

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 2017**



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. Ronald F. Conover presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Strough.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Leggett, McDevitt, Braymer, Brock, MacDonald, Frasier, Simpson, Vanselow, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Beaty, Montesi, Sokol, Thomas, Wood, Geraghty and Conover - 18; Supervisor Girard and Seeber absent - 2.

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Conover noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2016 Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Wood and seconded by Supervisor Simpson. Supervisor Conover then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2017 Organization Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Dickinson, seconded by Supervisor Vanselow and carried unanimously.

Continuing with the Agenda review, Chairman Conover called for recognition of graduates of the Warren County Safety Certification Program. Amy Clute, *Self Insurance Administrator*, introduced Michael Needham, *of Needham Risk Management*, who had developed the Safety Certificate Program and would assist with the presentation of the certificates. She advised that she had provided each member of the Board of Supervisors with a schedule of upcoming safety training programs for 2017 and she explained that each of the Safety Certificate Program graduates being honored today had achieved a higher level of safety training than most employees, having completed three core credit courses, as well as three elective credits, for a total of six credits. She apprised that to date there had been seventy-four graduates in the Program. Proceeding with the Certificate presentations, Mrs. Clute and Mr. Needham recognized the following individuals on their achievement of completing the necessary requirements to earn their Warren County Safety Certificate:

- ✧ Noreen Dove, *City of Glens Falls*
- ✧ Oliver Gourley, *Town of Hague*
- ✧ Michael Cherubini, *Town of Hague*
- ✧ Zack Gosselin, *Town of Warrensburg*
- ✧ Rachel Seeber, *Warren County Board of Supervisors*
- ✧ Jennifer Smith, *Warren County Sheriff's Office*
- ✧ Damon Baker, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ✧ John Bederian, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ✧ Sam Breault, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ✧ Josh Duell, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ✧ Guy Harrington, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ✧ Jerry Hayes, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ✧ Maiken Holmes, *Warren County Department of Public Works*

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- ◇ Tom Meade, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ◇ John Miller, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ◇ Jeff Monroe, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ◇ Robert Ross, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ◇ Andre Sargent, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ◇ Jack Wells, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ◇ Jeff Woodell, *Warren County Department of Public Works*

During the Certificate presentations, Supervisor Sokol accepted Supervisor Seeber's Certificate upon her behalf, as she was unable to attend today's meeting due to being present at the Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C. He apprised that Supervisor Seeber conveyed to him that she hoped every Supervisor would participate in the Program, as it was well done and she commended Ms. Clute and Mr. Needham for a job well done on it.

Mr. Needham thanked Jeffery Tennyson, *Superintendent of the Public Works Department*, for providing the time to his employees to attend the Program, as the majority of the graduates to date had been DPW employees.

Immediately following the presentation of the Certificates, Mr. Tennyson informed there was a significant amount of training which was conducted internally on a regular basis for his staff in addition to the formal Safety Certificate Program. He commended the staff members who were recognized today for completing the Program.

Chairman Conover extended privilege of the floor to Assemblyman Stec, who congratulated Chairman Conover and Sokol on their appointments, and acknowledged Supervisor Geraghty for a job well done during his four year tenure as Chairman. Assemblymen Stec thanked Supervisor MacDonald and Jim Clark, *5th Ward Councilman, City of Glens Falls*, for inviting him to be the guest speaker at the quarterly Town Hall meeting they hosted. He stated during the meeting he discussed the status of the State Budget and the Legislators reaction to it. He provided an overview of the proposed 2018 New York State Budget and the Governor's State of the State during which he pointed out that the 2% State Tax Cap was only applicable to the State Operating Fund which was a subset of about 2/3rd of the entire State Budget. He informed the proposed increase for the total General Funds throughout the State was 4.4%; however, he stated, he anticipated this figure would change before the final Budget was adopted in April.

Chairman Conover commented he was hopeful that the additional funding to assist Counties with increasing expenses associated with mandated costs pertaining to providing indigent legal services would be included within the 2018 County Budget. Assemblyman Stec advised this was one of the items that was front and center for this years budget. He apprised some of the other changes proposed by the Governor included the State taking over all future increases for Medicaid which would alleviate some of the pressure on the budgets of local governments, as well as changes to the election process involving early voting which he voiced serious concerns with.

