

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2009**

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 O'Connor.

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.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Tessier and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2009 Board Meeting and the April 24, 2009 Special Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Chairman Monroe requested Candy Kelly, Director of the Office for the Aging, to come forward for a presentation. Mrs. Kelly announced that each year the Office for the Aging honored the Senior of the Year and Outstanding Contributing Senior in Warren County. She added that the theme this year was "Empowering Communities through Civic Engagement and Volunteerism". She noted that the recipients of the awards this year were honored last week at the Governor's Mansion in Albany and would be honored next week at the Fort William Henry. Mrs. Kelly recognized Tom Mihalics and his wife Maureen, from Diamond Point, and she stated that Mr. Mihalics was selected as the Senior of the Year. She requested Supervisor Simmes to come forward to present a certificate. Mrs. Simmes said it was an honor to recognize Mr. Mihalics as Senior of the Year for all of his hard work and dedication. Mr. Mihalics thanked the Board of Supervisors for the recognition given to seniors each year. The board members responded with applause.

Mrs. Kelly stated the winner of the Outstanding Contributing Senior award was Ed Binder, who was present today with his wife Kathy, and they were from the Town of Athol. She requested Supervisor Pitkin to come forward and present a certificate to Mr. Binder. Mr. Pitkin stated he had known Mr. Binder for quite some time and he had done a tremendous amount of good for many people. Mr. Pitkin presented Mr. Binder with a certificate for Outstanding Contributing Senior. Mr. Binder apprised that he appreciated what the Board of Supervisors did for seniors and for the recognition. The board members responded with applause.

Chairman Monroe requested William Lamy, DPW Superintendent, and Supervisor Belden to come forward for a presentation. Mr. Lamy advised that Rose Lamy was retiring from the Department of Public Works after thirty-eight years of service. He stated that Mrs. Lamy was one of the finest employees that had worked in DPW and in the County. He

recalled the day that Mrs. Lamy went for an interview with Fred Austin, former DPW Superintendent, back in the winter of 1972 and was offered the job. He shared a number of memorable moments with having Mrs. Lamy on staff and expressed his appreciation for all she had done. Mr. Lamy wished Mrs. Lamy well in her retirement and thanked her again for all the years she had given to Warren County.

Mr. Belden apprised Mrs. Lamy had done an outstanding job for Warren County and she would be deeply missed. He presented Mrs. Lamy with a certificate of appreciation for thirty-eight years of dedicated service to Warren County and he wished her a wonderful retirement. The board members responded with applause.

Mrs. Lamy asserted she had seen a number of Supervisors come and go over her thirty-eight years with the County. She expressed her thanks to Mr. Belden for all of his support over the years as Chairman of the Public Works Committee. She also thanked Fred Austin for providing her with the opportunity to work for Warren County. She extended her appreciation to Mr. Lamy who had made it a pleasure to work in DPW. Mrs. Lamy thanked the Board of Supervisors as well, for all of their support. The board members responded with applause.

Chairman Monroe recognized Dave Wick, District Manager of the Soil & Water Conservation District, who wished to address the board members. Mr. Wick apprised he wanted to thank the Board of Supervisors and announced that his staff was now in their new Office building in Warrensburg. He added that the new building was highly cost effective and the overall structure was less than \$100 per square foot. He extended his appreciation to JoAnn McKinstry, Deputy Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services; Julie Pacyna, Purchasing Agent; Diana Morrissey, Confidential Secretary to the County Attorney; and Karen Putney, Administrator of Fire Prevention & Building Codes for all their assistance throughout the process of the project. Mr. Wick announced that an open house would be held on Friday, May 22, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and he invited all Supervisors to attend. The board members responded with applause. Chairman Monroe thanked Mr. Wick for all of his work on the project as well.

Chairman Monroe referred to Resolution No. 374 included in the Supervisors packets. He apprised that the resolution would appoint Pat Tatich, Director of Planning & Community Development and Supervisor Thomas to serve as Warren County representatives on the CBN Connect Advisory Council. He noted he would be introducing a draft resolution later in the meeting with regard to CBN Connect and an application to Congressman Murphy for an earmark for the broadband project.

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

Supervisor O'Connor, Mental Health; Supervisor Girard, Extension Services; Supervisor Simmes, Human Services; Supervisor Geraghty, Budget; Supervisor Thomas, Personnel and

County Facilities; Supervisor Sokol, Health Services; Supervisor VanNess, Public Safety; Supervisor Champagne, Community College and Intercounty Solid Waste; Supervisor Stec, Finance; Supervisor Tessier, Criminal Justice, Social Services and Tourism; Supervisor Belden, Public Works; and Supervisor Kenny, Occupancy Tax Coordination.

