

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 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 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ronald F. Conover presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Thomas.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Leggett, Girard, McDevitt, Braymer, Brock, MacDonald, Frasier, Simpson, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Seeber, Beaty, Sokol, Thomas and Conover - 16; Supervisors Vanselow, Montesi, Hyde and Geraghty absent - 4.

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Conover noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of the May 19th Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Braymer and carried unanimously.

Continuing with the Agenda review, Chairman Conover extended privilege of the floor to Supervisor Seeber, for the presentation of a Certificate of Excellence to Andrew Paolano, *SUNY (State University of New York) Adirondack graduate*. Supervisor Seeber introduced Mr. Paolano, a Warren County resident who graduated this year. She said his presence tonight had inspired the 4th and 5th grade students who were in attendance for winning the 2017 Tar Wars Tobacco Free Education Program and Poster Contest to attend college. She mentioned Mr. Paolano had been formally recognized at the College's Commencement Ceremony on May 17, 2017. She apprised they did not label him with a disability, as he was always moving forward and never backwards with several testimonies regarding how hard he worked to obtain his degree. She advised as residents of the County, the Board members were honored to congratulate Mr. Paolano on such a job well done. She recognized his family for assisting him in obtaining his degree. A round of applause was given.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Conover extended privilege of the floor to Dan Durkee, *Senior Health Educator*, for the presentation of certificates to the winners of the 2017 Tar Wars Tobacco Free Education Program and Poster Contest for students in grades 4 and 5 of the participating schools in Warren County. Mr. Durkee made a Powerpoint presentation which displayed the winning posters and outlined the program objectives; *a copy of the Powerpoint presentation is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting*. Chairman Conover presented each winner with a certificate commending their efforts, following which a round of applause was given.

Moving along, Chairman Conover opened the floor to the public comment on efforts to reduce use of plastic shopping bags in Warren County.

Catherine Atherden, *Representing Tri-County NY Transition*, advised it was her organization that originally brought the proposal forward before the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee and then to the Legislative & Rules Committee. She then proceeded to read aloud a letter she had written to *The Post Star* as follows: "The thin plastic bags our groceries are bagged in are made from polyethylene which is a product of petroleum and natural gas. Over one trillion plastic

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bags are used worldwide each year. The U.S. alone discards 100 billion a year which is about 500 bags per person and they use an estimated 12 million barrels of oil at a cost to retailers of \$4 billion which is then passed on to us, the consumer. They are used an average of twelve minutes and then they are thrown away but they take an estimated 1,000 years to fully degrade because they just get broken down into smaller and smaller pieces and they release chemicals the entire time. Their toxicity contaminates our soil, our waterways, our oceans and it threatens us and wildlife. We do not need them. Widespread usage only began about 45 years ago. It was a created need that economically has only benefitted the bag industry and they have done a great job in perpetuating this need. Plastic bags are estimated to be the number one consumer item in the world. The bags are a learned addiction to convenience no longer appropriate or sustainable in this day and age. Recycling turns out not to be a solution even though recycling in stores has been in effect for about twenty years it is obviously not the solution, as estimates vary between 1-10% are recycled. Everything else ends up in the landfill or in our waters. The other thing is the efforts that get folks to voluntarily bring reusable bags into the grocery store has largely been unsuccessful also. Even though Hannaford promotes reusable bags in our area, Price Rite and Aldis charge for plastic bags, BJ's and Sams Club do not have them, Target and Price Chopper credit for reusable bags. She said she thinks its insane that non renewable fossil fuels are used that take millions of years to create in order to produce an item that we use once or twice and then throw away”.

Bob Benway, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, stated that he was just curious whether there was an issue with plastic bags specific to Warren County that they had to be banned here. He informed there were many products made with thin film plastic such as garbage bags, lunch bags, meat packaging, etc. He said one of the reasons individuals preferred plastic bags was because they did not want to put a juicy steak they purchased at the grocery store in a cloth bag. He mentioned according to the employees at the Ridge Road and Luzerne Road Transfer Stations in the Town of Queensbury all of the trash accumulated there was burned, as was the case with waste haulers who unloaded their trucks at the trash plant to be burned. He said in Warren County he was unsure plastic bags would end up in a landfill. He apprised he reused and recycled the plastic bags he obtained, noting they were a convenient item. He added he was aware plastic was used all over such in plastic containers in the grocery store which was why he was wondering why one specific item was being targeted. He inquired whether it related to its appearance or because it had two handles, as he was unsure. He asked what type of penalty, if any, would be enforced if they were banned and someone was caught with them.

Supervisor Sokol inquired whether the resolution before them today had been amended to make no reference to banning and Chairman Conover replied in the affirmative, noting the proposed Resolution neither referenced a ban or charging a fee for plastic bags. Supervisor Sokol stated he was unsure if the public had been made aware of this change.