In terms of the consolidation efforts the Governor was seeking, Supervisor Geraghty informed that the County had already undertaken this effort with the local municipalities and he questioned whether the Governor was seeking additional efforts from them, and Assemblyman Stec replied in the negative. He explained that he believed this was geared more toward Counties and School Districts which had not undertaken any consolidation efforts.

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Chairman Conover remarked that he was pleased to see the Clean Water Element included within the Governor's proposed Budget, as any assistance with infrastructure would be welcomed by the County and its municipalities. He referenced the Village of Lake George's Sewer Plant Replacement Project, the requirements pertaining to the City of Glens Falls Sewer Plant, the Town of Bolton and other communities across the region. Assemblyman Stec informed the Governor's proposed State Budget included setting aside \$2 billion to be spread out over five years for the purpose of water and waste water infrastructure capital spending which he strongly supported; however, he noted, according to the data he had viewed about \$40 billion was required to cover the cost of the infrastructure updates State-wide. He said if the State were to cover the entire cost cuts would need to be made elsewhere within the State Budget or taxes would need to be raised which was a significant concern since New York State was already known for being one of the highest taxed States in the Country.

Chairman Conover advised that the State took note of the issue with Aquatic Invasive Species during Assemblyman Stec's tenure as Chairman of the Board and he was pleased to see the continuation of funding within the Governor's proposed State Budget for this purpose this year. Assemblyman Stec commented he believed the funding for this purpose would remain within the State Budget for the foreseeable future. He apprised that Warren County had been at the forefront for bringing this issue to light and taking action on it with the implementation of the mandatory boat inspection program on Lake George. He said he was encouraged by the fact that the issue was getting attention from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, as well as the State Legislature.

Supervisor McDevitt asked Assemblyman Stec to comment on the Governor's proposal to offer free tuition to children of families with income levels below \$150,000 for SUNY (*State University of New York*) institutions and Assemblyman Stec replied that he was skeptical of this proposal for a variety of reasons, not the least of which was the cost. He commented there were other ways for the Governor to invest in higher education such as providing the funding promised to these institutions which historically had not been done.

Supervisor Brock indicated that the City of Glens Falls was faced with significant expenses to address issues with combined overflow associated with water and sewer and he questioned whether funding was included within the proposed Budget to assist with these costs, as he believed other municipalities were faced with similar costs. Assemblyman Stec apprised that he could not predict whether the \$2 billion the Governor set aside for water and waste water infrastructure would be included within the Adopted State Budget in April nor was he aware of what the requirements would be in order to be eligible for funding; however, he noted, he felt the City's Project was an appropriate use for the funding. He stated that there were many municipalities similar to the City of Glens Falls that had a combined storm water sewer system which had issues when heavy rained occurred.

Supervisor Beaty apprised that New York State had more people moving out of the State than any other which he felt was related to the fact that the State had the highest taxes in the Country. He asked what action Assemblyman Stec and Senator Little were going to do to turn this course and Assemblyman Stec responded that he would let his voting record speak for itself. He pointed out that he was 1 out of the 150 members of the State Assembly and Senator Little was 1 out of the 63 members of the State Senate and the Budget was driven by three people in a room as were most of the decisions which was frustrating to him. He said if the Governor could sway the majority of the Senate, as well as the Assembly than it would be adopted. He mentioned all he could do was keep doing what he had been doing all along.

Chairman Conover then called for the reports by Committee Chairmen on the past months meetings or activities.

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Supervisor Strough advised he had no Committee report, but noted he had attended Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul's presentation of the Governor's Budget last Wednesday at the Glens Falls Civic Center. He said he was pleased that the presentation included special note of the fact that there was a definite need to continue to invest in improvements at airports because they were becoming the regional business centers. Supervisor Strough informed that he had attended the All Star Hall of Fame Luncheon at the Fort William Henry on that same Wednesday with the All Stars and the local hockey players. He added he attended the All Star Game at the Glens Falls Civic Center that same evening where he enjoyed seeing the greater community enjoy the event.

Supervisor Beaty informed the Shared Services Committee had not met this month; however, he advised Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul also noted during her presentation that all communities needed to take a more active roll in shared services. He stated that Dr. Kristine Duffy, *President, SUNY Adirondack*, had contacted him to discuss some possible shared services between the County and the College which he had to research further to determine whether it was legally permissible for the County to move forward with. He remarked he was encouraged by the fact that not just towns but in this case SUNY Adirondack was seeking ways to save the taxpayers and the students money. He apprised with the recent addition of the City of Glens Falls he felt the County and the municipalities participating in the Shared Services agreement would realize significant savings this year. He commended Julie Butler, *Purchasing Agent*, and her staff for their work on this initiative.

