

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 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 Beaty.

Roll called, the following members present:

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

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Conover noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2017 Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Thomas and seconded by Supervisor Braymer and carried unanimously.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Conover declared the Public Hearing on Warren County's current Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project No. 1197PF42-12 (\$400,000) for the Warrensburg Health Center open at 10:01 a.m. and he requested that Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, read aloud the Notice of Public Hearing, which she proceeded to do. Chairman Conover then called for any public comment.

Wayne LaMothe, *County Planner*, informed that Resolution No. 387 of 2012 authorized the submission of the grant application, as well as to authorize the Planning & Community Development Department to hold the Public Hearings pertaining to the matter; however, he noted, in December of 2016 the New York State Office of Homes & Community Renewal determined that the Legislative Body should be charged with holding the Public Hearings which was why today's Public Hearing was necessary. He stated the total amount of grant funding awarded for the construction of the Warrensburg Health Center was \$400,000 which was accompanied by Federal grant funding in the amount of \$5 million along with additional funding. He mentioned the national objective of the grant was for job creation had been met.

Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury resident*, commented he was pleased that the Public Hearing was taking place and that the Board members were willing to answer questions, as this was not always the case.

Supervisor McDevitt inquired whether the Warrensburg Health Center had met the criteria for job creation and Mr. LaMothe replied in the affirmative. He stated that they had exceeded the criteria of creating eleven full-time jobs for income eligible clients by two.

Supervisor Dickinson acknowledged the efforts of Supervisor Geraghty in recruiting Hudson Headwater Health Center to construct the new facility in the Town of Warrensburg, as he felt it was an asset not only to the Town but also to the community. He recognized Dr. Rugge, *Chief Executive Officer of Hudson Headwater Health Network*, for his work expanding healthcare in the region.

Supervisor Geraghty stated that the Warrensburg Health Center had provided a boost in the economy of the Town.

Chairman Conover once again called for any comments on the Public Hearing for the Warrensburg Health Center, and there being none, he declared it closed at 10:07 a.m.

Continuing with the Agenda review, Chairman Conover declared the Public Hearing open on the amendment to the ground lease agreement for a stand-alone office building between Warren County and Schermerhorn Aviation, LLC. open at 10:07 a.m. and he requested that Mrs. Allen read aloud the Notice of Public Hearing, which she proceeded to do. Chairman Conover then called for any public comment.

Mr. Whitehead voiced his support of the amendment to the ground lease, as he felt it indicated a willingness on the part of Mr. Schermerhorn to continue to invest in the Airport, as well as the willingness of the Board to work toward a more self-sustaining Airport which was a requirement of the FAA (*Federal Aviation Administration*) and what he hoped would occur.

Chairman Conover once again called for any comments on the Public Hearing regarding an amendment to the ground lease for a stand alone office building between Warren County and Schermerhorn Aviation, LLC., and there being none, he declared it closed at 10:08 a.m.

Moving on to the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Conover read aloud the listing of meetings he had attended since the February Board Meeting. He informed that he, along with a number of other Supervisors attended the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks meeting on February 23rd in Washington County during which a tour of Phantom Enterprises was taken which he thought was informative. He stated that he found the visits to other Counties and the exchange of ideas, programs and projects that took place during the meetings to be very valuable. Chairman Conover advised he had attended the press conference at the Glens Falls Civic Center on February 28th regarding the purchase of the Adirondack Thunder by the Adirondack Civic Center Coalition. He encouraged anyone interested in reviewing the press packet that was distributed at the press conference to contact him, as it contained an abundant amount of information, including a document outlining what the Adirondack Civic Center Coalition felt they had accomplished, entitled "700 Days of Progress".

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

Supervisor Beaty informed that Shared Services did not meet but he noted the City of Glens Falls had saved upwards of \$700,000 by participating in the Shared Services agreement. He advised that he had met with Julie Butler, *Purchasing Agent*, Supervisor Braymer and Frank Morehouse, *Superintendent of Buildings*, to discuss the results of the bids for hybrid vehicles. He apprised the County would be purchasing one hybrid vehicle to determine whether the cost analysis calculated by Mrs. Butler was accurate.

In regards to the Court House Expansion Project, Supervisor Montesi stated the work was moving along well and remained on budget. He informed the construction of the new entrance was completed about a month ahead of schedule due to the favorable weather conditions. He said the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st.

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Supervisor Sokol apprised that the Finance Committee had met on two occasions this month, for the first time on March 2nd wherein they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 88-89, and 129-139 which he provided a brief overview of. He stated the second meeting had been held on March 15th and included an executive session to discuss potential litigation and possible settlement with Siemens. He said another meeting would be scheduled in two weeks for the same purpose during which he hoped the matter would be brought to a conclusion. He informed that the sales tax collected thus far in the year was 6.71% more than the same time last year. He offered privilege of the floor to Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, to provide the monthly update regarding the County finances.