Bernice Mennis, *Representing Tri-County NY Transition*, stated that some of the items mentioned in the Tar Wars Tobacco Free Education Program and Poster Contest presentation concerning tobacco were applicable to their efforts to reduce the use of plastic bags. She pointed out on one side there was something some would consider convenient but was basically a habit turned into an addiction and on the other side was life. She mentioned plastic bags were consuming significant areas of the oceans. She said birds and their babies were dying because of the plastic crystals in their bodies from plastic bags. She viewed the use of plastic bags as a habit or an addiction and she felt Warren County could set a good example of how to cultivate the same pattern of behavior that could be viewed as pro-life in the deepest ways in terms of the Earth. She pointed out many Countries, Cities and States had placed a banned on plastic bags, California being one of them. She added habits were habits as were smoking or drinking and the purpose of the ban was to cultivate good habits in families and the community that were good for life forms on this earth. She said in terms of the argument to ban or to charge, she felt banning was better, as the argument for how much to charge could go on forever and this was only

applicable to single use plastic bags.

Pam Reed, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, apprised she had written a letter to the editor of *The Post Star* a few weeks ago in response to another letter written by the Executive Director of the American Progressive Bag Alliance in Arlington, Virginia. She said his letter indicated while a ban on bags in Warren County would lead to fewer people using bags it would do nothing to address litter. She informed according to his letter there was nothing wrong with using plastic bags, as they could be recycled. She read aloud her response to the letter as follows: "I would like to comment on the May 24th Letter to the Editor. Really Mr. Matt do the plastic lobbyists needs to extend their grasp all the way from Virginia to the North Country? Your letter starts out well, recycle and reuse plastic grocery bags but you state that banning or taxing plastic retail bags does not provide any meaningful litter or waste reductions. Statistics show that the average person uses 500 plastic bags a year and most are thrown out and not reused which is so wasteful. Yes I reuse a few single use bags for garbage bags rather than to buy new ones but because I recycle my cans, glass and plastic I reuse fewer than I would bring home from the store, rather I use cloth for grocery shopping to avoid single use plastic bags. I do agree if you are purchasing meat then you use some that you have and bring them with your other cloth bags. You write that plastic bag regulation pushes customers towards less sustainable options including reusable cloth and thicker plastic. That simply is not true. Cloth bags can be washed and reused many times. I keep sturdy cloth and plastic bags in my car and when I go shopping I just grab a few. That is handy and easy. My assortment of bags come from yard sales, for \$.25 or as promotional giveaways. So I do not agree with you that some folks can not afford them. Single use bags rip easily. Have you every had all of your groceries scatter and break when the bag rips? Cloth or sturdy plastic bags are best for those who walk to the store, bicycle or ride the bus".

Timothy Moriarty, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, informed he first became aware of this issue a few weeks ago when he read some articles in the press and it surprised him that this was such a significant issue for the residents here. In regards to those that were promoting the ban, he mentioned there appeared to be no good alternative. He suggested that everyone continue to do what they want to do meaning those that want to use cloth bags go ahead and do so, those that want to recycle the plastic bags go ahead and do so, those that want to use the plastic bags offered by the retailer go ahead and do so, etc. He pointed out there did not appear to be much of a presence of paper bags anymore because those who wanted to ban the plastic bags also pushed for the decrease of paper bags due to its association with the destruction of trees. He remarked this appeared not be a County issue and if it had any merits at all it should be taken up at the State level.

Dana Stimpson, *City of Glens Falls Resident*, stated she moved to this area about two years ago from the Seattle, Washington area where there was a ban on single use plastic grocery bags. She remarked the ban there had been a success, as people adapted. She mentioned the way it worked was the stores did not issue the single use plastic bags nor would they pack your groceries in them; however, she noted, you were not arrested if you traveled into the County with your own plastic bags. She informed the alternative was for individuals to carry reusable bags with them. She stated once this was enforced in Seattle she noticed she no longer saw the single use plastic bags she normally saw everywhere along side the road, in trees, floating down the rivers to the sea where they were detrimental. She reiterated a ban on single use plastic bags did work, as people adapted to it and she felt the County should consider implementing a ban.

Sean Garvey, *Local Businessman and Warren County Resident*, apprised he had brought several show and tell items with him tonight so the Board could understand some of the repercussions pertaining to placing a ban on single use plastic bags. He thanked the Board members for their public service, as he was well aware they did not do it for money and he admired them for being involved in politics