In regards to the Court Space Expansion Project, Supervisor Montesi apprised that the work was moving along well on the new entrance for the Court and they had resolved the issues with the bid for electrical work and had an electrician working on board. He informed the Water Department for the Town of Queensbury worked through the weekend on the installation of a new water line. He added that the steel had been erected on the new Court House Building. He stated he was pleased to report thus far the Project remained on budget.

Supervisor Sokol congratulated Chairman Conover on his appointment and he noted he had some tough shoes to fill as Chairman of the Finance Committee, as Chairman Conover had done a stellar job during his tenure in the roll. He informed that the Finance Committee had not met this month but he noted fifteen out of the twenty-one resolutions before the Board today were brought forward every year at this time that did not go through the Committee Meeting process, and he requested support for them. Supervisor Sokol apprised that he planned to meet with the remaining Supervisors he had not had a chance to meet with yet during the month and he encouraged all to contact him with any questions and/or suggestions they may have. He stated that one of his goals was to have Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, provide insight at each Board meeting as to the current financial status of the County and make suggestions as to how they could improve their status. He offered privilege of the floor to Mr. Swan to provide the monthly update regarding the County finances.

Mr. Swan stated that County Clerk fees came in at 103% of the budgeted amount which meant slightly more fees were collected than what was budgeted. He said the total amount of mortgage tax collected in 2016 was about 2% more than 2015; however, he noted, the budget was up about 130% which meant they had collected significantly more than what had been budgeted. He informed that they had not closed out the year in regards to the amount of Automobile Use Tax that was collected, but he was confident that the figures would be in line with the budgeted amount. He credited Supervisor Thomas for a job well done in budgeting realistic expectations in regards to revenue. In regards to the amount of sales tax collected, Mr. Swan advised it appeared that the County would close out the year with about \$826,000 over what was budgeted. He stated they would be coming up slightly short of the amount budgeted for the tribal money pertaining to gambling but he did not think this would cause any serious issues.

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Chairman Conover remarked that he believed it was a great idea to have Mr. Swan briefly speak at the monthly Board Meeting regarding the overall financial status of the County.

Supervisor Thomas reported on the December 20th meeting of Budget Committee wherein they reviewed and discussed the Multi-Year Plan, as well as the financial outlook for the County through 2020. He said he planned on scheduling another Budget Committee meeting within the near future to continue the discussion pertaining to the Multi-Year Plan.

Supervisor Wood apprised she had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Leggett advised he had no Committee report; however, he noted, he had attended the Governor's State of the State address in Albany, New York, as well as the presentation by Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul at the Glens Falls Civic Center.

Supervisor McDevitt informed that the Economic Growth & Development Committee had met on January 9th wherein they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 35-39. He requested support of proposed Resolution No. 35, *Authorizing an Agreement with the New York State Office of Information Technology Services for Enhanced Aerial Imagery for Warren County for the Office of Planning & Community Development*, as he believed Warren County should continue to make every effort to set a standard in terms of leading edge technology in New York State. Supervisor McDevitt advised he, as well had attended the presentation by Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul. He said he was impressed with her comments relating to bike trails and the State's ability to take make a trail that connected Albany to the Canadian border. He remarked the County had a significant chance to partake in this initiative if they worked quickly with the Planning Department to apply for a grants to assist with any costs associated with it. He informed that the significance bike trails had on the tourism market was very relevant to the topic as per the comments made by the Lieutenant Governor. He said he would make every effort to work with the Planning Department and Chairman Conover on this endeavor, as he felt it would provide the northern portions of the County with additional revenue from the tourists that used the bike trails. Supervisor McDevitt apprised that he was supportive of proposed Resolution No. 29, *Authorizing Renewal of Agreement with Warren County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc.*, due to the consistency and professionalism of the Organization, as well as the assistance they would provide in recognition of potential public health and disease that originated in animals. As an example, he stated an article featured in *The New York Times* that pertained to shelter population of cats in New York City which were quarantined due to a strain of bird flu occurring amongst the cat population which had never occurred before and had not been found in any animal in ten years. He mentioned an unfamiliar disease in a new population was a serious issue, as it was the largest influenza outbreak ever observed in cats and was last observed in New York State amongst the poultry population. He indicated the question scientists were faced with was how did this bird flue find its way to the cat population in 2016, as it appeared to be an epidemiological mystery. He apprised that having the services of the Warren County SPCA would provide the County with a floor in terms of professionalism, training and hopefully the ability to recognize early disease in the animal population. He remarked what he was most afraid of was whether the bird flu was transmitted next to the human population, as this could lead to not only an epidemic but quite possibly a pandemic. He advised he did not mean to exaggerate the issue but he did feel it was imperative that they provided proper funding to the Warren County SPCA.