Mr. Swan advised that his Office was on track to closeout the books for 2016 by the end of March. He cautioned them about being too optimistic regarding the news pertaining to sales tax, as it was just a projection. He informed he anticipated receiving the IGT (*Intergovernmental Transfer*) funds due to the County for the term of April through December 31, 2015 within the next six weeks. He said the County was required to make their 50% matching fund payment prior to the payment being allocated; however, he noted, these funds were included within the County Budget.

Supervisor Sokol questioned the amount of the IGT payment and Supervisor Geraghty responded the amount was for \$1,211,458.50.

Supervisor Girard entered the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Supervisors Thomas, Hyde and Leggett indicated they had nothing to report.

Supervisor Girard stated the County Facilities Committee had met on February 28th wherein they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 118-121 which he provided a brief summary of.

Supervisor McDevitt informed that the Governor's Office announced that it had awarded grant funding to the Towns of Johnsbury and Stony Creek for the purpose of speeding up internet capability there. He mentioned Senator Gilibrand had been instrumental in encouraging that effort within the State to assist businesses and schools. Supervisor McDevitt requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 108, *Authorizing Agreement with the South Warren Snowmobile Club, Inc. to Use Approximately 7,128 Feet (1.35 Miles) of the Warren County Bikeway for a Snowmobile Trail*.

Supervisor Braymer reported on the February 28th meeting of the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee wherein they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 106-107 which she provided a brief summary of. She stated the matter concerning single use bags was referred to the Legislative & Rules Committee for further discussion. In addition, Supervisor Braymer requested support on proposed Resolution No. 123, *Resolution in Support of Governor Cuomo's Empire State Trail*, which was discussed at the Joint meeting of the Economic Growth & Development and Tourism Committees on February 27th. She thanked Mrs. Butler for her efforts in determining a fiscally responsible way to purchase a hybrid vehicle for the County fleet and Mr. Morehouse for being open to the purchase.

Supervisor Brock recognized Supervisor Braymer, Lexie Delurey, *Director, Real Property Tax Services*, Mr. Swan and Chairman Conover for their efforts revising the rules governing the Last Chance meeting.

Supervisor MacDonald stated that in addition to the Committee meetings he attended last month he also met with several Department Heads to discuss an array of topics which included the Shared Services agreement. He stated that he met with Supervisor Merlino and Kristen Hanifan, *Special Events & Sales Director, Lake George Chamber of Commerce & CVB*, to discuss the tourism strategy for the

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County. He mentioned during the March 2nd meeting of the Finance Committee he proposed that the County adopt a Local Law which would modify New York State General Municipal Law 72C to increase the three year requirement to provide reimbursement for police training costs to five years specifically for Warren County. He remarked he believed this symbolized a priority of establishing a more harmonious work environment amongst the Police Agencies within the County and to a larger degree set in motion the possibility for greater cooperation amongst departments within local government as a whole. He apprised while he was sympathetic to the concerns expressed by his constituents at the meeting that it would “open unknown doors”, he felt that opening the door could lead to more cooperation resulting in the discovery of more synergies which they were currently unaware of that could be explored further in the coming year.

Supervisor Frasier reported on the February 28th meeting of the Health, Human & Social Services Committee where proposed Resolution Nos. 96-100 were approved and she proceeded to provide a brief overview of each. She stated that it was imperative for the Board to be aware of the loss of nursing staff to other agencies or facilities due to the fact that the salaries paid elsewhere were significantly more than the wages paid by the County. Supervisor Frasier asked the Board to keep Supervisor Vanselow in their thoughts and prayers as he dealt with some serious health issues. She proceeded to report on the February 27th meeting of the Support Services Committee wherein proposed Resolution No. 90 was approved. She remarked it is had been a privilege for her to work with the Department Heads which she noted were underappreciated for all of their efforts.

Chairman Conover thanked Supervisor Frasier for filling in for Supervisor Vanselow during his absence, as he was aware of the additional work she had taken on.

Supervisor Simpson advised that the Public Works Committee met on February 28th, wherein proposed Resolution Nos. 108-117, were approved. He stated that he hoped to be able to finalize the agreement with the Warrensburg Bike Rally at the next Committee meeting. Supervisor Simpson apprised in an attempt to become more efficient the staff for the Department of Public Works were currently working on bid specifications to increase the number of paving jobs that were completed by contractors. He encouraged all to attend the Spring Zing Fishing Clinic & Open House at Up Yonda Farm on Saturday, May 13th with their families.

