

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 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 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Frederick Monroe presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Thomas.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Simmes, Monroe, Girard, Sheehan, Taylor, O'Connor, Kenny, Belden, Bentley, Goodspeed, Tessier, Merlino, Stec, Strainer, Champagne, VanNess, Sokol, Thomas, Pitkin and Geraghty - 20.

Chairman Monroe introduced Lawrence 'Red' Pitkin, the new Supervisor for the Town of Thurman, and he welcomed him to the Board of Supervisors. The board members responded with applause.

Motion was made by Mr. Tessier, seconded by Mr. Goodspeed and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2008 Board of Supervisors Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Chairman Monroe declared the Public Hearing on the proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2009 open at 10:01 a.m. and requested the Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Chairman Monroe apprised Scott Campbell, Executive Director of Friends of the North Country, Inc., was present and had requested permission to address the Board. Mr. Campbell announced that the Friends of the North Country, Inc. were assisting with the development of the Pre-Disaster Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for Warren County. He explained that the Plan was very unique and noted that he had circulated tables for each municipality to transmit information to him. He further explained that there were four steps to developing a Hazard Mitigation Plan and he listed them as follows: 1-organize the process, which was a continuing operation; 2 -assess the hazard risks, in which each municipality would provide details of past hazard events, such as severe storms, etc.; 3 -develop a mitigation strategy and/or mitigation projects, usually developed by the Highway Department of the Department of Public Works; 4 -maintenance of the Plan once it was developed. Mr. Campbell concluded that the long range benefit to communities was the potential to receive mitigation grant funds to accomplish these projects. He requested each Supervisor to contact him and to provide a contact person in their Towns to relay a history of hazard events and any mitigation possibilities that would benefit their communities.

Mr. VanNess apprised that the Public Safety Committee had discussed this matter at great length and agreed that this Plan needed to be pursued. He stated that this would help

foresee and deter disasters and could be accomplished through grant funds.

Chairman Monroe remarked that Tom Henecker, General Manager of Denton Publications, had requested permission to address the Board. Mr. Henecker advised that Denton Publications owned *The Adirondack Journal* and the *North Creek News Enterprise*. He requested that the Board designate *The Adirondack Journal* as an official newspaper for Warren County at the Organization Meeting next month. He explained that the paper was delivered to every mailbox in northern Warren County, totaling over 10,500 papers.

Chairman Monroe clarified that currently *The Post Star* and the *North Creek News Enterprise* were the official newspapers for Warren County and the Board had the option of designating more newspapers if needed. Mr. Champagne questioned if an estimation of the costs associated with designating another newspaper had been determined and Chairman Monroe replied that the County could choose which to publish in if there were multiple newspapers. Mr. Henecker interjected that the rates were determined by the Secretary of State based on circulation.

There being no one further wishing to speak, Chairman Monroe declared the Public Hearing on Local Law No. 1 of 2009 closed at 10:15 a.m.

Chairman called for reports by Committee chairmen on past activities and the following gave verbal reports:

Supervisor Geraghty, Budget; Supervisor Thomas, Personnel and County Facilities; Supervisor Sokol, Health Services and Planning & Community Development; Supervisor VanNess, Public Safety; Supervisor Champagne, Community College; Supervisor Stec, Finance; Supervisor Tessier, Criminal Justice, Social Services and Tourism; Supervisor Belden, Public Works; Supervisor Kenny, Occupancy Tax Coordination; Supervisor Sheehan, Support Services.

Concerning the Budget Committee, Mr. Geraghty apprised the 2009 Budget had been finalized and adopted. He added that included in the Supervisors' packet was a notification from the County Treasurer on the cash flow for the beginning of 2009 and reminded everyone that it would be a difficult year, financially.

With regard to the Personnel Committee, Mr. Thomas stated that a position had been created in the Health Services Department that would be 100% grant funded, and as a result of the created position, another position had been deleted. He added that the Office of Emergency Services had requested to fill the vacant position of Third Deputy Fire Coordinator and that resolution was included in the packets. He noted that the Committee had also approved the filling a vacant Correction Officer position and had increased the salary of a Communications Officer. He said that two positions in the Real Property Tax Services Department had been approved to be filled as well. Mr. Thomas referred to Resolution No. 799 included in the packets, which was a Hiring Freeze Policy effective January 1, 2009

through July 1, 2009, at which time the Policy would be reviewed again.

Mr. Thomas expounded that the County Facilities Committee had met and discussed the need for office space for Supreme Court Judge-elect Muller. He provided an update on the new Health and Human Services Building and noted that the project was still on schedule. He added that there were four resolutions included in the packets that concerned the new Soil & Water Conservation District Office building.