Supervisor Braymer apprised that she and Supervisor McDonald had attended the Warren County Safe & Quality Bicycling Organization meeting wherein the members indicated to her they felt they had a great opportunity to seize on the tourism market in the bicycling arena specifically with single track trails. She said they were working on a plan to develop some trails so they could have the same type

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of tourism marker here as did the State of Vermont who had trail systems which drew tourists who spent money at local restaurants and hotels. She stated once it was more developed she hoped to bring it to the full Board to move forward with a concrete plan.

Chairman Conover informed that the Warren County Safe & Quality Bicycling Organization was scheduled to speak in February at a joint meeting of Economic Growth & Development and Tourism Committees.

Supervisor Brock stated that he had a family member who was from Canada that traveled with several others to the City of Glens Falls a few years ago to participate in a bike race which was why he believed there was some real potential in regards to the development of trail systems and increasing tourism here. Supervisor Brock informed that he and Supervisor Braymer had met with Mr. Swan and Lexie Delurey, *Director, Real Property Tax Services*, to discuss the rules pertaining to the Last Chance Meeting. He stated once the rules had been reviewed by Brian Reichenbach, *County Attorney*, they would be brought forward for review.

Supervisor MacDonald advised that he had met with Tanya Brand, *Group Tour Promoter*, and other staff of the Tourism Department to discuss their plans for 2017. He stated he also met with Mr. Swan prior to the new year to discuss some of the upcoming fiscal challenges the County was facing. He stated that a representative of Jaeger & Flynn Associates, Inc. had provided him with a tutorial pertaining to how Self-Insurance worked, as well as some of the projected insurance costs for the County. As mentioned by Supervisor Braymer, he participated in a workshop meeting with the Warren County Safe & Quality Bicycling Organization to review some of their plans to develop the trail system within the County in different parts so that visitors had the option to bike a different trail seven days out of the week. He stated he would like to see this come to fruition in terms of the planning and looked forward to that discussion taking place. Supervisor MacDonald thanked Assemblyman Stec for speaking at the quarterly Town Hall meeting he hosted with Mr. Clark. He said the purpose of these meetings were to ensure the residents were informed. He remarked he was pleased that the City would have proper representation on both the Tourism and Occupancy Tax Coordination Committees in 2017.

Supervisor Frasier apprised she had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Simpson informed that the Town of Horicon had approved the use of occupancy tax funds for the development of a community hiking and mountain bike trail on 200 acres of land purchased by The Hub which was a restaurant/service based bicycle shop. He stated that although the Public Works Committee had not met this month he had attended several meetings with Mr. Tennyson in regards to moving forward in 2017 with efficiencies throughout the Department. Supervisor Simpson recognized Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, and her staff for all of the work they completed behind the scenes, as well as Kristy Miller, *Confidential Assistant to the County Administrator*. A round of applause followed.

Supervisor Vanselow stated that the Town of Johnsburg had been actively constructing single track bike trails for a few years now which included 30 kilometers of trails. He said he hoped that the Governor's proposal for trails would shift toward the west to include these trails. He added that he, as well had attended the presentation by Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul.

