

**1 WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2005**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. William Thomas presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Girard.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Gabriels, Monroe, Girard, Sheehan, Mason, O'Connor, Kenny, Bentley, W. Thomas, Tessier, Bennett, Stec, Caimano, Champagne, VanNess, Barody, F. Thomas, Haskell, and Quintal - 19.

Absent: Supervisor Belden - 1.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Bennett and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2005, Board Meeting subject to correction by the Clerk.

Chairman Thomas declared the public hearing open on proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2005, regarding the Empire Zone, and requested the Clerk read Notice of Public Hearing.

Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Chairman Thomas announced that the hearing would remain open until 10:15 a.m. in the event anyone wished to speak may appear.

Chairman Thomas recognized Charles Adams as a proponent of Warren County who had supported the advancement of sports venues in the County. Mr. Adams stated that no other organization or entity had been more supportive of East Field than the Warren County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Adams said it was his pleasure to inform the Board of the continuity of both the Greenjackets Football Team and the Golden Eagles Baseball Team through their acquisition by Roger Ames. He introduced Mr. Ames as the new owner of both the Golden Eagles and the Greenjackets.

Mr. Ames expressed his respect and admiration for Mr. Adams. He said if he was able to accomplish half as much as Mr. Adams has, he would consider this venture a success.

Mr. Caimano stated that this was an especially poignant day for him since he and Mr. Adams had been friends for a very long time. He said Mr. Adams was known for taking on the difficult projects that no one else wanted - not for adulation or money, but for his love of this community. Mr. Caimano also expressed his condolences on the loss of Mr. Adams' wife and added he was sorry that Mr. Adams was leaving, but he was very grateful for his efforts.

Chairman Thomas recognized Supervisor Quintal who introduced Kevin Geraghty who

will be assuming the position of Warrensburg Town Supervisor on January 1, 2006. Mr. Quintal noted that Mr. Geraghty had done a lot for the Town of Warrensburg and would continue to do a lot for Warren County.

Chairman Thomas asked if there were any comments regarding proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2005. Mr. Thomas recognized Supervisor Bennett, who commented that the Empire Zone had been a key element in the development of Warren County. Once it was in place, he said, a great deal of good had been accomplished. Mr. Bennett said if he were to cite one example of a project that was near and dear to his heart, it would be the Wells House in Pottersville. He said he was very impressed with the work done by the Bubars' and the various funding mechanisms that came into play including economic development, local County development and the Empire Zone. Mr. Bennett cited this as a perfect example of what the Empire Zone had been able to accomplish and he emphasized its importance to the County.

Mr. Monroe thanked Mr. Bennett for all his efforts in regard to the Wells House project. He noted that several years ago a plan was completed for the Main Street in Pottersville and it was clear that the Wells House should be an anchor for that improvement project.

There being no one further wishing to speak on proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2005, Chairman Thomas declared the public hearing closed at 10:15 a.m.

Chairman Thomas declared the public hearing open on proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2006, Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County and requested the Clerk read Notice of Public Hearing.

Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing

There being no questions or comments, Chairman Thomas declared the public hearing on Local Law No. 1 of 2006 closed at 10:18 a.m.

The following committee chairmen or vice-chairmen presented verbal reports on December meetings or activities:

Supervisor Gabriels, Personnel; Supervisor Monroe, Finance; Supervisor Sheehan, Support Services and Information Technology; Supervisor Tessier, Airport; Supervisor Caimano, Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee and Executive Host Convention Committee; Supervisor F. Thomas, Legislative; Supervisor Haskell, Health Services and Supervisor Quintal, County Facilities.

Mr. Stec said he would like to take a public opportunity to thank Messrs. Bennett and Quintal for their mentorship and friendship. He noted he looked forward to working with both Mr. Geraghty and Mr. Merlino, as well as Mayor-Elect Akins, and he welcomed them.

Mr. Caimano extended both thanks and farewell to Messrs. Bennett and Quintal. Mr. Caimano noted that Mr. Quintal served on 37 committees during his tenure and he complimented him on his service.

Regarding Health Services Committee, Mr. Haskell reported that of the thirty-one telemedicine units, thirty were in use in the field. He noted there would be a demonstration of these units at the next Health Services Committee meeting.

Mr. Haskell said he would like to take an opportunity to say good-bye to Mr. Quintal and Bennett. He noted he had served on the Parks, Recreation and Railroad Committee with Mr. Bennett and they had enjoyed a few rides on the high rail. Mr. Haskell said he met Mr. Quintal before they both took office and had discussed things that were important to both of their towns and they had worked together to achieve those goals. While he was certain that Mr. Geraghty would do a good job, Mr. Haskell said he would miss Mr. Quintal.