during the decisive state they were in today. He informed many years ago he obtained a degree in chemistry and biology so he used to think of himself as a scientist. He continued, he put himself through college working on cars and ultimately ended up involved in that business. He said he wanted to discuss half life because sometimes this was referred to when someone complained about plastic bags. He proceeded with a demonstration regarding half life for plastic bags and then discussed how Congress made an error when they made it mandatory for florescent light bulbs to be sold and used rather than a regular lightbulb with the good intention of reducing the use of electricity; however, he noted florescent light bulbs contained mercury which created a waste stream much worse than broken glass from a bulb. He remarked he resented the fact that someone at the County level could force the residents of the County to behave in a certain way. He mentioned he liked the suggestion made earlier to allow people the option to use plastic, paper or cloth and they could recycle if they chose to do so. He advised in his business they recycled an abundant amount of material which was why he believed in recycling and was not against it. He proceeded to show how a bundle of plastic bags was much smaller than a bundle of paper bags. He added although they were referred to as single use plastic bags but said he would contest that definition, as he used some of the ones he acquired for other purposes such as for packing his shoes in when he was traveling, using the, for dirty clothes etc. He continued, while single use plastic bags were eventually thrown out or recycled there was no issue with the landfills here because the garbage was burned. He remarked he concurred when the single use plastic bags were burned they omitted a toxic resin but burning a paper bag also omitted pollutants into the air. He referred to his example of how a bundle of plastic bags was much smaller than a bundle of paper bags and advised he could burn a smaller amount of plastic bags than paper bags after one week of going shopping. He stated many environmentalists felt plastic bags were evil; however, he noted, the same environmentalists complained about trees being cut down in the Adirondacks to allow it to be preserved forever. He said this meant the pulp to make the paper bags had to be imported from Canada. He commented he was seeking hard evidence or data pertaining to how a ban on plastic bags would result in a net positive impact on the environment. He stated he was not implying plastic bags were good or paper bags were better but rather his point was there should be a choice and if the County wanted to encourage more recycling they could ask the stores to offer paper bags. He added paper bags were more single use than plastic bags were because of their size and makeup.

Ms. Atherden clarified the proposal included a ban or fee on both paper and single use plastic bags.

Robin Barkenhagen, *City of Glens Falls Resident, Treasurer, Warren County Green Party*, advised paper bags could also be manufactured from hemp. He read aloud the following official statement from the Green Party of New York on a ban on plastic bags which they were in favor of: "We would like to enact an immediate Statewide ban on plastic carry out bags. The Green Party will continue to educate shoppers, corporations and the government on the harmful environmental impacts of plastic bags and will oppose efforts by the Governor and the Legislature to subvert the democratic right of municipalities to enact local laws on this issue". He reiterated the Green Party of New York and of Warren County was in favor of the ban.

Jeanne Noordsy, *City of Glens Falls Resident*, informed she had lived at least part-time in Warren County for the last 51 years and she was here with her father, Harvey Noordsy, who was also a resident of the County. She stated she was present today as a citizen, as she was not part of one of the groups who were advocating for the ban, but she cared about what they were trying to enact. She mentioned she felt it would be easy to adjust to not using plastic bags, as it was something she had started paying attention to over the years when she became aware of how hard it was to reuse them since they tore so easily. She said the reusable bags were more attractive and lasted a long time. She apprised she saw more of her friends and relatives making the switch from plastic bags to reusable bags. She commented she believed the residents of the County were capable of adjusting to using reusable bags rather than

plastic ones. She continued, she felt the problem would be solved little by little as more communities banned plastic bags. She pointed out the generations prior to the development of plastic bags lived without them which was why she believed we could adapt back to not using them. She concluded by stating she wanted to ensure the planet and all its beauty was around for future generations.

Jane Kana, *Representing Tri-County NY Transition*, stated she carried a nylon bag in her purse with her when she went to different merchants such as the downtown area where she liked to shop. She said she always asked the merchant to place the items she purchased in her nylon bag and more often than not the merchant was grateful she had spared them the price of another bag. She continued, they always thanked her and asked her to spread the word to have more people do this. She pointed out the bag only weighed one ounce but was still able to carry everything home for her.

Sandy Lamb, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, apprised his concern related to plastic bags and his grandchildren. He added he found it much easier and more useful for him to use reusable cloth bags which held more product.

Harvey Noordsy, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, informed he had heard the argument from the Governor when he vetoed the bill which would ban plastic bags in New York City that it would place an unbearable cost more specifically on seniors. He remarked he believed this was a very invalid argument, as he had purchased two cloth bags from Hannaford over five years ago and they were still in use. He added since then they had been given dozens of cloth bags by many other organizations which worked for wet clothes, as well as many other things besides groceries. He continued, the alternative was not just paper or plastic. He mentioned the hardest thing was to remember putting the cloth bags in the car but he believed if a fee of \$.05 was charged for an alternative paper bag a few times people would remember their bags better.

Diane Collins, *Representing Tri-County NY Transition*, commented the bottom line was they would run out of fossil fuels one day and they could be part of an answer to having that be further down the road. She stated the incredible waste of the world's natural resources in regards to this one item was startling. She mentioned their suggestion was to replace the plastic bag with a reusable bag and as previously noted it was a habit that could be accomplished. She said plastic bags released toxic fumes when they were burned. She apprised the amount of plastic bags accumulating in the oceans was the same size as the State of Texas. She remarked they destroyed parts of the environment which was why she thought the County had a great opportunity to join with other clear thinking Towns, Cities and States to take a stand for the environment and preserving fossil fuel for important things such as plastic used in the medical field, etc. She concluded by stating the thin film plastic bag was an intolerable waste.