Supervisor Dickinson advised he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Merlino encouraged the Board members to review and provide feedback on the Warren

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County Travel Guide for 2017; a copy of which is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting. He stated that the members of the Tourism Committee had an envelope on their desk which contained information regarding all of the topics that would be discussed at the January 24th meeting of the Committee. He indicated from this point forward the information to be discussed at meetings would be provided to the Committee members a week in advance to ensure they were able to make informed decisions at the meeting. Supervisor Merlino apprised he had formed an Advisory Group to the Tourism Committee which consisted of members he felt would be an asset to the Tourism Department. He said thus far Eric Gilbert, *Six Flags Great Escape*, Tom Guay, *Sagamore Resort*, Sam Luciano, *Fort William Henry*, and Gary Thornquist, *Lake George RV Park*, had agreed to become members of the Advisory Group that would be introduced at the next Tourism Committee meeting. In regards to bike trails, he stated that the Tourism Committee would be looking into this further. Supervisor Merlino informed that during his twelve year tenure as a Board Member he had steadfastly been a supporter of the rail road; however, he noted, he was thoroughly disappointed that SNCR (*Saratoga & North Creek Railway*) had cancelled the Ski Train for this year which he would be bringing this up this month's Public Works Committee meeting. He remarked that he felt SNCR had an obligation to notify the County earlier than January that they would not be moving forward with the Ski Train, as there were a number of snowmobile trails that were impacted by the train. He stated that it was imperative for them to determine the status of the railroad, as there were other possibilities for the use of the land such as taking out the tracks and developing it into a trail system.

Supervisor Montesi asked Supervisor Merlino to provide an update on the bus tours and Supervisor Merlino responded that the update would be provided at the Committee meeting next week. He mentioned there were more bus tours in Warren County than individuals may realize, as a number of the hotels refused to publicize this information due to competition.

Chairman Conover advised that he, as well attended the presentation by Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul and he requested those who had not done so to review the Governor's proposed State Budget. He said attending the meeting provided him with the opportunity to marvel at the progress that had been at the Glens Falls Civic Center and he commended everyone involved with that enterprise.

Continuing to the report by the acting County Administrator Supervisor Geraghty read aloud a listing of the meetings he attended since the December 16, 2015 Board Meeting; a copy of which is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting. He stated he was pleased to announce that as of this morning all Department Heads had turned in their goals for 2017 which would be reviewed by the Chair of their respective Committee within the near future. He commended Supervisor Seeber and Jackie Figueroa, *County Human Resources Director*, for their efforts on this process and the Department Heads for embracing it as a new process.

Supervisor Geraghty then recognized the following people for their years of service to the County which he said was greatly appreciated:

- * Cynthia Mulcahy for 30 years of service to the Department of Social Services
- * Mary Lamkins for 25 years of service to Public Health
- * Russell Lail for 20 years of service to the Sheriff's Department

Finally, Supervisor Geraghty announced that Marilyn Van Dyke was retiring from the Town Historian position for the Town of Queensbury after 25 years of service. He said Pam Vogel, *County Clerk*, would be presenting Ms. Van Dyke with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Board on January 27th. He also apprised that Mary Beth Casey, *Elections Commissioner (R)*, would be retiring effective February 27, 2017 following 25 years of service to the County, first as a Board member and then as the Elections Commissioner for the Republican Committee. A round of applause followed. He added

that William VanNess, who was selected to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Casey was present today and a round of applause followed.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Reichenbach, who informed that the proposed floor resolution included in the resolution packets pertained to the recommendation of the Republic Party to appoint William VanNess to Ms. Casey's unexpired term as Commissioner of Elections (R). He informed there would be no need to waive the Rules of the Board since the proposed Resolution was in writing. In regards to the lawsuit regarding the form of government in Warren County, Mr. Reichenbach apprised that the County had filed a response opposing the Plaintiff's motion for summary judgement and a cross judgement concurring that there were no relevant facts that needed to be decided at trial but stating the law entitled the County to relief and not the Plaintiff's. He explained that the Plaintiff's now had the opportunity to respond if they chose to do so and the Court could set a date for oral arguments.

Resuming the Agenda review, Chairman Conover called for the reading of communications, which Mrs. Allen read aloud, as follows:

Reports from:

1. Report of Criminal and Family Workloads for November 2016 from the Warren County Probation Department.
2. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp. Financial Reports dated October 31, 2016 and November 30, 2016.
3. Pro Act Discount Card Utilization Report for January 2015 - October 2016
4. Annual Report from the Warren County Historian dated January 19, 2017

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp. November 2016 surcharge in the amount of \$3,782.

Warren and Washington Counties IDA and CDC 2017 Final Budgets.

Letter from Mary Beth Casey, Republican Elections Commissioner, announcing her intent to retire effective Monday, February 27, 2017 and stating it has been a privilege to serve the citizens of Warren County.