Regarding actions of the County Facilities Committee, Mr. Quintal reported that Foit-Albert Associates had completed the needs assessment on the Health & Human Services Building. Based on a 30-year projection, he said, they recommended a building of 75,000 square feet at a projected cost of sixteen million dollars. Mr. Quintal concluded that Supervisor O'Connor would be discussing the space needs of the court with Judge Krogmann and that NYSERDA would be doing a study relative to cost saving recommendations on utilities at the Municipal Center. Concluding, Mr. Quintal said he wished to thank his fellow supervisors for being his friend and for helping him get through his first two years on the Board of Supervisors, which were the hardest. After the first couple of years, Mr. Quintal noted, a rapport was established and you could go to work. Mr. Quintal said if he was asked to continue to serve on the OTB (Off-Track Betting) Committee, he would still be coming in to give reports.

Chairman Thomas commented that Mr. F. Thomas had reported on resolutions from the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board and he noted that the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board was very active now under the leadership of Executive Director Fred Monroe. Chairman Thomas said that Mr. Monroe was doing a great job for that organization.

Mr. Monroe thanked all of the supervisors for their support of the Review Board.

Mr. Caimano noted that Mr. Monroe brought the light of day to the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board for those who live down County.

Chairman called for reading of communications.

Clerk read communications, including the following:

Monthly reports from:

- Probation Department;
- Weights & Measures;
- Social Services;
- Veterinarian

NYSHIP (New York State Health Insurance Program), 2006 rates.

IDA (Industrial Development Agency), 2006 Proposed Budget.

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Draft Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Moreau State Park.

Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, 2004 Annual Report.

Lake George Village, designating David Wick, District Manager of Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District as "Citizen of the Year" for 2005.

New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, approving the 2006 STOP-DWI

plans for Warren County.
Town of Queensbury resolution, concurring with Warren County's application for re-designation of certain areas within Warren County as an Empire Zone.
Town of Ticonderoga, notice of consideration of proposed zoning amendments.
Communications, resolutions and reports ordered placed on file.

Chairman called for reading of resolutions and discussion.

Mr. Bennett introduced a resolution increasing Capital Project No. H246.9550 280 - ACC Eisenhart Hall Renovation in the amount of \$375,000 to cover expenses until the charge-backs come in.

A motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Caimano and carried unanimously to waive the rules requiring the proposed resolution to be in writing and approve the resolution. (Please note: This will be Resolution No. 785 of 2005.)

Regarding Resolution 762 of 2005, Authorizing Settlement With Washington County Concerning the Sharing of Operational and Capital Expenses With Regard to Adirondack Community College, Mr. Caimano suggested the resolution be amended to state the parties would meet prior to January 31, 2006, rather than in early 2006.

A motion was made Mr. Caimano, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to approve the amendment to Resolution No. 762 of 2005. Clerk noted amendment for the record.

Mr. Girard requested a roll call vote on Resolution No. 684 entitled, Authorizing Amendment Agreement with Lori Girard for Dietary Consultant Services for Warren County Residential Hall, and Resolution No. 691 entitled, Authorizing Commencement of Civil Action for Determination of County's Easement Rights - Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport.

Mr. Kenny said he would like to request a roll call vote on Resolution No. 732 entitled, Authorizing Change Order No. 3 with Progress Rail Services Corporation for Additional Labor/Equipment Necessary for Restoration of the Warren County Rail Line - Grade Crossing Warning Signals (WC 39-04) and Extension of Agreement, as well as Resolution No. 733 entitled, Authorizing Approval of Preferred Alternative in the Final Design Report for the Warren County Scenic Rail Station Improvements, Warren County (PIN #1755.99) and Authorizing Chairman to Execute Memorandum.

Mr. Kenny expressed concern relative to Resolution No. 715 entitled, Authorizing and Approving Use of Application Form for Funding and Instructions for Completing the Forms for Warren County Tourist and Convention Development. Mr. Kenny said the resolution indicated a cut-off date for occupancy tax applications of January 31, 2006. Mr. Kenny asked if this was something they would have to do every year and if not, he would like to change the cut-off date to December 1, 2006 for the following year.

A motion was made by Mr. Kenny, seconded by Mr. Caimano and carried unanimously to waive the rules requiring the proposed resolution to be in writing and establish December 1, 2006 as the cut-off date for receipt of occupancy tax funding requests for 2007.

Chairman Thomas called for a vote on the resolutions.

Mrs. Parsons reported that Resolution Nos. 683 through 747 were mailed and she requested a motion to bring Resolution Nos. 682 and 748 through 786 to the floor.

A motion was made by Mr. Gabriels, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve Resolution Nos. 682 and 748 through 786.