Supervisor Dickinson stated that the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee did not meet this month but he had attended the press conference with Chairman Conover pertaining to the purchase of the Hockey Team by the Adirondack Civic Center Coalition. He said that he and Chairman Conover also attended an informal lunch meeting with representatives of the Adirondack Civic Center Coalition to discuss the County’s present contract with them which was terminating at the end of this year and what they projected their future financial needs to be. He apprised he was impressed with their management record thus far and he encouraged anyone with doubts to review their accomplishments. He reminded them the current annual allocation to the Adirondack Civic Center Coalition was \$250,000 which was a significant amount of money and he noted he was reviewing the status of the occupancy tax fund to assist with determining how much financial support could be provided going forward. Supervisor Dickinson informed he was working on setting up a presentation by representatives of Airbnb to take place at a future Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee meeting. He explained occupancy tax would be collected directly from Airbnb and a single payment would be made on behalf of their clients. Supervisor Dickinson advised he had scheduled a meeting with those in the business community whose enterprises revolved around occupancy tax to discuss all aspects of occupancy tax.

Supervisor Merlino reported on the February 27th meeting of the Tourism Committee wherein they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 101-105 which he provided a brief overview. He said they were

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looking into offering a Booking Engine which would give the County website an online booking option for lodging. Supervisor Merlino apprised the Park O&M Committee met on February 28th during which two requests were referred to the Finance Committee for approval. He stated that proposed Resolution No. 140, *Amending Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding with the City of Glens Falls Police Department and the Warren County Sheriff's Office to Accept Additional Stop DWI Grant Funding for the Traffic Safety Board*, was approved through the out-of Committee process due to the cancellation of the Traffic Safety Board meeting on February 28th because of a lack of a quorum.

Supervisor Strough informed that the Legislative & Rules Committee had met on February 27th wherein they approved proposed Resolution No. 91 which he requested support of.

Supervisor Seeber advised that the Personnel & Higher Education Committee had met on March 2nd, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 124-128 which she provided a brief overview of. She reminded them each member of the Personnel & Higher Education Committee would be assigned to different departments to manage the mid-year evaluations. She remarked that it was crucial to provide feedback and support to the County's hard working Department Heads. She stated that the Airport Advisory Group met on March 2nd during which they welcomed their new member, William Scheidegger, who owned two planes, was President of the EAA (*Experimental Aircraft Association*) and had resided in this area his whole life. She said the discussions during the meeting continued to be positive ones which assisted the County Facilities Committee as they evaluated different opportunities at the Airport. She stated a presentation by County staff regarding expenses associated with a municipal owned and operated Airport would be given at the next meeting in order to piggy back on their presentation regarding revenue that was provided at this months meeting.

Continuing to the report by the acting County Administrator Supervisor Geraghty read aloud a listing of the meetings he attended since the February 17, 2017 Board Meeting; a copy of which is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting. He stated due to the absence of Supervisor Montesi he had chaired the meeting of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee on February 28th wherein proposed Resolution Nos. 93-95 were approved and he proceeded with a brief overview of them. Supervisor Geraghty remarked he found the meeting of the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks to be very informative, as he was unaware that there was a business located in Washington County that manufactured medical device testing equipment for MRI and X-ray machines all across the United States. He advised he attended a meeting with the Glens Falls Transportation Council during which he stated although he was supportive of bike trails he felt paving the roads in the County was more of a priority than developing bike trails. Supervisor Geraghty informed that he and Supervisors Hyde and Merlino, as well as staff members of the Tourism Department, attended the ceremonial first tapping of the maple tree at Toad Hill Maple Farm in the Town of Thurman. He noted among those in attendance were the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture, Assemblyman Stec, Assemblywoman Woerner and Senator Little. He stated that this was the first time in several years the event was held in Warren County. He mentioned he was hopeful State Route 418 would be paved since Senator Little mentioned how it was in a state of disrepair and was unaware that it was a State Road. Supervisor Geraghty commended the efforts of the Adirondack Civic Center Coalition and he noted going forward they would require some form of financial assistance from the County in order to continue to manage the Glens Falls Civic Center. Supervisor Geraghty reported that the County Offices were closed for all non essential employees at 10:00 a.m. on March 14th due to inclement weather which was creating hazardous road conditions. He extended his gratitude to all County employees who had to work during the snowstorm on March 14th, as well as the Town and City workers. He acknowledged the road crews County-wide for doing a good job with snow removal on the roads.

Supervisor Geraghty then recognized the following people for their years of service to the County which

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he said was greatly appreciated:

- * William Girard for 40 years of service to the Sheriff Department
- * Ralph Bartlett for 25 years of service to Sheriff's Department

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Reichenbach to provide a report from the County Attorney. Mr. Reichenbach apprised he had no report.

