

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ORGANIZATION MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2008**

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 10:30 a.m.

Board called to order by Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Invocation was given by Supervisor Michael O'Connor, Chaplain.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Simmes.

Roll called, the following members present:

Bolton -Kathleen M. Simmes

Chester -Frederick H. Monroe

City of Glens Falls

Ward 3-Harold G. Taylor

Ward 4-Michael J. O'Connor

Ward 5-William H. Kenny

Hague -Daniel D. Belden

Horicon -Ralph W. Bentley

Johnsburg -Sterling T. Goodspeed

Lake George -Louis E. Tessier

Lake Luzerne -Eugene J. Merlino

Queensbury -Daniel G. Stec

-David J. Strainer

-Fred Champagne

-William T. VanNess

-Matthew D. Sokol

Stony Creek -Frank E. Thomas

Thurman -John M. Haskell

Warrensburg -Kevin B. Geraghty

Absent:

City of Glens Falls Ward 1-Daniel J. Girard

Ward 2-Joseph M. Sheehan

Members of the Board of Supervisors subscribed to the Constitutional Oath, as administered by the Honorable Judge John S. Hall, Jr., Warren County and Surrogate Court Judge.

Clerk announced the first order of business would be the selection of a Temporary Chairman.

Mr. Haskell nominated Mr. Belden as Temporary Chairman, seconded by Mr. Tessier.

There being no further nominations, Mr. F. Thomas moved that the nominations be

closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for Daniel Belden as Temporary Chairman, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously.

Clerk requested Mr. Geraghty and Mr. Kenny to escort Mr. Belden to the Chair.

Mr. Belden thanked the members of the board for allowing him the opportunity to serve as Temporary Chairman.

Mr. Belden stated the next order of business would be the selection of a Permanent Chairman.

Mr. Champagne stated it was an honor to nominate Mr. Frederick H. Monroe as Permanent Chairman, and Mr. VanNess stated he would second the motion.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Sokol moved the nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for Frederick H. Monroe as Permanent Chairman. Mr. Merlino seconded the motion, and it was carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Belden, Temporary Chairman, requested Mr. Tessier and Mr. O'Connor to escort Mr. Monroe to the Chair. The board members acknowledged Mr. Monroe with a round of applause.

Prior to administering the Constitutional Oath, Judge Hall took a few moments to reflect back on the years he had known Mr. Monroe. He reminisced about their days of working together straight out of law school at his fathers' law office, Judge John Hall Sr., in the Town of Chester. He shared a few stories about Mr. Monroe as he began his career as an attorney and noted that Mr. Monroe was one of the most intelligent men he had ever met.

Chairman Monroe subscribed to the Constitutional Oath as administered by the Honorable Judge John S. Hall, Jr., Warren County and Surrogate Court Judge.

Chairman Monroe thanked Judge Hall for being present to administer the Constitutional Oath and for the kind words he had said. He also extended thanks to Mr. O'Connor for a very moving invocation.

Chairman Monroe presented the following remarks:

“STATE OF THE COUNTY

JANUARY 3, 2008

“Being elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is an honor and privilege I will never forget. I would like to thank the members of the board for your support and trust. I pledge that I will do my best to keep you fully informed and to fulfill the responsibilities of Chairman of the Board. I have enjoyed serving with all the returning Supervisors that are here today and welcome the new Supervisors, Kathy Simmes of Bolton, Harold Taylor of the City of Glens Falls, Sterling Goodspeed of Johnsbury and Dave Strainer of Queensbury. Since becoming a member of the Board of Supervisors in 1992, I have served under and worked alongside three excellent Chairmen, Victor Grant, Lou Tessier and Bill Thomas. I want to thank each of them for teaching me through the years the duties and responsibilities of being Chairman. I have always respected their leadership and guidance.

“As we all know, 2007 was a busy year. The replacement of the Social Services building has been in the discussion stages for several years. During 2007 we approved the scaled down facility to house Social Services, Office for the Aging, Veterans’, Department of Labor and Point of Entry. Sixteen resolutions were passed regarding the construction of this building. Constructing this building on the main Municipal Center campus will solve the current problems facing Social Services and will eliminate the need to lease space off-site. It will also provide space which should result in efficiencies in operation and improved interactions between the involved departments.

“I am sure that my fellow Supervisors join with me in commending Supervisor John Haskell as Chairman of the County Facilities Committee for his diligence on this difficult project. I know it hasn’t been easy John and we certainly appreciate it. He spent endless hours coordinating with the departments, the architects and the engineers developing multiple alternate plans for the building. So we thank you for your dedication to Warren County and to this project.

“During 2007 we also had many changes in the organization of County departments. The Human Resources Department was created and Todd Lunt was selected to manage it. The Department of Emergency Services was created and we selected Marv Lemery to head that department. Also during the year, there were a number of administrative changes to several departments, including Westmount, the County Administrator, the Board of Supervisors, Parks and Recreation, Civil Defense, Auditor and Fire Prevention and Building Codes. We had eighteen full-time employees retire during the year.