Election Commissioner Certification received from Michael Grasso, Chairman of the Republican Party, appointing William VanNess as Republican Elections Commissioner to fill the unexpired term of appointment which Mary Beth Casey will vacate upon retirement.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 19-37 were mailed; she informed that proposed Resolution Nos. 38-39 were prepared after mailing and a motion was necessary to bring them to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Dickinson, seconded by Supervisor Montesi and carried unanimously. Ms. Allen stated a motion was necessary to bring to the floor the proposed resolution that Mr. Reichenbach referred to regarding the appointment of Mr. VanNess. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Montesi, seconded by Supervisor Thomas and carried unanimously. Mrs. Allen announced the proposed floor resolution would now be proposed Resolution No. 40.

Chairman Conover called for discussion on the proposed resolutions, as well as requests for roll call votes.

Supervisor Strough remarked he would like to voice his support of Mr. VanNess, as he had known him

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for several years and he felt he was the appropriate fit for the position due to his knowledge pertaining to the County and its structure. He commended Ms. Casey for a job well done during her tenure in the position. Supervisor Strough requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 29, *Authorizing Renewal of Agreement with Warren County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc.*, due to him being a member of the Board of Directors for the Organization.

Supervisor Braymer apprised she believed everyone had received a copy of the email concerning the fact that a quarterly report had not been received from the Warren County SPCA; however, she noted, upon further investigation it was determined that the quarterly report had in fact been received and was filed with the Clerk of the Board's Office. She informed according to the County Attorney's Office the SPCA has complied with the current contract which was why she would be supporting proposed Resolution No. 29.

Supervisor Leggett asked for support on proposed Resolution No. 39, *Authorizing the Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors to Sign an Acceptance of Warren and Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency (WWIDA) Resolution No. 16-22 Regarding the Ran Entertainment, LLC "Skyzone Project" in Queensbury, New York.* In regards to the contract with the Warren County SPCA, Supervisor Leggett inquired whether all of the quarterly reports had been filed within the time frame required of them and Mr. Reichenbach replied that although all of the reports had been filed he was unsure whether they were filed within a timely manner. He mentioned they had reviewed the contract last year to verify what was meant by verified or certified voucher which was why he believed they were now receiving more information as opposed to less. He informed if the Board directed him to draft a new contract he would attempt to clean up the language to ensure it was clearer as to what information they should provide the County. Supervisor Leggett questioned whether it was mandated for the County to contract for animal control services and Mr. Reichenbach responded that he was not aware that the County was mandated to contract for such services but by statute they were afforded the opportunity to do so. Supervisor Leggett informed that the contract with the Warren County SPCA was to provide services to the entire County; however, he noted, the majority of their services was provided to the more populated areas. He said the Town of Chester did not utilize their services often because they had their own animal control officer; therefore, he questioned whether the County and the Town of Chester were receiving a good return on its investment with the way that the contract was currently structured. Supervisor Geraghty remarked that he felt the Warren County SPCA's value to the County far exceeded what they were paid. He said he believed they performed a number of investigations that the County may not be aware of because they did not report on them. He mentioned they answered a significant amount of calls pertaining to cats and other animals. He stated he felt their services were required and he noted that they did an excellent job. He added that he concurred with Supervisor McDevitt's statements earlier regarding the professionalism exhibited by the staff. Chairman Conover informed although the Town of Bolton had their own animal control officer they did utilize the services of the Warren County SPCA when they came across difficult cases to ensure all the bases were covered, as these cases often times lead to litigation.

Supervisor Braymer pointed out the forth quarter report provided a breakdown of the services provided by municipality. She said although she did not necessarily agree with adding an additional \$20,000 to the Warren County SPCA's spending Budget she felt they were providing the County with a valuable service. She mentioned how nice their new facility was which she had recently toured. She commented that she thought it was a worthwhile endeavor for the County to have these services across the Board.

Supervisor Leggett inquired whether the request from the Warren County SPCA was addressed through a Committee and Chairman Conover responded that the Finance Committee was charged with

overseeing the request. Supervisor Leggett informed that he was aware that there were certain contracts that included a per diem rate rather than a blanket figure such as the \$100,000 allotted to the Warren County SPCA wherein there was no way to predict what the caseload may be. He suggested the Committee charged with reviewing this contract examine the structure closely. Supervisor McDevitt interjected that it was his understanding that this contract required the Warren County SPCA to be available twenty-four hours a day every day including holidays and weekends.