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 January 2017 from the Warren County Probation Department.
2. Report of Activities for 2016 from the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board.

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp. January 2017 surcharge in the amount of \$4,095.

Letter from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, informing that the Heintzelman Library located in Brant Lake, NY is to be considered for nomination to the National and State Registers of Historic Places at their next meeting scheduled for March 23, 2017.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 88-139 were mailed; she informed that proposed Resolution No. 89 was amended after mailing and a motion was necessary to approve the amendment to the resolution. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Sokol and carried unanimously. Mrs. Allen advised that proposed Resolution No. 140 was prepared after mailing and a motion was necessary to bring it to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Strough, seconded by Supervisor Merlino and carried unanimously.

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

Supervisor Simpson requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 123, *Resolution in Support of Governor Cuomo's Empire State Trail*.

Supervisor Thomas requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 126, *Amending Resolution No. 501 of 2012, Providing for Background Checks of Candidates for Managerial Level Employment with the County of Warren, to Allow Background Checks to Be Performed by the Warren County Sheriff's Office*.

Supervisor Braymer requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 121, *Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Execute the SEQRA Parts 2 and 3 for the Runway 1-19 Extension at the Warren County (Floyd Bennett Memorial) Airport*.

In regards to proposed Resolution No. 91, *Amending the Warren County Travel Policy*, Supervisor Thomas requested that the travel request forms include the cost of the travel, as well as whether those costs would be paid through grant funds or the County Budget, to ensure they were aware of the total travel costs and how they would be paid. Chairman Conover advised he believed these expenses were listed somewhere on the form; however, he noted, if it was not they would amend the form to include this information.

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Supervisor Thomas requested clarification pertaining to proposed Resolution No. 106, *Establishing Procedures Regarding the Tax Property Foreclosure Last Chance Meeting for Real Property Tax Services*, and whether “prior Last Chance Meeting” meant the year prior or any prior and Ms. Delurey replied that it referred to any prior Last Chance meeting. He pointed out this meant someone who attended a Last Chance meeting several years ago could not attend any future Last Chance meetings.

Supervisor Braymer interjected that Supervisor Thomas was bringing to light a good concern; however, she noted, individuals could still attend future meetings even if they had been to previous ones. She said the purpose was to discourage the same people from coming every year but it was not a blanket prohibition. She noted the decision to provide assistance or not remained that of the Committee. She mentioned that Mr. Reichenbach had approved the language included in the policy. Supervisor Thomas apprised his concern was that individuals be afforded the opportunity to plead their case to the Committee again if needed.

Mr. Reichenbach stated he had expressed the same concern as Supervisor Thomas but he was satisfied that Item 4 included in the Resolution would address the fact that there was no intent for one appearance in a lifetime requirement.

Supervisor Dickinson remarked while he was appreciative of the effort to create some guidelines pertaining to the Last Chance meeting, he was aware as the previous Chairman of the Committee that the individuals who attended the meeting presented heartbreaking reasons for falling behind on their taxes, none of which were cut and dry or black and white. He apprised when he was Chairman of the Committee he did everything possible to ensure they were allowed to keep their properties. He said while the rules were appropriate they should keep in mind they were talking about peoples lives. He reminded them there was a standing rule that stated if an individual was in a current installment agreement they could not enter into another one or revise the terms of the current one.

Supervisor Beaty concurred with Supervisor Dickinson and he noted these individuals were not being given a free pass, as they were charged interest and late fees in addition to the amount of back taxes that were due. He said the County should be partners with these individuals instead of adversaries. He added he would take issue if the additional fees and interest were not being charged to anyone who paid their taxes late.

Supervisor Braymer informed that proposed Resolution No. 106, *Establishing Procedures Regarding the Tax Property Foreclosure Last Chance Meeting for Real Property Tax Services*, pertained to the process required to attend the Last Chance meeting. She pointed out once a person appeared before the Committee to plead their case, the Committee had the option to extend a number of different solutions to provide for some relief to these individuals as had been the case in previous years, as well.

Supervisor Brock stated the purpose of the meeting was not to seize property from individuals but rather to focus on solutions. He pointed out a number of times the best way to resolve their back taxes did not encompass going before the Committee at the Last Chance meeting in hopes of getting relief. He stated the intent was to encourage those who may not wish to discuss things to open up about their issue prior to the meeting so that they can be directed toward a solution which did not always include attending the Last Chance meeting to ask for additional time or to enter into an installment agreement. He remarked the point was not to come down hard on anyone.