“In 2007 we funded the entire Tourism budget by Occupancy Tax revenues for the first time, with saving the County over \$1 million in real property taxes, and that was thanks to the leadership and efforts of Supervisor Bill Kenny. It was also a great benefit to the towns because the towns received some of the revenue which they have been able to use to improve tourism. Many of the Tourism functions that were formally provided by outside contractors have been brought in-house. This transition and the hiring of a Creative Director has resulted in the production of some of the finest brochures and advertising in the State. So the entire Tourism staff and former Supervisor Nick Caimano should be commended for the changes in the Tourism Department.

“As we go into 2008, I think we all need to remember Mr. Caimano’s 2007 Budget Officer’s Message in which he stressed the importance of providing the same excellent service to the taxpayers and doing it with an eye on the ever-tightening checkbook. Judge Hall might have said that I’m cheap but I think that I’m just fiscally conservative. We have had the benefit of a surplus for many years and we don’t have that benefit now, so we’re counting on our new Budget Officer, Kevin Geraghty, to help lead the way in keeping our expenses under control. Our department heads and the Budget Team of Hal Payne, JoAnn McKinstry, Rick Murphy, Joan Sady and Nick Caimano worked exceptionally hard to complete the budget this year without the benefit of the appropriation of general fund surplus, at the same time keeping the tax increase to a minimum. As you know, about 45% of our budgeted expenses are for programs that are mandated by higher levels of government and much of those mandates do not include full funding to cover the costs of the mandates. So we, as a governing board, need to be diligent in lobbying the State to remove unfunded mandates and unreasonable fiscal pressures placed

on Warren County and the real property taxpayers. We also need to be diligent in our efforts to increase efficiency, control expenses during the year and certainly make wise use of the revenues. Another major accomplishment this year was the ratification of the four-year contract with the CSEA bargaining unit. County Attorney, Paul Dusek, did an excellent job as usual, in heading the team which negotiated this contract. The result was a very fair contract for both parties, so thank you Paul.

“Today we are proposing a new streamlined committee structure. We expect that this will increase efficiency, reduce time and travel expenses for some of our Supervisors and result in savings to the administrative staff time. As with any major change, in reducing the committees to about half of what they were formerly, there may be some unintended consequences so I think we need to remain flexible and if we need to make any future changes we will consider that.

“2008 will bring many new challenges and we hope the completion of some of our ongoing projects. We need to work together with all of our department heads to complete the following projects:

- The Gaslight Village project- we need to complete the purchase of this property and work with the environmental groups to complete the project which will play an important part in protecting the future water quality of Lake George and provide needed space for major events, both of those things are important to our tourism industry;

- Our Human Services building- we expect this project to have a groundbreaking in early summer;

- Our 2008 Budget- includes a plan to increase the mortgage tax. We need to take the necessary steps legislatively to make that happen;

- Broadband- we need to study proposals that we have received for County-wide broadband services for the residents of Warren County. We live in the information age and if we don't take action in the near future to improve the services, many of the residents will be left behind.

- Affordable Housing- is certainly a problem we must address in Warren County. It is housing that meets the needs of residents to be able to purchase or rent housing within their means in a community of their choice. There is unquestionably a need for affordable housing in Warren County for young couples, seniors, municipal employees, volunteer firefighters, police and emergency medical workers. Our communities will not be viable without them and we know there is a very large and growing gap between the average price of a home in many of our communities and the price the residents can afford. So we need to take proactive steps to solve that problem. There are several things we can do. We can work with the new Community Housing Trust that Senator Little has created and also encourage the development of zoning tools to support and enable affordable housing.

- The Waste Energy Plant- our major financial obligations will end in 2010 and our contracts with the Plant will terminate in 2012, so we need to start work now to develop end-of-term plans so that Warren County has alternatives when those contracts end, so that we have bargaining leverage with the new operator or owner of the Plant. We also need to take some steps to improve our recycling program. We have applied for a Smart Growth Grant to work on both of those plans.

Finally, as it has been said before, we need to make a concerted effort to control County expenses and position ourselves to rebuild the surplus funds.

“These are only a few of the major issues that we face in the coming year. There are numerous other issues facing individual departments which will be addressed in the committees, and there will also inevitably be some surprises; there has been every year since I have been here, so I think there probably will in 2008.

“As you serve on the committees, remember our budget constraints and always remember that we are elected to serve the residents of Warren County, many of whom struggle to pay their tax bills each year. So working together we can make 2008 a good year. I would like to thank my fellow Supervisors again for your support, all of our department heads for their efforts in the past and in the coming years and our guests for attending here today.