In connection with the Mental Health Committee, Mr. O'Connor apprised that the Warren/Washington Community Action Board had met recently and the discussions were focused on budget constraints and the services that were provided to people in the area.

With regard to the Extension Services Committee, Mr. Girard reported that Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) had held a successful program in assisting individuals with their taxes which generated approximately \$150,000 in refunds for residents of the County. He referred to the proposed funding cuts for outside agencies, which would have a detrimental effect on Cornell Cooperative Extension. He added that CCE was comprised of fifteen staff members, and the reduction in funding could result in the reduction of ten staff members.

Concerning the Human Services Committee, Mrs. Simmes stated the meeting consisted mainly of housekeeping issues.

Relative to the Budget Committee, Mr. Geraghty advised two resolutions were generated from the meeting, Resolution No. 343, which identified the position reductions and Resolution No. 344, which outlined the reductions in funding to outside agencies. He reiterated that currently, the County was facing a \$6.3 million deficit which equated to a 17% tax increase, and the goal was to reach a zero percent increase for 2010. He commented that the Committee was starting to receive cost savings ideas from the departments throughout the County. Mr. Geraghty noted that the Warrensburg Town Board passed a resolution in support of keeping the Fish Hatchery, and would be forwarding revenue generating ideas for the Hatchery property.

Regarding the Personnel Committee, Mr. Thomas said that the Committee had met twice during the past month. He reviewed the vacant positions that were approved to be filled in various departments, as well as the creation of two positions. He remarked that the Committee had reviewed and approved the list of positions to be abolished; however, he added, at the appropriate time he would request to amend that list of positions. Mr. Thomas expounded that there were two resolutions included in the packets that would terminate the lease agreements at the CNA building, effective December 31, 2009, due to the completion of the new Human Services building. He further apprised that the Human Services building project was progressing nicely and there would be a tour of the building after the Board Meeting today.

Mr. Sokol announced that the Health Services Committee had met and the Committee was continuing to pursue the option of a traveling health clinic, which had been a goal identified for the Department for 2009.

In connection with the Public Safety Committee, Mr. VanNess stated the Committee approved Resolution No. 333, Requesting Financial Assistance from the State Regarding the Misuse of Temporary Assistance Benefits for Drug Sales in Warren County, which was included in the Supervisors packets. He reminded the board members of the recently approved part-time Investigator within the Sheriff's Office in an effort to resolve the problem, and this resolution was requesting funding to support that position. He added that the Committee also approved Resolution No. 336, Urging New York State to Use the Funds Saved by Closing State Prisons to Compensate the Counties of New York State for the Boarding of State Prisoners and Opposing Legislation Requiring the Counties to Board Federal Inmates for Two Years, which was also included in the packets. Mr. VanNess noted this resolution was resultant of the decision to reverse the Rockefeller Drug Laws, which would have a detrimental affect on Warren County. He referred to Resolution No. 337, Urging State Legislators to revisit 911 Surcharge Revenues that Should be Distributed to the Counties of New York State. He remarked that last year New York State received \$174,870,000 in revenues from the 911 surcharge and distributed only \$9 million to counties.

Concerning the Community College Committee, Mr. Champagne reported that the Committee discussed the 2009 - 2010 Adirondack Community College (ACC) budget. He apprised that ACC was requesting a 3% increase in funding from Warren and Washington Counties and the Budget Committee had recommended a zero percent increase for the local share of the ACC budget. He provided an update from the Intercounty Solid Waste Committee and noted that there could be a significant deficit at the end of the year. He added that he expected the Washington County Board of Supervisors to approve the sale of the Hartford Landfill through the auction process at their Board Meeting today and he would provide further information as it became available.

Regarding the Finance Committee, Mr. Stec advised that Resolution Nos. 345 through 354 were resultant of that meeting and he summarized them for the board members.

Mr. Tessier commented that the Criminal Justice Committee and the Social Services Committee meetings consisted mainly of housekeeping issues. With regard to the Tourism Committee, Mr. Tessier stated that the Committee discussed the Tourist Information Center operated by HA-PE-DE located at Exit 17 off the Adirondack Northway and had decided to not renew the lease with the State. He noted that the County Attorney had advised that a resolution was not necessary.

Relative to the Public Works Committee, Mr. Belden announced that the County would be receiving an increase in CHIPS (Consolidated Highway Improvement Projects) funding which would be utilized on three different road projects. He added that information had been received that the County would also receive Federal Stimulus Funds which would assist with the 2010 budget. He reported that the next Airport Committee meeting would be held at the Airport in order for the Committee members to see the renovations that had been completed there and he invited all Supervisors to attend. Under the Parks, Recreation & Railroad portion

of the meeting, Mr. Belden asserted that the Committee discussed the expiration of the contract with Upper Hudson River Railroad in 2010 and decided an RFP (Request for Proposal) would be prepared and sent out in the near future. Mr. Belden took the opportunity to thank Mrs. Lamy again for all her years of dedicated service in the Department of Public Works.