Chairman Conover once again called for any comments on the efforts to reduce use of plastic shopping bags in Warren County, and there being none, he asked for public comments on any other resolutions.

Christopher Lynch, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, advised he would like to address the proposed Resolution concerning the Airport Runway Extension. He commented he believed this was a classic case of "putting the cart before the horse" and the horse was possibly backwards for two reasons, the first of which related to the gross errors he found in the final copy of the EIS (*Environmental Impact Statement*) that he had only been able to obtain a copy of today. He said he did not feel the County would ever be able to obtain a FONSI (*Finding of No Significant Impact*) and he questioned why the County was placing a final proposal before the FAA (*Federal Aviation Administration*) when there were so many errors in it. In regards to the marl fen, he apprised he had spoken a number of times about how delicate it was, how it was minimally studied there and how it would be criminal to go along with something like this when it had not been studied. He continued, he felt the issue was that the hydrology

study was part of the final proposal for the FAA and he noted if the hydrology did not work out the County would not be able to construct the 1,000 Runway Extension. He suggested they move forward with the hydrology study now to ensure it was a viable function. He mentioned he thought other issues would arise during the hydrology study regarding the marl fen. He requested that they table the proposed Resolution to allow for more thought on the responses to the questions asked at the public hearing, as well as the Final EAS.

Maureen Lynch, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, stated that she lived across the street from the Airport and wanted to voice her opinion, as well on the proposed Resolution concerning the Airport Runway Extension. She concurred that the hydrology study needed to be completed over the acreage the marl fen was located on prior to going any further because otherwise they may be wasting a significant amount of money. She pointed out it did not matter if it was funding from the FAA or the Local Share because either way the County would end up paying for it in the end. She mentioned the hydrology study could in fact determine the marl fen was not the 10% observed at the surface which had been surveyed and measured to date but rather that there were emerging pockets of marl fen which were developing and could have the chance to become marl fen acreage but would be destroyed if this Project moved forward. She pointed out there was only a handful of acreage worldwide of this type of ecosystem which was why she had been trying to defend it since the beginning against the Runway Extension, as well as the other Airport Runway Projects in process. She continued, she was aware of a significant amount of discussion and advocacy for a ban on plastic bags which was a worldwide issue; however, she noted, Warren County was the only one with marl fen and she would like to think the County felt as strongly from an environmental standpoint about taking care of what was located here. She said she was not suggesting they stop everything but she felt it was more appropriate to “put the horse before the cart” and complete the hydrology study before proceeding any further with the Runway Extension Project.

Fred Austin, *Town of Lake George Resident*, informed he had been involved with the Airport his entire life, noting he was a licensed Engineer. He said the front lawn at the Warren County Municipal Center Building had used top soil taken from the area at the Airport which was now referred to as the marl fen when the building was first erected. He apprised when this top soil was stripped of the clay the 25% of the marl fen in the world was discovered at the Airport. He added, there were actually two locations for this marl fen because when the Queensbury School Campus was constructed they used the free top soil stripped from the Airport. He said because of the marl fen they were not allowed to erect a barbed wire fence at the Airport. He cautioned those stating that a significant percentage of the worlds marl fen was located at the Airport to keep in mind this area was created because they had removed top soil for the Municipal Center front lawn and the lawn of the Queensbury School Campus.

Moving on to the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Conover apprised he would forgo his report this month due to time constraints and move right into the reports by Committee Chairmen on the past months meetings or activities.

Supervisor Thomas called attention to proposed Resolution No. 247, *Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus to Transfers-Capital Projects, Interfund Transfers; Amending 2017 Warren County Budget*, which authorized the use of approximately \$577,000 of the General Fund to be applied to additional restoration and paving projects which he was fully supportive of. He stated a few years ago they had used \$1 million of the General Fund for this purpose and this year he felt the money set aside for this purpose was appropriate. Supervisor Thomas informed NYSAC (*New York State Association of Counties*) had released the estimated property tax cap inflation factor today which was 1.84%. He said last year the inflation factor from the New York State Comptrollers Office was .68%. He mentioned as a reference point a 1.5% increase in the tax levy raised about

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\$630,000.

Supervisor Leggett stated he had no report.