Chairman Monroe commented on the space for Judge-elect Muller and reminded the board members that legally, Warren County was required to provide office space. He explained that the final decision would be made by Judge Caruso, the Administrative Judge for the eleven county district. He provided an update on the different locations that had been considered, such as the CNA Building, the Empire Theater and the Trustco Bank Building. He noted that Judge-elect Muller preferred the Trustco Bank Building location; however, he said, the problems included the square footage there which was more than was needed, as well as the need to remodel the Building, leading to an increase in the cost for rent. Chairman Monroe apprised there was a resolution included in the Supervisors' packets for the lease of office space at the Trustco Bank Building. Since the time of the Committee meeting, he said he had met with Judge Caruso, who expressed his desire for Judge-elect Muller to retain office space in the Municipal Center.

Returning to verbal reports, Mr. Sokol stated that the Health Services Committee had met and the meeting consisted mainly of housekeeping issues. He noted that sensors had been installed on hot water lines at the Countryside Adult Home in order to remedy the varying degrees of temperature. He added that the Resident Council at the Westmount Health Facility had held a dress-up cocktail party that was well attended. Mr. Sokol advised that under the Public Health portion of the meeting, it was determined that Resolution No. 403 of 2008 needed to be amended due to a decrease in grant funding for the Early Intervention Administration Program, and a resolution concerning the same was included in the packets.

In connection with the Planning & Community Development Committee, Mr. Sokol reported that Pat Tatich, Director of the Planning & Community Development Department, had been trying to secure a representative from the New York State Office of Technology to attend a meeting and provide a presentation on broadband; however, he noted, she had been unsuccessful with her efforts. He added that the Committee had reviewed a re-cap of the projects that had received grant funding in 2008 and the Department had surpassed \$1.6 million in grants and there was \$225,000 pending in grant funds.

Regarding the Public Safety Committee, Mr. VanNess expounded that the Sheriff's Office had requested to become part of the Justice Benefits Program, which was a State Alien Assistance Program and provided reimbursement from the Federal Government for alien prisoners boarded in the County's Corrections Facility. He remarked that under the Fire Prevention & Building Code portion of the meeting, the Committee learned that temporary

Certificate's of Occupancy (CO's) were issued for only a six month period, with a one time renewal option for a maximum of a one year period. Mr. VanNess said that Brian LaFlure, Fire Coordinator and Director of Emergency Services, had provided an update of the RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services) Program, noting there were currently twenty-five members, all of which were volunteers, and this group would be beneficial to the County in the future with regard to writing grants. He stated it was also brought to the Committee's attention that the Tri-County United Way was providing smoke detectors and carbon dioxide detectors to the elderly, which equipment would be delivered through the Meals-on-Wheels Program and installed by local fire companies.

With regard to the Community College Committee, Mr. Champagne announced that the Committee had received updates on various future capital projects at Adirondack Community College (ACC), which projects were proposed for health and safety.

Concerning the Finance Committee, Mr. Stec apprised the meeting consisted mainly of housekeeping and end of the year issues. He added that lengthy discussions regarding the lease of office space for Judge-elect Muller were held during the meeting, resulting in Resolution No. 873 in the Supervisors' packets; however, he said, given the activity following the Finance Committee meeting, he would like Resolution No. 873 to be a roll call vote.

In connection with the Criminal Justice Committee, the Social Services Committee and the Tourism Committee, Mr. Tessier stated each meeting consisted mainly of housekeeping issues as well.

Mr. Belden expounded that the Public Works Committee met and, as with the other Committees, the meeting centered around end of the year matters and housekeeping issues. Under the Parks, Recreation and Railroad portion of the meeting, Mr. Belden noted that a change order for the Thurman Station had been presented and originally the cost for such was \$50,000. He added that Supervisor Merlino had met with the engineers and was able to negotiate the cost for the change order, resulting in a total of \$16,000 for the additional work, which would be covered with grant funds.

Regarding the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, Mr. Kenny advised Resolution No. 805 included in the packets listed the special events that the 2008 occupancy tax funds would be awarded to. He noted thirty-eight applications were received and approximately \$347,000 was available to award. He added that the Committee had decided to retain \$25,000 of those funds to be used for advertising to attract larger special events to the area.

Mr. Taylor announced that the Hannaford Market located on Broad Street in Glens Falls had implemented a project and sold a "Feast in a Box" for \$10 which included everything that was needed to prepare a holiday meal, with the exception of the turkey. When a "Feast in a Box" was purchased, he said, the customers would then donate it to the Open Door Kitchen. He further stated that Senator Little had secured a grant, which funds covered the

cost of this project.

With regard to the Support Services Committee, Mr. Sheehan remarked that the Committee had met this morning prior to the Board meeting, and as a result, a resolution was distributed to award the bid and authorize an agreement with Needham Risk Management for safety services consultant/company for the Workers' Compensation Program.

Mr. Girard introduced Dan Hall, new Councilman-at-Large for the City of Glens Falls, who was in attendance today. He thanked Paul Butler, Director of Parks, Recreation & Railroad, for the work that was done on the bike trail, as well as the cross-country trails. He also thanked Bill Lamy, DPW Superintendent, for providing an excavator to remedy an issue with a culvert in the City.