With regard to the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, Mr. Kenny reported that the 2008 revenues collected in occupancy tax totaled \$3,302,214, which was a decrease of approximately 5% from the prior year; however, he added, there was potentially \$50,000 that was still outstanding. He reminded the board members that the contract for the Event Coordinator had been awarded to the Lake George Chamber of Commerce and the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Event Coordinator contract was still awaiting approval from the New York State Department of State. Mr. Kenny advised that the Committee had also discussed the possibility of purchasing the Basketville Building located on Route 9; however, he said, the County would not pursue such action at this time due to the economic crisis.

Chairman Monroe called for reading of communications.

Clerk read communications, including the following:

Minutes from:

Warren/Washington Counties IDA;  
Warren/Washington Counties Mental Health Subcommittee;  
Warren County Planning Board.

Monthly Reports from:

Weights & Measures;  
Veterinarian;  
Probation.

Annual Report from:

Economic Development Corporation Warren County.

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation, March and April Surcharge in the amounts of \$9,322 and \$8,385, respectively, financial reports for January, February, March 2009, and audited financial statements for 12/31/08.

Communications, resolutions and reports ordered placed on file.

Chairman Monroe announced he would like to extend the privilege of the floor to any individuals from the public.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Dr. James Seeley, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), who distributed a handout to the board members, a copy of

which is on file with the minutes. Dr. Seeley referred to the proposed resolution to reduce funding to outside agencies, and noted that CCE was listed for a 50% reduction in funding, which would have a devastating effect on the programs they provided to the residents of Warren County. He added that this level of reduction in funding could conceivably cut ten out of fifteen positions at CCE. Dr. Seeley apprised that the educational programs offered by CCE provided lifelong assistance to the residents of the County. He requested the opportunity to provide information on all of the programs offered through CCE and the multitude of people they assisted each year, prior to the resolution being adopted.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Len Fosbrook, President of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) of Warren County. Mr. Fosbrook stated that he was also concerned about the aforementioned resolution that would reduce funding to outside agencies and would have a significant effect on the EDC budget. He reported that the goal of the EDC was to determine ways to reduce costs for the County and increase revenue. He referred to a number of specific projects that the EDC had undertaken and funded and he listed the positive outcomes those projects have had on the economy. He requested to meet with the Economic Development Corporation Committee prior to a reduction in funding being approved.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Tom Wade, resident of the City of Glens Falls. Mr. Wade commented that he understood that one of the first reductions to be made in the County would be employment. He expressed his concern with eliminating twenty-two positions and having those individuals file for unemployment. He agreed that the County was facing stressful times; however, he added, it appeared as though the Supervisors were toying with the budget by eliminating the aforementioned positions. Mr. Wade suggested that the total budget be reviewed, which was \$146 million, and that the board members try to reduce the entire budget by approximately 5% or 10%. He thanked Chairman Monroe for having open discussions on the matter.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Pam Morin, representative of the North Warren Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Morin announced that the Sister Map to the Hudson River in relation to the Quadricentennial Celebration was progressing. She outlined the towns that had contributed funding and were participating in the project. She added that they were reaching out to all counties from Albany to Essex County and were receiving positive support.

Chairman Monroe called for reading of resolutions and discussion.

Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, advised that Resolution Nos. 320 through 373 were mailed and a motion was needed to bring Resolution Nos. 319 and 374 through 381 to the floor. Motion was made by Mr. Sheehan, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to bring Resolution Nos. 319 and 374 through 381 to the floor.

Mrs. Sady advised that the resolutions relating to the filling of vacant positions were Resolution Nos. 340 through 342 and 377 through 379. She noted that unless a roll call was

requested on a particular resolution, they would be approved in the collective vote.

Chairman Monroe referred to Resolution No. 381, which was distributed, and he explained that the resolution had not gone through a Committee; however, he said, there was a short time line to submit a request for funding. He further stated that he had spoken with Congressman Murphy regarding the contract the County had with CBN Connect for the needs analysis and conceptual design for the broadband project. He apprised that an application was being developed for a Federal earmark for the project and the deadline for submission of such was this afternoon. Chairman Monroe noted that the resolution included a change with the contracting entity to be the Research Foundation of SUNY (State University of New York) rather than CBN Connect for the needs analysis and conceptual design.

Mr. Pitkin requested a roll call vote on Resolution No. 344, Reducing Amount of Funding of Certain Non-Mandated Programs to Outside Agencies.