Supervisor Girard reported on the May 23rd meeting of the County Facilities Committee, wherein proposed Resolution Nos. 222-225 were approved and he provided a brief overview of them. He mentioned at the appropriate time he would be requesting to table proposed Resolution No. 223, *Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the Federal Aviation Administration/New York State Department of Transportation for the Runway 1-19 Extension/Phase II FAA RA- Final Design at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport*, which he believed was what Mr. and Mrs. Lynch were referring to during their comments. He advised he attended the monthly meeting at Cornell Cooperative Extension last Monday during which they indicated things were going well, but they were in need of a new roof; he said he had brought this to light at the County Facilities Committee meeting. He apprised County staff had indicated they could take care of this in-house and they were currently working on some repairs but they recognized the life expectancy of the roof had been exceeded. He commented he hoped to get a new roof erected before the upcoming winter months. Supervisor Girard announced the Annual Golf Tournament held by Cornell Cooperative Extension was scheduled for August 26th this year. He said the event had been well attended in previous years and he commended the staff for an excellent job working on the event. He reminded the Board the event was developed in response to the Budget cuts made by the County several years ago to raise funds so they could continue to operate.

Supervisor McDevitt informed he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Braymer reported on the May 22nd meeting of the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee wherein proposed Resolution Nos. 233 and 234 were approved.

Supervisors Brock and MacDonald apprised they had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Frasier reported on the May 24th meeting of the Health, Human & Social Services Committee where proposed Resolution Nos. 218-220 were approved and she proceeded to provide a brief overview of each. She continued with an account of the May 24th meeting of the Support Services Committee where proposed Resolution Nos. 215-217 were approved.

Supervisor Simpson informed the Public Works Committee had met on May 23rd during which Justin Gonyo, *General Superintendent, Saratoga & North Creek Railway*, apprised their contract was in place with Revolution Railriders to operate a rail bike business on the northern portion of the tracks north of the North Creek Station. He stated following the meeting he had received communication from Mr. Gonyo that SNCR planned on operating Thursday through Sunday for this year and were also changing the departure time from the North Creek Station from 3:45 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Supervisor Simpson voiced his support of proposed Resolution No. 247, *Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus to Transfers-Capital Projects, Interfund Transfers; Amending 2017 Warren County Budget*, as it would allow the County to pave more roads and get caught up on updates to its infrastructure. He mentioned a meeting was scheduled with representatives of the NYSDOT (*New York State Department of Transportation*) regarding the State Roads located in the County.

Supervisor Dickinson stated the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee had met on May 22nd, approving proposed Resolution No. 221 which provided a brief overview of it.

Supervisor Merlino advised the Tourism Committee had not met this month but the Tourism Department's advertisements were active and he would report on their results at a future meeting.

Supervisor Strough informed the Legislative & Rules Committee had met on April 24th during where they discussed a ban on single use plastic bags, following which the general consensus was some sort of action was required due to the fact that plastic bags were detrimental to the environment and that habits could be changed to assist with protecting it. He remarked he felt a significant amount of the discussion tonight during the public comment period was inaccurate because the resolution before them today did not call for a ban on paper and plastic bags in Warren County but rather that a public comment period be held on the topic to determine whether the Board would support a letter encouraging State Legislators and the New York State Plastic Bag Task Force created by the Governor to develop and implement legislative action that would reduce the use of single use carry out bags and increase the use of reusable bags. He pointed out the letter in no way told those it was addressed to what to do but indicated the County felt some sort of action was required.

Supervisor Seeber thanked everyone for their support last month for the night meeting, as it was obvious how beneficial it was for the community. She called their attention to proposed Resolution Nos.235-240, and more specifically to proposed Resolution No. 235, *Authorizing a 2% Increase in the Retiree Benefits Contribution Rate for Out-of-unit and CSEA (Civil Service Employees Association) Retirees*, which was amended after it was mailed to change the effective date from July 1st to August 1st to allow for appropriate notice to be provided to retirees regarding the slight increase in their contribution. She apprised if there were any objections to the amendment the resolution could be withdrawn and presented again at the July 21st Board Meeting; however, she noted, this would result in less notice being provided to those that would be impacted by the increase. Supervisor Seeber informed during today's meeting of the Personnel & Higher Education Committee a significant amount of time was spent discussing the possibility of moving forward with self insured plans for both medical and prescription coverage and implementing a stop-loss for the prescription portion with representatives of Jaeger & Flynn Associates, following which it was determined to hold off on making a decision until the June 29th meeting of the Personnel & Higher Education Committee. She stated they had completed all of the mid-year performance reviews of the County Department Heads and the dates had been finalized for the final reviews in September which the Human Resources Department would be emailing to everyone shortly. She said she wanted to provide enough notice to the Committee Chairs and those who were members of the Personnel & Higher Education Committee, as September would be a busy month for them with all of the reviews being conducted which she hoped everyone would be able to participate in. Supervisor Seeber apprised she neglected to notify the Board during the presentation to Mr. Paolano the formal name of the award given to him was the Warren County Board SUNY Adirondack Certificate of Excellence. She stated this process commenced three years ago with both Warren and Washington County presenting the award to one student from each of their Counties who had overcome significant obstacles in the course of pursuing their education while demonstrating academic achievement, exhibiting motivation, tenacity and enthusiasm. Supervisor Seeber informed the purpose of the June 13th Airport Advisory Group meeting was to discuss the pending RFP (*Request for Proposal*) regarding the Airport FBO (*Fixed Base Operator*) contract. She stated the strong consensus of the Group was, to the extent possible not to break apart the RFP and to take into account the feedback the Group would like to be able to provide. She advised the Group conveyed to the County Attorney and Supervisor Geraghty that their hope was to be able to review the RFP in July in order to provide some technical advice to the process. In conclusion, Supervisor Seeber touched upon the June 2nd joint meeting of the Personnel & Higher Education and Finance Committees which she said Supervisor Sokol would be addressing during his report.