Chairman called for reading of communications.

Clerk read communications, including the following:

Minutes from:

Warren/Washington Counties Children & Youth Subcommittee;
Warren County Planning Board;
Warren/Washington Counties IDA and Executive/Park Committee.

Monthly Reports from:

Weights & Measures;
Veterinarian;
Probation.

David M. Klein, letter regarding taxes and spending in New York State; copy provided to all supervisors;

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp., November surcharge in the amount of \$9,137, as well as September Financial Report;

Denton Publications, request that the Adirondack Journal/Warrensburg-Lake George News be designated as an official legal newspaper for Warren County.

Communications, resolutions and reports ordered placed on file.

Chairman called for reading of resolutions and discussion.

Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, advised that Resolution Nos. 787 through 897 were mailed. Mrs. Sady noted that Resolution No. 795 had been corrected and was being distributed. She said a motion was needed to approve Resolution No. 795 as corrected. Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Sheehan and carried unanimously to approve

Resolution No. 795 as corrected.

Mrs. Sady added a motion was needed to bring Resolution Nos. 786 and 898 through 914 to the floor. Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to bring Resolution Nos. 786 and 898 through 914 to the floor.

Mr. Kenny requested roll call votes on Resolution No. 811, Authorizing Agreement with the Town of Johnsburg for Administration of Local Waterfront Revitalization Program; Resolution No. 812, Authorizing Intermunicipal Agreement with Several Towns in Warren and Saratoga Counties Concerning First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Program; Resolution No. 904, Amending Resolution No. 492 of 2008, Which Awarded the Bid and Authorized an Agreement with Mercer Construction Company, LLC and Hour Electric Co., Inc. for General and Electrical Construction Relative to the Construction of Warren County Rail Stations, Town of Hadley and Town of Thurman (WC 61-08), to Include Additional Funding Source; and Resolution No. 905, Authorizing Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Execute Applications to Acquire Permits from the Saratoga County Department of Public Works to Construct a Driveway and Utilities Relative to the Hadley Station.

Mr. Stec reiterated his request for a roll call vote on Resolution No. 873, Authorizing the Execution of Lease Agreement with P. Hoffman Realty, LLC Relative to Office Space for Supreme Court Judge Robert Muller.

Mr. Goodspeed queried, in light of Chairman Monroe's report regarding Resolution No. 873, if that should be tabled at this time. Chairman Monroe responded that following his discussions with Judge Caruso, it was clear that the Judge would prefer to have Judge-elect Muller in the Municipal Center building and the final approval rested with Judge Caruso. Mr. Kenny questioned how timely it would be to prepare office space in the Municipal Center for Judge-elect Muller. Chairman Monroe replied that Judge Krogmann had offered to provide temporary space in his Conference Room until Chambers could be determined elsewhere. He added that Frank Morehouse, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds, had advised it would take approximately one month to do the necessary renovations to provide the appropriate office space.

Chairman Monroe called for a vote on the resolutions.

Resolution Nos. 786 through 914 were approved, with the exception of Resolution No. 873 of 2008, Authorizing the Execution of Lease Agreement with P. Hoffman Realty, LLC Relative to Office Space for Supreme Court Judge Robert Muller, which failed.

Chairman Monroe announced that he had received a letter from Congresswoman Gillibrands' Office requesting that the County provide a listing of priority projects for 2009 with a submission deadline of December 31, 2008. Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services, interjected that he and Mr. Lamy had responded to that letter on behalf of the County.

Mr. Goodspeed reported that Gore Mountain Skiing Facility would be opening the newest pod of skiing in North Creek, called the Burnt Ridge Quad, today.

Mr. Thomas thanked the Planning & Community Development Department, specifically Wayne LaMothe, Assistant Director of the Planning & Community Development Department, for the assistance provided to the Town of Stony Creek with the writing of a grant application for a recreational trails project in the Town.

Chairman Monroe referred to Resolution No. 899 included in the packets which announced that the Municipal Center would be closing at 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Mr. Stec stated he wanted to welcome Supervisor Pitkin to the Board and he wished everyone a very happy holiday.

Chairman Monroe reminded the board members that the Organization Meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Champagne requested to bring another resolution to the floor which would approve the settlement agreement between Adirondack Community College and the Adirondack Community College Educational Support Staff, and noted the resolution was being distributed. Chairman Monroe remarked that he had just been informed that the Washington County Board of Supervisors had approved this resolution as well.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Tessier and carried unanimously to approve the settlement agreement as outlined above. Clerk noted it would be Resolution No. 915 of 2008 for the record.

Mr. Lamy announced that he had distributed a memo to each Town Supervisor related to solid waste recycling transportation services for Warren County and the Towns, and he requested the Supervisors respond whether or not they wished to participate in the County bid by today.

Chairman Monroe wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. VanNess and seconded by Mr. Geraghty, Chairman Monroe adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.