Supervisor Merlino apprised that he never understood why an individual would forgo their property when they owed a minimal amount of back taxes only to have it sold by the County at the tax foreclosure auction for significantly more than the amount of back taxes due. He pointed out instead

of having the property foreclosed on they could sell it themselves and pay off the back taxes owed and possibly have some additional money leftover rather than losing everything. He remarked that the County's intention was not to foreclose upon peoples property.

Supervisor Dickinson informed that most individuals included within the County foreclosure were unaware of the law and the County's process. He said these were generally complicated matters that were beyond these individuals scope of understanding which was why a number of them went into denial or waited until the last minute before they asked the County and ask for assistance.

In regards to proposed Resolution No. 123, *Resolution in Support of Governor Cuomo's Empire State Trail*, Supervisor Montesi stated that he believed if the Board were to adopt the proposed Resolution it meant they were in favor of the Empire State Trail which was proposed by Governor Cuomo. He pointed out the Empire State Trail did not go through Warren County nor did it connect to the bike trail here. He added he felt a better use of the money allocated for the development of this bike trail would be to fix the roads and bridges that were in a state of disrepair which was why he would be voting in opposition of the proposed Resolution.

Supervisor Simpson advised that he concurred with Supervisor Montesi, as the \$53 million set aside to construct the Empire State Trail could be used to fix the roads and bridges. He said while he concurred that bike trails did improve the quality of life for residents, he could not support the construction of a trail when the County could not keep up with the maintenance of its current roads and bridges which was a complaint often voiced by the taxpayers here. He added the cost to maintain the trail needed to be considered, as well, since there was no plan as to how they were going to pay for these costs in the future.

Supervisor Dickinson apprised he could support the trail if it passed through Lake George and Bolton and included the reconstruction of Bolton Road; however, he said, since it did not, he was opposed to it.

Supervisor Geraghty advised he had been decrying about the shape of the State roads in Warren County for a number of years now such as 9N, Route 8 and 418, all of which were in desperate need of attention. He stated according to the New York State Department of Transportation Region 1 Manager the funding for roads had been cut this year which meant the likelihood of these roads being taken care of was slim to none. He apprised while he was supportive of bike trails he could not support the proposed Resolution while the State roads remained in a state of disrepair. He remarked he was not against bicycling but rather he did not support the Governors Budget and the money he set aside to develop the Empire State Trail specifically because of the cutback in funding for roads.

Supervisor Seeber inquired whether the State would be covering the increasing cost of maintenance for the bike trails here since the usage would be growing and Supervisor Geraghty replied that he was unsure.

Supervisor Strough remarked while he was appreciative of the concerns expressed and concurred with them about the condition of the roads he did not think this particular proposal was taking away funding for the roads but rather allocating funds to the development of the trail system which would connect with the Feeder Canal Bike Trail that connected to the Warren County Bike Trail. He said he believed there were other areas of the Governor Budget that included funding that could be redirected towards roads which was why he was unsure why they were questioning the allocation to the trail system.

Supervisor Simpson pointed out the question remained who was going to pay for the trail system, as the \$53 million in funding may not come from the New York State Department of Transportation but it was still taxpayer money. He mentioned the big picture revolved around the fact that it was a substantial amount of money with no plans included for maintenance which was why in principle he could not be supportive of it.

Supervisor Leggett apprised he had been following bike tours for over forty years most of which used roads that were not developed for bikes creating an unsafe situation. He said creating a bike trail system took the pressure off of the existing infrastructure to upgrade it in order to accommodate the safety of bicyclists. As pointed out by Supervisor Strough, he stated it was unfair to make it a bike trail or road improvement assessment, as there was a significant amount of money included in the Governor's Budget that could be allocated from and not necessarily co-related that the funds would be taken away from roads. He voiced his support of proposed Resolution No. 123, *Resolution in Support of Governor Cuomo's Empire State Trail*.

Supervisor McDevitt commented that he felt in this circumstance they were comparing apples to oranges, as they were two separate issues. He suggested they make an effort to get Senator Little and Assemblyman Stec to advocate for funding for the roads; however, he noted, they should not confuse the two issues.

Supervisor Braymer referred to the fact that Supervisor Geraghty had alluded that the State roads had been in a state of disrepair for several years now. She suggested that they continue to request that the State representatives advocate for funding to repair the roads. She pointed out voting in opposition of the proposed Resolution did not mean the \$53 million would automatically be allocated toward State roads in Warren County. She mentioned if they had attended the joint meeting of the Economic Growth & Development and Tourism Committees on February 27th they would be aware of what was already occurring with the bikes trails in Warren County and the economic impact it provided to the region. She added it was also an improvement in the quality of life for the residents here which was another benefit to the County and why she thought they would want to support the proposed Resolution.