Resolution Nos. 682 through 786 were approved.

Chairman Thomas announced that the mileage rate would decrease effective January 1, 2006 from the present rate of 48.5 cents per mile to 44.5 cents per mile. In addition, he said, the Organization Day meeting would be held on Thursday, January 5, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman Thomas requested an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss the employment history of a particular person and the appointment of a particular person.

Chairman Thomas said he would like to recognize the two outgoing supervisors. He thanked Mr. Bennett for his help on some very important issues, including his comments today regarding the Wells House. Chairman Thomas reviewed the various committees that Mr. Bennett not only served on, but also chaired, including Parks, Recreation and Railroad, Sheriff and Communications, Economic Development, Planning and Community Development and Community College. He particularly noted Mr. Bennett's efforts on the railroad system, which had allowed that project to move forward. In addition, Chairman Thomas stated, Mr. Bennett had worked very hard to improve the Town of Lake Luzerne and he hoped that would continue.

Chairman Thomas then recognized the service of Mr. Quintal to Warren County, including chairing the County Facilities Committee, noting Mr. Quintal had facilitated the progress of many projects that would change the County substantially over the next couple of years. Chairman Thomas also noted Mr. Quintal's participation on the Parks, Recreation and Railroad, Criminal Justice, DPW and Health Services Committees.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. O'Connor, who noted that when he was first elected, there was only one person sitting in the room today who was a supervisor at that time and that was Mr. Tessier. Mr. O'Connor said he was standing today to honor two gentlemen whose presence on the Board of Supervisors would truly be missed, referring to Supervisors Bennett and Quintal. He said it had been a pleasure for him to work with these two individuals and he was proud to call them both his friends. Concluding, Mr. O'Connor said, he will miss their leadership, their friendship and the jokes they had shared.

The supervisors and audience responded with applause.

Mr. VanNess advised that the Fire Training Center was moving forward and that a meeting with Trustees of Adirondack Community College was scheduled for January 26, 2006.

Mr. Monroe reported that the Inter-County Solid Waste Committee had met on December 6, 2005 and it was reported that the burn plant had a record month. In addition, he said, he had attended the Affordable Housing Forum sponsored by the Adirondack Park Agency. During the presentation, Mr. Monroe said the average household income in Warren County was reviewed, as well as the size mortgage that income would support. He

noted the income and mortgage ratio had remained level until 2001, at which time the cost of homes went up considerably while the income remained flat. Mr. Monroe said there was no question that there was a huge problem with affordable housing, not only in Warren County, but in the Adirondacks as a whole.

Chairman Thomas commented that he had discussed this problem with Mr. Monroe as a multi-town issue, and apprised that twenty affordable housing units would be constructed in Johnsbury next year. However, he said, twenty units hardly scratched the surface of the need for affordable housing.

Mr. Mason said he would like to join in the accolades to the two departing supervisors.

Mrs. Parsons stated that, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors office, she would like to thank Mr. Bennett and Mr. Quintal for their many kindnesses. She apprised that while researching the history of Mr. Bennett's and Mr. Quintal's service to the County, they had discovered that when Mr. Tessier began his next term of office in January of 2006, he would be the longest tenured supervisor in the history of Warren County.

The supervisors and audience responded with applause.

Mr. Bennett stated that the eight years he had served on the Board of Supervisors had been most enjoyable and he thanked the Supervisors for assisting with projects near and dear to his heart. Mr. Bennett expressed his deepest respect for Supervisor Monroe and his untiring efforts regarding the burn plant. He also expressed gratitude to Mrs. Parsons and her staff, along with County Attorney Paul Dusek. There were many projects still to be accomplished, Mr. Bennett stated, including the Outdoor Drama, which he hoped would be established in Warren County, if not in the Town of Lake Luzerne. Mr. Bennett recognized Supervisor O'Connor, whom he said he had always referred to as "Father Mike". Whenever he wanted to know the true feelings about a particular matter, Mr. Bennett said, he could always turn to Father Mike. That is why the people in his ward returned him to office all of these years, he added. In concluding, Mr. Bennett extended thanks to Supervisor Tessier for the opportunities he had given him to serve on and chair committees while he had been Chairman of the Board, and to Chairman Thomas for allowing him to remain on those committees. Mr. Bennett said he would be remiss if he did not acknowledge Sheriff Cleveland and the nineteen years he had with the Sheriff's Department in various capacities.

The supervisors and audience responded with applause.

A motion was made by Mr. Caimano, seconded by Mr. Gabriels and carried unanimously to declare executive session pursuant to Section 105(f) of the Public Officers Law. Executive Session was held from 11:20 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.

The Board reconvened.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Caimano and seconded by Mr. Bentley, Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.