Supervisor Beaty stated he had no report but he inquired whether Supervisor Girard had indicated he would like to table proposed Resolution No. 223, *Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the Federal Aviation Administration/New York State Department of Transportation for the Runway 1-19*

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Extension/Phase II FAA RA - Final Design at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport, and Supervisor Girard replied in the affirmative.

Supervisor Sokol provided an overview of the regularly scheduled Finance Committee meeting held on June 1st where proposed Resolution Nos. 211-212, 241-251 and 253 were approved and he called attention to proposed Resolution No. 246, *Establishing Road Fund Project Numbers for Additional Road Paving Projects; Authorizing Transfer of Funds and Amending Warren County Budget for 2017*, which would address the conditions of County Routes 10, 11 and 13. He said he hoped the outcome of the meeting with the State would result in the bad condition of the State roads located in the County being addressed. In regards to proposed Resolution No. 251, *Approving Tentative Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018 for Adirondack Community College and Providing for Public Hearing*, Supervisor Sokol remarked he thought the representatives of the College had done a stellar job preparing a responsible budget. He offered privilege of the floor to Ann Marie Somma, *SUNY Adirondack Vice President for Administrative Services and Treasurer*, who proceeded to review two slides outlining the proposed 2017-2018 SUNY Adirondack operating budget, which she noted was only a 1.95% increase over the prior years budget; copies of both slides are on file with the items distributed at the June 14th Board Meeting.

Supervisor Sokol informed proposed Resolution No. 253, *Authorizing an Agreement with Emergency Services Marketing Corporation, Inc. for the Purchase of I Am Responding Software for the Office of Emergency Services; Authorizing Transfer from Contingent Account*, provided for quicker response time and notified of all those responding to calls whereabouts. He stated Supervisor Seeber had addressed tonight's joint meeting of the Personnel & Higher Education and Finance Committees during her Committee report; however, he noted, he was looking forward to the outcome of the June 29th meeting of the Personnel & Higher Education Committee, as there was a lot of information with regards to insurance coverage to absorb to ensure an informed decision was made. In conclusion he offered privilege of the floor to Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, to provide the monthly update regarding the County's finances.

Mr. Swan advised the notice was distributed today regarding sales tax collections which were up 2.9% over the same timeframe last year, which he was pleased with. He stated the closing on the bond for the NSTEM (*Nursing, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*) and Court House Projects was scheduled for tomorrow. He mentioned the total bond was for \$14.9 million and they had obtained an interest rate of 2.76%.

Continuing with the Agenda review, privilege of the floor was extended to Brian Reichenbach, *County Attorney*, to provide a report from the County Attorney. Mr. Reichenbach stated he had no report.

Chairman Conover then called for the reading of communications, which Amanda Allen, Clerk of the Board, read aloud, as follows:

Reports from:

1. Report of Criminal and Family Workloads for April 2017 from the Warren County Probation Department.
2. Warren and Washington IDA Audited Financial Statement and Auditor's Report for the year ending December 31, 2016
3. Pro Act Discount Card Utilization Report for the period of January 2016 through April 2017
4. Capital District Regional Off Track Betting Corp. March 2017 Surcharge check in the amount of \$4,057.
5. Monthly reports from the Warren County Department of Weights & Measures for the

months of January - May, 2017

Warren and Washington County Civic Development Corp. Notice of Public Hearing concerning the proposed Silver Bay Association for Christian Conference & Training Project which was held on June 7th at 11:00 a.m. at the Community Center in the Town of Hague

Warren and Washington County Civic Development Corp. Notice of Public Hearing concerning the proposed Aviation Hospitality, LLC Project which will be held on June 19th at 10:00 a.m. at the Queensbury Town Office Building in the Supervisors Conference Room.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 211-253 were mailed; she informed that proposed Resolution Nos. 236, 242 and 252 were amended after mailing and a motion was necessary to approve the amendments to these resolutions. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Dickinson, seconded by Supervisor Thomas and carried unanimously. Mrs. Allen advised that proposed Resolution Nos. 254 and 255 were prepared after mailing and a motion was necessary to bring them to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Sokol, seconded by Supervisor Girard and carried unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Supervisor Girard, seconded by Supervisor Leggett and carried unanimously to table proposed Resolution No. 223, *Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the Federal Aviation Administration/New York State Department of Transportation for the Runway 1-19 Extension/Phase II FAA RA - Final Design at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport.*

Supervisor Simpson stated the he felt proposed Resolution No. 242, *Authorizing the County Treasurer to Write off Uncollected Medicaid Receivables Carried over from December 31, 2015 for the Westmount Health Facility*, should be tabled, as he did not agree that these funds were uncollectible.

A motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to table proposed Resolution No. 242.

Supervisor Strough requested roll call votes on proposed Resolution Nos. 239, *Approving Collective Bargaining Agreement Between SUNY Adirondack and the Faculty Association of Adirondack Community College*, 250, *Authorizing Purchase of Real Property Located at 686 Bay Road In the Town of Queensbury in Trust for Use by Adirondack Community College*, and 251, *Approving Tentative Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 - 2018 for Adirondack Community College and Providing for Public Hearing*. He informed his reasoning behind requesting roll call votes for these resolutions related to the fact that he was a member of the SUNY Adirondack Board of Trustees and he would like to recuse himself from any discussion on items concerning financial issues relating to SUNY Adirondack.

In regards to proposed Resolution No. 252, *Authorizing a Letter Requesting Legislative Action Aimed at Reducing Use of Single Use Plastic Bags and Promoting Reusable Bags in Order to Address Environmental Concerns*, Supervisor Merlino commented he believed more time was necessary to consider the resolution, as there was only a handful of people who commented out of the 66,000 people that lived in the County. He suggested they table the resolution to allow for more time to discuss the matter.

Motion was made by Supervisor Merlino and seconded by Supervisor Beaty to table proposed Resolution No. 252, but the motion failed due to a lack of majority vote, with a vote of 439 in favor (*Supervisors Thomas, Leggett, Girard, Frasier, Simpson, Merlino, Seeber, Beaty and Sokol*), 359 opposed (*Supervisors*

McDevitt, Braymer, Brock, MacDonald, Dickinson, Strough and Conover) and 202 absent (Supervisors Hyde, Geraghty, Vanselow and Montesi).

Supervisor Braymer stated she was aware Supervisor Merlino recognized this was just to authorize a letter to and one of the reasons the Legislative & Rules Committee took this course of action was so public input could be provided. She pointed out the public comment period was not an official public hearing because they wanted to take their time to craft language for a Warren County proposal if it was to even get that far. She mentioned the point was to encourage the State Task Force formed for this purpose to move it along which meant no action would be required from the County; however, she noted, if the Task Force did not take any action, she thought the County should consider doing so. She pointed out they had asked for public comments and would do so again but the resolution was simply asking the State Task Force to do what they were tasked with doing expeditiously.

Supervisor Merlino apprised while Supervisor Braymer's explanation was a good one, there were still 12 other Towns and Villages in the County and the majority of those who spoke today on the matter resided in the Town of Queensbury or the City of Glens Falls. He mentioned no one from the Town of Lake Luzerne had offered him their opinion on the matter which was why he felt more time was necessary to explain the situation to the residents of the County.

Supervisor Dickinson informed he had spent 55 years of his life working as a surveyor inside and outside of the County during time which he had observed how detrimental plastic bags were to the environment and the wildlife. He pointed out plastic bags did not degrade but rather broke down into smaller parts over a long time period. He added he did not foresee any issues with using reusable bags, noting he carried an abundant amount of them in his vehicle but he believed there was an issue with plastic bags that required addressing.

Supervisor Simpson remarked while he was not opposed to encouraging and educating the public and attempting to take steps to change the culture, he was fearful of what they asked the State to do. He pointed out you could also find beer cans, diapers, appliances, etc. in the woods.

Supervisor Dickinson interjected you would not find any of the items Supervisor Simpson mentioned in the forests that were untraveled by man, with the exception of plastic bags.

Supervisor MacDonald advised this past weekend when he was fishing on Lake George he observed a Price Chopper plastic bag floating in the lake. He stated he lived by the Feeder Canal which was constantly littered with plastic bags and that was why he felt this was a real issue. He said he understood some did not want to inconvenience anyone by altering their habits and the decisions should be left up to the individual, but this did not negate the issue here. He pointed out Great Britain enacted a law two years ago regarding single use plastic bags which resulted in an 85% reduction of use within six months and the State of California, which had the 6th largest economy in the world, had enacted an outright ban on plastic bags. He commented he was not implying he had all the data necessary to require action but he felt they should task the State with acknowledging the problem and acquiring the resources required to determine the appropriate solution. He pointed out habits were altered for seatbelts and styrofoam. He said he believed it was permissible to ask the State to look into this further and he noted he was fully supportive of the proposed Resolution.