Supervisor Thomas remarked that one would think you could walk and chew gum at the same time but he had not seen any evidence of that and as a representative of the taxpayers in Stony Creek he could not vote in favor of expending \$53 million on a new project when State Route 418 has been continually neglected over the last ten years. He said he was unable to support the development of a bike trail when the State made no effort to allocate funding to fix the roads here.

Supervisor Brock questioned whether they could amend the resolution to include a request that the trail be constructed along the west side of Lake George and Supervisor Montesi responded an issue with that would be restrictions set by the APA (*Adirondack Park Agency*). Chairman Conover advised he felt they needed to deal with the Governor's proposal.

Supervisor Girard informed the bike trail in Warren County had been tremendously successful. He said he felt they played a part in the reason the roads were in a state of disrepair. He reminded them they had never been able to recuperate from when they cut funding to the roads in prior years. He pointed out the County was just as guilty as the State for not allocating funding correctly, as they had provided \$6 million in funding to SUNY Adirondack when a more appropriate use for it would have been the roads. He apprised tourism was one of the largest industries in Warren County and he felt it would grow even more with the development of this trail. He mentioned he did not foresee tourists not coming here because of the condition of the roads.

Supervisor MacDonald commented although both the bike trail and the roads were worthy discussions and had plenty of merit they were two separate issues. He said there was plenty of funding elsewhere in the Governor's Budget wherein an argument could be made as to why money was not being allocated to it or taking money away in his opinion is more appropriate here and moving it to there. He apprised he fully understood the plight of having poor roads but as stated by Supervisor Girard the bike trail revolved around tourism. He advised bringing people to the County directly related to sales tax which could be allocated to fixing the roads. He mentioned although there was a significant amount of merit behind some of the argument against this resolution, he believed the big picture consisted of keeping people here and providing a higher quality of life to the younger generations which would result in a larger return on investment.

Supervisor Brock requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 119, *Resolution Approving Increase in Rental Rates Charged by the Fixed Base Operator at Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport.*

In regards to proposed Resolution Nos. 108, *Authorizing Agreement with the South Warren Snowmobile Club, Inc. to Use Approximately 7,128 Feet (1.35 Miles) of the Warren County Bikeway for a Snowmobile Trail*, and 109, *Authorizing Agreement with Northern Warren Trailblazer Snowmobile Club, Inc. to Continue Use of a Snowmobile Trail on Warren County Property in the Towns of Warrensburg and Bolton*, Supervisor Braymer advised it had been brought to her attention that someone had a concern about one of her professional relationships with a client she represented in a case regarding snowmobile trails. She stated for the public record she did represent that entity in her professional capacity but that did not influence her decision on the aforementioned resolutions which she would be supporting, as well as proposed Resolution No. 123 all having to deal with multi-use trails including snowmobiles.

Chairman Conover called for public comments on the proposed Resolutions.

Mr. Whitehead informed they did not mention proposed Resolution No. 92, *Authorizing Disbursement of Funds from Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation to Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District.* He stated he had been trying to get an answer for about a year now as to what the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District was and he had received various answers. He said before they considered granting money to the Organization his question should be answered. He apprised he called the New York State Authorities Budget Office to inquire whether they had oversight over this Organization and they replied in the negative and then he called the New York State Department of Agriculture and asked them and they replied in the negative but suggested that Warren County may be the one charged with overseeing the Organization. He mentioned his concern pertained to whether the Purchasing Policy was being followed, as this appeared to be a recurring theme in all of his findings including Siemens and the Lake George Watershed Coalition and the fact that General Municipal Laws 103 and 104 were not being adhered to. He stated these laws were in place to ensure when taxpayer dollars were expended over a certain threshold bids were required and awarded on that basis. He advised according to Mrs. Butler the difference between a purchase for the Public Works Department and the Soil & Water Conservation District was that DPW bidding was governed by the County's Purchasing Policy and New York State General Municipal Law 103 unless State or Federal funds were involved in which case those policies and procedures would prevail. He continued, Soil & Water Conservation District was different in that they were not 100% a County Department and had their own Board of Directors. He said Mrs. Butler mentioned that the District Manager of the Organization contacted their Office to request guidance or additional information before purchasing many items but he was not specifically bound by the County's policies although they were included in the County's bids whenever possible. He added a copy of the County Purchasing Policy was provided to the Organization for the purpose of references. He advised he tried to FOIL their Organization but was told they were not subject to FOIL which he believed to be accurate. He mentioned the issue was there needed to be some type of accountability when public funds were given away or issues similar to what occurred with the Lake George Watershed Coalition could happen and he would like to ensure that someone could

verify whether their Organization followed General Municipal Law 103 and show him that they have. He added until this was done he was going to continue to ask the questions and he felt the County should be too.