Supervisor Dickinson voiced his concerns with proposed Resolution No. 34 of 2016, *Amending Resolution No. 1 of 2017 to Revise the Committees of the Board of Supervisors as Provided in Section C*, pertaining to the Committees with 9-11 members, as he felt this caused them to be almost non-functional due to the fact that they had too many members who often times all felt the need to speak causing the meetings to go far beyond their scheduled time thereby slowing the process down. He pointed out Committees with 11 members that unanimously forwarded a resolution onto the Board had essentially already adopted the resolution since the Committee contained the majority vote of the Board, as there were only 20 Board members. He suggested they consider revisiting this and paring these Committees down, as he did not feel it was necessary for everyone to be a member of every Committee. In regards to the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, Supervisor Dickinson pointed out that he, Chairman Conover, Supervisor Strough and the Mayor for the Village of Lake George collected the bulk of the occupancy tax for the County which was why he felt they should all be members of the Committee along with a few members from other municipalities in the County; however, he noted, he did not feel it was necessary to have eleven members on the Committee. Chairman Conover apprised he would take Supervisor Dickinson's suggestion under consideration.

Chairman Conover called for public comments on the proposed Resolutions; there being none he called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 19-40 were approved as presented.

Chairman Conover called for announcements.

Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury resident*, reminded the Board about 1.5 years ago the Attorney representing the former County Administrator stated publicly at a Committee meeting even though it appeared millions of dollars were lost at Westmount Health Facility that was an admiration, as there were two other Siemens contracts that the County had which generated millions of dollars. He said following his review of the utility bills as compared to succeeding years he determined that Siemens had claimed savings in excess of twice the amount the County realized on electricity and eight times the amount on natural gas which meant their figures were not even remotely close to the actual amount. He continued, the Board decided to investigate the matter further following which an engineering firm was hired to complete a review. He said the preliminary report he had reviewed by the engineering firm appeared to confirm all of his suspicions. He apprised a final report had been issued in November of 2016 which he had been attempting to FOIL (*Freedom of Information Law*) since early December with no success. He stated that a few appendices had been provided to him but not the final report; therefore, he said, he had filed an appeal with Chairman Conover who was the FOIL Officer for the County. He encouraged the Board members to request that Chairman Conover release the report, as there were other municipalities who had similar dealings with contractors like Siemens wherein the savings they stated was exaggerated, thereby ripping off the taxpayers. He remarked he felt it was imperative that the report be released to provide additional verification, aside from what he found, which proved the figures provided by Siemens were inaccurate. He stated a report such as this one had been completed for the Co-Gen at Westmount which indicated the County saved some money but not enough to pay the mortgage payments which resulted in a loss of millions of dollars. He informed if he was afforded the time he would request that the County look into this matter further because Medicaid never provided the millions of dollars promised to the County. He mentioned Saratoga County had the same type of deal and they received their Medicaid payments which was why he could not fathom why no one was upset about it. He implored for the report to be

released, as the only other option available to him was to file an Article 78 which he would prefer not to do. He reiterated his request that the Board members ask Chairman Conover to release the report, as all indicators showed the report was FOILable and as far as he could tell there was no justification for withholding the information from him.

Mr. VanNess thanked the Board members for their support of his appointment. He stated he had some large shoes to fill, as Ms. Casey had done a stellar job. He informed his goal was to ensure the integrity and respect the Board of Elections had remained intact. He apprised he would put forth his best effort to make the Board members proud of him.

Supervisor Brock advised he could understand the point Supervisor Dickinson was making regarding the size of Committees, as he often times found there was no follow up in instances where the larger Committees were involved and someone had more to say regarding a topic that was already discussed. He informed the point of a Committee was to review matters in depth and then bring it to the Board to report on. He continued, the Committees were not the ones who made the ultimate decision but rather were charged with researching the matter to report to the Board. He said things were becoming shallow by having such large Committees, as everyone was provided with the chance to voice their opinions.

Supervisor Braymer inquired whether an update was available pertaining to the Medicaid payments for Westmount and Mr. Reichenbach responded that the payments had been received.

Chairman Conover remarked he was pleased with the fashion that the Committee Chairs and their Committees had moved on the items that were mentioned within his State of the County Address over the last 1.5 weeks.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Merlino and seconded by Supervisor Beaty, Chairman Conover adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:26 a.m.