“Respectfully submitted,
Frederick H. Monroe, Chairman
Warren County Board of Supervisors”

Chairman Monroe welcomed and introduced family members and guests in attendance, including his wife Carol, his father Fred Monroe, his mother-in-law Joan Conway and her companion Doug VanWeelden, family friend Barbara Laflure, his brother-in-law Frank Morehouse and long-time friend Marjorie Swan. Members of the board responded with a round of applause.

Chairman Monroe stated that the next order of business would be the selection of a Clerk, and he noted that nominations were in order.

Mr. Sokol nominated Joan Sady as Clerk of the Board of Supervisors for a term of two years, seconded by Mrs. Simmes.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Taylor moved that nominations be closed, and one ballot be cast for Joan Sady as Clerk of the Board of Supervisors for a term of two years. Mr. Goodspeed seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Chairman Monroe announced the next order of business would be the selection of a County Attorney, and he added that nominations were in order.

Mr. Strainer nominated Paul Dusek as County Attorney for a term of two years, seconded by Mr. Bentley.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Merlino moved that the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Paul Dusek as County Attorney for a term of two years. Mr. Belden seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Clerk and County Attorney subscribed to the Constitutional Oath as administered by the Honorable Judge John S. Hall, Jr., Warren County and Surrogate Court Judge.

Board members and those in attendance responded with a round of applause.

Privilege of the floor was offered to Mrs. Sady, who thanked members of the board for the confidence they placed in her and for the privilege of allowing her to serve another term as Clerk of the Board. She introduced her husband Steve and her oldest son Chris, who were in attendance today. She added she would also like to thank everyone on the second floor for their efforts and to acknowledge the spirit of cooperation that existed between the offices, including the County Attorney's Office and his staff, Hal Payne and JoAnn McKinstry, both of whom worked side-by-side with her Office, and Julie Pacyna and Jason Shpur in the Purchasing Office. She also acknowledged Katy Goodman, who had worked in the Board of Supervisors and Administrator's Office for over twenty-five years. She noted that Ms. Goodman would be retiring next week and she wished her a long and happy retirement. Mrs. Sady stated she would like to thank the dedicated staff in her Office and as her first official duty, she said it was her pleasure to appoint Nicole Livingston as First Deputy Clerk and Marie Edmonds as Second Deputy Clerk. The board members and those in attendance responded with a round of applause.

Privilege of the floor was offered to Mr. Dusek, who thanked members of the board for the privilege and honor to continue to serve as their County Attorney. He said he was beginning his seventh term as County Attorney and he stated he had enjoyed the challenges of the work that Warren County had afforded him. He added he also enjoyed being a part of the inner workings of government and working with each and every one of them. He noted, as Mrs. Sady had stated, to work with the folks on the second floor and the Clerk of the Boards Office had been great and they shared a great relationship. Mr. Dusek said he had also enjoyed working with all of the department heads, which was a great group of intelligent people that knew how to do their jobs and extended that knowledge through the ranks of their staff. He introduced his wife Kathleen and his son Greg who were in attendance today. The board members and those in attendance responded with a round of applause.

Chairman called for reading of communications.

Clerk read communications, including the following:

William Lamy, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works (DPW), pursuant to Local Law No. 2 of 1971, making the following appointments for the year 2008: Brian N. Humphrey, Acting Superintendent of Public Works and Deputy Superintendent of DPW; Jeffery E. Tennyson, Deputy Superintendent of Public Works/Environmental and Engineering Services; Rose Lamy, DPW Records Officer and Deputy Superintendent of DPW for Administration; Marshall B. Stevens, Airport Manager. Brian Humphrey, Jeffery Tennyson and Rose Lamy are hereby given the authority to sign all documents (voucher, purchase orders, contracts, etc.) for the Department of Public Works in the absence of Mr. Lamy.

Pamela J. Vogel, County Clerk, in accordance with the Laws of New York, County Law, Section 526, providing notice of the appointment of Johannah Ross as Deputy County Clerk, effective January 1, 2008.

Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, pursuant to Section 401, Paragraph 2 of County Law, providing notice of the appointment of Nicole Livingston as Deputy Clerk and Marie Edmonds, Second Deputy Clerk, effective January 1, 2008.

Communications ordered placed on file.

Chairman Monroe called for reading of resolutions.

Clerk noted a motion was necessary to bring Resolution Nos. 1 through 30 to the floor. Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously, to bring Resolution Nos. 1 through 30 to the floor.

Chairman Thomas called for a vote on the resolutions.

Resolution Nos. 1 through 30 were approved. Certificate of Appointments, naming Director of the Warren County Youth Bureau; naming members to the Warren County Labor/Management Committee; naming member to the Quality Assurance Committee of the Westmount Health Facility; and naming representative to the Lake George Watershed Conference, were submitted.

Chairman Monroe announced the 2008 Standing and Special Committees, and a copy of the committee listings was submitted. A copy was also distributed to each supervisor.

Chairman Monroe wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting today.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Haskell and seconded by Mr. Sokol, Chairman Monroe adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.