Chairman Conover stated that they had the option to request a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 92, *Authorizing Disbursement of Funds from Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation to Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District*, tabling it or voting on it as it stood. He requested that Mr. Reichenbach make arrangements to provide Mr. Whitehead with a clear description what the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District was in a corporate sense and its status under the law.

In regards to proposed Resolution No. 92, Supervisor Thomas advised that the \$1,000 in question was donated by the Capital District Regional Off Track Betting Corporation and passed through the County and was allocated to the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District to fund the Envirothon Program which was an environmentally themed academic competition. He explained the participants of the Envirothon Program consisted of students from every school district in the County, as well as WSWHE (*Washington, Saratoga, Warren, Hamilton, Essex*) BOCES. Chairman Conover added the proposed resolution clearly stated that the County was acting as a pass through for the funds but Mr. Reichenbach would provide answers to Mr. Whitehead relative to the other questions he had regarding the Organization.

Supervisor Montesi informed there were four members of the Board appointed to the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors, two of which were appointed by Chairman, while one represented the Grange and the remaining one was a representative for the public. He said this week he and another member of the Board conducted an audit review of the Organization following which they announced that as a result of the Performance Reviews conducted by the State on the Organization they were awarded \$92,000. He added that they were one of the few Soil & Water Conservation Districts within the State that was allocated the full \$92,000. He said while he was pleased Mr. Reichenbach would be providing Mr. Whitehead with the answers he was seeking, he was embarrassed that a group like those that were members of the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors was being questioned.

Supervisor Beaty apprised that he did not believe Mr. Whitehead was questioning the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors but rather he was questioning the process, as it was becoming blatantly clear that towns or individuals were not adhering to General Municipal Law 103 which clearly stated that bidding was a requirement. He said his interpretation of Mr. Whitehead's request was that he wanted to ensure the Law was being followed because it protected the taxpayers. He remarked although Supervisor Montesi could assure the Board everything had been handled appropriately the process was what he thought Mr. Whitehead was referring to, as he wanted assurances that the bidding process was being handled in the appropriate manner according to the law.

Supervisor Seeber commented she would never be insulted if anyone asked her a question as an elected official, as their job was to represent the people. She asked why the Capital District Regional Off Track Betting Corporation was not permitted to donate directly to the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District and Mr. Reichenbach replied he was unsure but he would research the matter and report back to her. Supervisor Seeber requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 92, *Authorizing Disbursement of Funds from Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation to Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District*, and advised she would be voting in opposition of it due to the unanswered questions associated with it.

Supervisor Leggett remarked speaking as a member of the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors and the fact that he attended all of their meetings and was associated with

the Chester Town Board, as well as a member of many of the Standing Committees he could attest that the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District was well run. He said it was equal to the quality of the Cornell Cooperative Extension also follows, as they were professional. He stated that he felt if Mr. Whitehead requested that the District Manager explain their Organization he would willingly oblige. He advised at the last meeting of the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors they discussed various bids because there was a significant amount of grant funding involved which required them to adhere to strict accounting principles. He continued, the difference in the bids they were discussing was \$50. He said they were very thorough with all of the work they did. He stated he was unaware of whether they followed General Municipal Law 103 but he could attest to the fact that they had a Purchasing Policy that they adhered to.

Chairman Conover called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 88-140 were approved as presented.

Chairman Conover called for public comments for anyone wishing to address the Board on any matter.

Mr. Whitehead advised as far as he could tell the work completed by the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District was good and he did not believe anyone in this room thought differently; however, he stated, he did not think anyone in the room would object to the fact that the work the Lake George Watershed Coalition had done great work over the last fifteen years but his question for both of them was the same. He stated he would like to ensure the rules that protected us as taxpayers were being adhered to. He mentioned the future of the Lake George Watershed Coalition was now in considerable doubt after bringing million of dollars into the region because it appeared that a good portion of these funds had gone astray. He attested to the fact that the amount of money missing was significantly more than the \$70,000 mentioned by Sheriff York the other day.

In regards to the \$2.4 million in IGT funds that were mentioned earlier and would be received over the course of a year, Mr. Whitehead stated that the County was required to match half so essentially \$1.2 million in funds was the net value. He reminded them of when they were discussing the sale of Westmount Health Facility the estimate related to IGT funds was only \$1.6 million. He explained this figure had increased because the number of County-owned nursing homes within the State was dwindling thereby increasing the pool of money that was shared by them. He remarked as a result of the good work Lloyd Cote, *Administrator, former Westmount Health Facility*, did managing the facility coupled with the increase in IGT funds, he believed the facility could have been budget neutral at this point but this was a moot point now.