Mr. Kenny requested roll call votes on Resolution No. 367, Authorizing Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Execute Correspondence Drafted by Town of Corinth Attorney, to Support the Release of Promised Grant Funds to Rehabilitate Railroad Tracks; and Resolution No. 368, Authorizing Superintendent of Public Works to Approve and Execute Further Change Orders Relative to the Construction of Warren County Rail Stations, Town of Hadley and Town of Thurman (WC 61-08) Up to the Amounts Remaining in Certain Capital Projects.

Mr. Thomas requested roll call votes on Resolution No. 340, Authorizing the Director of the Office of Emergency Services to Fill the Vacant Position of STOP-DWI Coordinator/Traffic Safety Board Executive Secretary Due to Creation of Position; and Resolution No. 379, Authorizing the District Attorney to Fill the Vacant Position of 6<sup>th</sup> Assistant District Attorney Due to Promotion.

Mr. Thomas requested an amendment to Resolution No. 343, Authorizing the Abolishment of Twenty-Two Positions in Various Departments Throughout Warren County.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Strainer and carried unanimously to amend Resolution No. 343 to include the following changes: Countryside would be slated for the elimination of four positions, as opposed to one position; Tourism would be removed from the list because their budget was 100% funded with occupancy tax funds; the total number of positions to be abolished would be twenty-four as opposed to twenty-two; to include the effective date of July 1, 2009; and to correct the number of employees listed in the departments to reflect the accurate number of positions in each department.

Mr. Pitkin recanted his request for a roll call vote on Resolution No. 344 and noted he would like to table that resolution pending additional input.

Motion was made by Mr. Pitkin, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried by majority vote to table Resolution No. 344, Reducing Amount of Funding of Certain Non-Mandated Programs to Outside Agencies, with Messrs. Stec, Champagne Goodspeed and Kenny voting in opposition.

Mr. Thomas requested to introduce a resolution to the board members regarding two change orders for the Human Services Building. Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Sheehan and carried unanimously to waive the rules of the board requiring a resolution be in writing. Clerk noted it would be Resolution No. 382 of 2009 for the record.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve a change order with Schenectady Steel Co. Inc., for a decreased amount of \$11,000 and a change order with Bast Hatfield, Inc. for an amount of \$12,008, both relative to the Human Services Building. Clerk added it would be Resolution No. 383 of 2009 for the record.

Mr. Goodspeed referred to Resolution No. 344 that was tabled and requested a time line as to when the resolution would be reviewed again. Chairman Monroe responded that he would like to revisit it as soon as possible. The consensus of the board was that the resolution should be reintroduced within thirty days.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to waive the rules of the board requiring a resolution be in writing. Clerk stated it would be Resolution No. 384 of 2009 for the record.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to refer Resolution No. 344 of 2009, Reducing Amount of Funding of Certain Non-Mandated Programs to Outside Agencies, back to the respective Committee and the Budget and Finance Committees to be returned to the full Board of Supervisors for consideration within thirty days. Clerk said it would be Resolution No. 385 of 2009 for the record.

Mr. Geraghty interjected that the pertinent information relative to the aforementioned resolution would need to be forwarded to the Budget Committee prior to the next Budget Committee meeting.

Chairman Monroe called for a vote on the resolutions.

Resolution Nos. 319 through 385 were approved, with the exception of Resolution No. 344, Reducing Amount of Funding of Certain Non-Mandated Programs to Outside Agencies, which was tabled. Proclamation declaring the Month of May as Older Americans Month and Mortgage Tax Report were submitted.

Chairman Monroe announced that another application for a Federal earmark was being

submitted today requesting funds for work on the buildings located on the Gaslight Village property. He also reported that a press release would be sent out later in the day concerning ProAct, the discount cards for prescription drugs, that was recommended by NYSAC (New York State Association of Counties) and approved by prior resolutions. He noted that ProAct would be mailing more than 36,500 cards to households in Warren County within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Goodspeed thanked the members of the board who had submitted resolutions in support of the Ski Bowl/Gore Interconnect Project from their respective towns. He added that the project was approved and would begin moving forward in a few weeks.

Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services, questioned if the board members were still interested in pursuing the sale of the County-owned property located across the street from the Municipal Center. He advised that he had recently received three inquiries with regard to such. Mr. VanNess said he was in favor of the property going back out to bid with the board members reserving the right to refuse any offer.

Motion was made by Mr. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously authorizing that the aforementioned County-owned property be advertised again for bids.

Chairman Monroe reminded the board members that a tour of the Human Services Building would be held at 12 noon today.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Girard and seconded by Mr. Pitkin, Chairman Monroe adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.