A691.07 Deferred Revenue, Gaslight Village Parking Fees, to Budget Code A.1625 470, Gaslight Village Property, Contract.

Motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mayor Blais and carried unanimously to approve the requests as outlined above and forward same to Finance Committee. *Copies of the Resolution Request forms are on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Tennyson then discussed a refund request received by Mayor Blais on August 14, 2015 for a craft fair that was previously scheduled for August 29-30, 2015. He stated no refund policy had been established, but noted a meeting would be held September 9th, 2015 to discuss fees and schedules, wherein refunds could be considered, as well. He related the deposit for the craft fair had been resolved. Mr. Merlino inquired as to the policy for refunds and Mayor Blais responded they had the ability to return fees, unless the promoter cancelled the event late leaving no time to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Tennyson advised he would be able to draft a budget for the Park O&M Festival Commons now that he had the time line and clarity on what the Park would look like. He said he would return to the Committee with proposals from the Village of Lake George, or a proposal on how to handle maintenance at the Park, at a future meeting.

Mr. Merlino reported the Tourism Department had been working on ways to improve the Festival Commons website. He indicated the Lake George Chamber of Commerce and CVB maintained the website and would continue to do so until January 2016 when the Tourism Department would take it over. He continued, on August 11, 2015 an email blast was sent to 130,000 people containing information about upcoming events in Warren County for the month of September. He added the final statics on how many people opened the email would be available in coming weeks. He noted he had notified Mayor Blais that he could not send him emails without permission.

Joanne Conley, Assistant Tourism Coordinator, asked Mayor Blais for permission to send him the two previous email blasts. She reported July's email blast specifically related to the Festival Commons and the blast for August theme was "Summer Is Not Over, Come Visit Lake George". She informed some statics had been received and 6,000 people had opened the blast. Mr. Tennyson inquired what type of link or PDF document had been sent in the blasts and Ms. Conley responded the subject line said the name of the blast and the sender said Lake George Area while the body of the email contained the flyer with links that connected to different areas of the website. She indicated they had the ability to track the clicks for each link. Mr. Merlino stated it was a simple and inexpensive way to advertise.

Michael Consuelo, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce and CVB, remarked through the contractual agreement they had with the County they had designed and developed the website *Festivalcommons.com*. He said they operated the website and there would be no problem turning the management over to the County. He added his concerns were sales and promotion of the website, as people were not aware there was a Festival Commons website. He expressed the need for the website to be promoted. Mr. Merlino reported the website was approved in July 2015 which left no time to promote it. He stated the Tourism Department would work with them to promote the site. He reiterated in January of 2016 the Tourism Department would take over managing and promoting the site.

Mayor Blais noted he attended a meeting with various promoters, two of which expressed interest in renting the Festival Commons. He stated he had received comments about the direction they felt the festival space should be heading. He added he invited the two largest

promoters to the September 9th, 2015 meeting because they had beneficial ideas. He emphasized the need for a box office, additional signage, a stage and to address parking problems. He stated he spoke to the owners of the Lake George Steamboat Company and worked out a strategy to solve the parking problem.

Mayor Blais indicated he spoke to Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, regarding the use of bounce houses and Mr. Auffredou informed such use of them at the Festival Commons was not possible. Mayor Blais remarked the Festival Commons was a family space that had a children's component to it. He commented people would not attend music or other events unless there was something for their children to do when they were there. He added the elimination of bounce houses would impact upcoming events. He inquired as to why the use of bounce houses was eliminated. He stated bounce houses were inflated in the Village twice a week and had been for 21 years without an incident or claim. Paul Dusek, County Administrator, answered the issue of bounce houses on County-owned property had been resolved in a previous resolution. He remarked if the County had ruled against bounce houses the Board would have to reconsider the matter. He added the issue of insurance was handled by Mr. Auffredou. He said he was confident the matter would be resolved. Mr. Tennyson stated this would impact the Balloon Festival as well.

Mayor Blais informed the reason he brought this matter to Committee was because of the upcoming American Music Festival to be held September 26-27th, 2015, as well as its impact on the contract the Village of Lake George had with Larry Henderson, who provided the bounce houses. He said bounce houses were a source of revenue and an enormous attraction for family events.

Mr. Tennyson appraised the Board had previously passed a resolution with certain rules and conditions which stated bounce houses could be used. He said he spoke to Mr. Auffredou and Mr. Auffredou advised him the County would not be covered for injury or liability if a bounce house incident were to occur. Mr. Tennyson informed that Mr. Auffredou had indicated the possibility of adding additional insurance.

Mayor Blais pointed out for the past 7 years Shepard's Park had bounce houses on Thursday nights that were sponsored by Price Chopper with all the proceeds allocated to the Save the Lake Committee. He indicated it was an incredible source of revenue. He added he would like to get the matter resolved, as bounce houses were a big attraction for promoters. He added without vendors the Festival Commons would not be successful. He expressed without Occupancy Tax they would not have had any events.

As there was no further business to come before the Park O&M Committee, on motion made by Mr. Kenny and seconded by Mayor Blais, Mr. Merlino adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes, Legislative Office Specialist