Mr. Whitehead apprised he believed the reason a settlement was being discussed concerning Siemens was a direct result of the fact that Siemens was uncomfortable with the spot they were in. He surmised that the language Siemens was seeking from the County and the payment they were willing to make were probably related. He said more than likely they would be willing to provide more compensation to the County if the County agreed to take more responsibility for what occurred here. He suggested they take their time and review the matter carefully, as they were only hearing from a few people that were dealing with Siemens directly. He commented as a taxpayer, if the County had to admit to making a mistake in order to receive more compensation from Siemens then he wanted them to do so.

Chairman Conover called for announcements.

Supervisor Dickinson reported that the Lake George Watershed Coalition which was made up of the Towns and Villages around Lake George and the Lake George Basin and he noted it continued to operate as usual. He mentioned in light of the fact that they had an issue with one of their employees they had found others that were willing to step up and fill in due to this vacancy. He stated they continued to seek grant funding that would benefit the well being of the Lake George Basin.

Supervisor Geraghty congratulated the Lake George Boys Basketball Team, as they were playing today in the Class C State Semi Final game at an undisclosed location that should have been at the Glens Falls Civic Center but this was no longer the case. He suggested they do everything possible to try and bring the Tournament back to the Glens Falls Civ Center in two years.

Supervisor Merlino advised that he had attended a lunch meeting with Supervisor MacDonald and he hoped he answered his questions.

Supervisor Seeber called attention to the Proclamation included within the resolution packet which proclaimed the week of April 2-8, 2017 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. She stated that she had coordinated with SUNY Plattsburg and SUNY Adirondack to host a conference that was free of cost on April 7th at the SUNY Adirondack campus. She said both the Warren County Sheriff and the Warren County District Attorney would be speaking at this conference which was why she hoped the Chairman and County Administrator would be able to attend. She informed an Investigator from the New York State Police would be discussing her own victimization and the day would end with the opportunity to discuss protecting the elderly from financial fraud and abuse. She stated she would love to see the support of the County leaders at the conference. She added this was a collaboration with Washington County and their Sheriff and District Attorney would be speaking there, as well.

Supervisor Seeber acknowledged Supervisors Braymer and MacDonald for joining her along with Philip and Nancy Underwood, as well as Darlene Hayes from the Warren county SPCA in the Trivia for SUNY Adirondack on March 3rd during which they competed against members of the Washington County Board of Supervisors. She stated for the record that they lost by one point and she felt had they united and had more participants from the Board they would have been able to pull through with the win. She encouraged all to participate in next years competition.

Supervisor Montesi asked Supervisor Seeber what time the conference was on April 7th and Supervisor Seeber replied that it was scheduled from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. with lunch being provided free of charge by SUNY Plattsburg. She stated that she would have Mrs. Allen forward the information onto the Board following the meeting.

Supervisor Leggett recognized the North Warren Central School and the Lake George Central School for taking tops in the State Alpine competition, as well as the North Warren Central School Girls Basketball Team for making at as far as they did in the State Championships.

Supervisor Sokol stated that the salaries issue with nurses working for Public Health was not a new one, as the County had been dealing with it for many years, but now it was becoming more serious. He said he felt the Finance Committee needed to have a collaborative effort with the Human Resources Department because what was occurring was even though the County offered an ample benefits to new employees the starting salary was much lower than what other organizations were offering. He stated he wanted to discuss whether they could develop some sort of solution to address the matter. Chairman Conover added there were other service providers that were attempting to recruit from the same pool of nursing candidates as the County was. Supervisor Geraghty suggested a small group be formed to meet with Public Health and discuss the issue, as this is what they did to address the same issue in 2007. Chairman Conover informed he would discuss the matter with Supervisor Frasier, who was the Chair of the Health, Human & Social Services Committee and report back to Supervisor Sokol.

Supervisor MacDonald announced the Warren County Superbowlers Team which consisted of himself and Supervisors Braymer, Seeber and Sokol would be participating in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl for Kids Sake event on March 26th. He stated April 12th he would be conducting his quarterly Town Hall meeting he hosted with Jim Clark, 5th Ward Councilman, City of Glens Fall, and he encouraged all to attend.

Supervisor Dickinson apprised over the last few years the Town of Lake George had been working on a sewer initiative which encompassed upgrading septic systems along the shoreline of Lake George. He informed a public meeting was scheduled for the purpose of discussing the initiative at Six Flags on March 30th. He said this was an all day event and breakfast and lunch would be served. He encouraged anyone who was considering on site sewage disposal to contact him to attend, as they would have a number of speakers discussing the matter there.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Simpson and seconded by Supervisor Geraghty, Chairman Conover adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:54 a.m.