Supervisor Thomas stated he wondered whether they could change habits pertaining to the liter located along the roadways here by enforcement or having individuals collecting public assistance clean it up. He pointed out not even two weeks after the groups who adopted roadways cleaned them up they were covered in liter again. He remarked he could not support a ban on plastic bags when they were unable to get their own residents to clean up after themselves.

Supervisor Sokol informed he was a member of the Legislative & Rules Committee this matter was brought before a few weeks ago and now they were trying to form a resolution on this. He stated he used plastic bags when he owned a grocery store and now in his restaurant so he concurred it was an issue but he agreed with Supervisor Thomas that there were many problems which required addressing. He said he felt this issue was being pushed through and this was a subject that required more State influence than the County which was why he would be voting in opposition. He added he would like to see the matter referred back to the Legislative & Rules Committee for further discussion.

Supervisor McDevitt apprised that this matter was not just brought forward, as Supervisor Braymer had brought it to the table a few months ago and a reasonable dialogue had taken place. He pointed out the basis of the proposed Resolution was to send a letter asking Senator Little to get engaged in this issue. He pointed out they were not adopting a local law or infringing on anybody's rights, as the letter simply asked Senator Little to support the County's efforts. He stated Aldis, which was a profitable global grocery store chain, did not provide customers with plastic bags which seemed to be working well for them. He remarked he did not mind lobbying for a better and cleaner environment which was why he would be voting in favor of the proposed Resolution.

Supervisor Seeber informed she thought Supervisor Braymer had the best of intentions when she brought this matter forward. She pointed out it had garnered more attention than the majority of the items they discussed which she viewed as positive. She stated the fact that so many community members had attended the meeting tonight brought forward the argument that more night meetings should be held. She reminded them the proposed Resolution before them did not specify whether the bags were paper or plastic but rather called for the reduction in the use of single use bags. She said she was opposed to the implementation of a fee in association with this effort. She pointed out Aldis charged a fee to customers who asked to use plastic bags. She suggested they challenge the community to be responsible and consider using reusable bags. She said this matter was not only discussed at the County level but also at an Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks meeting where they asked NYSAC (*New York State Association of Counties*) the status of the Task Force and a vague reply was given in response. She stated she was unsure whether the State would ever ask the County's opinion on the matter but she knew she was uncomfortable at this point sending a letter to tell them what the Board thought before the State was at a point where they were seeking input. She said she thought they had heard from wonderful people regarding both sides of the issue tonight, but in her opinion the proposed resolution before them was not specific enough and she was worried a fee would be attached to this by the State. She reminded them the money collected from lottery sales was supposed to be allocated to fund education; she added she was unsure where the plastic bag fine was going to be allocated to but she was positive it would not be education. She concluded by stating she would be voting in opposition of the proposed Resolution.

Supervisor Dickinson commented the point of the proposed Resolution was to send a letter to the State Legislators notifying them of the County's concerns to have them thoroughly review the issue and make a determination on what type of action was required, if any.

Supervisor Braymer apprised she would like to address two points, the first of which was the fact that the proposed Resolution was not rushed as indicated by Supervisor Sokol and she noted it had been brought before the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee first and then referred to the Legislative & Rules Committee following before coming to the May 19th Board Meeting where it was tabled to allow the public more time to consider it before presenting it for approval at today's meeting.

In response to Supervisor Seeber's comment that the proposed Resolution was not specific enough, Supervisor Braymer pointed out that Supervisor Seeber was the one who requested for some of the language included in the original draft of the proposed Resolution be removed to make it more generic.

She pointed out the County had no intention of “delving into the weeds with this”, as that was the sole purpose of the State Task Force. She added the entire point of the letter was to ensure the State Task Force and State Legislators were aware of the County’s concerns. She added the letter made no reference to what the County felt the State should do, as it was a generic resolution and letter per Supervisor Seeber’s request.

Supervisor Sokol commented although some may think the purpose of the letter was insignificant in reality the hope for those who supported it was for an outcome where the State would enact a ban on single use plastic bags.

In response to Supervisor Braymer’s comments, Supervisor Seeber advised she had not realized until tonight the proposal included a ban on paper bags, which she was a big fan of, as well. She said she remembered when they were used to cover textbooks in school but then the initiative started to stop cutting down trees and use plastic bags instead. She pointed out the proposed Resolution before them did not specify plastic or paper bags but rather referred to single use carry out bags by retailers. She concurred that she had requested for the proposed Resolution to be more generic, as she did not want the fee language included, but she was only pointing out it was not specific to plastic or paper. She added she was pleased with all of the discussion taking place pertaining to the matter.

Supervisor Beaty stated he believed everyone was making valid points but his concern related to the fact that they picked and chose which environmental issues to support, as there were a significant number of Board members who could care less about the marl fen at the Airport which would be destroyed if the Runway at the Airport was extended another 1,000 feet. He remarked he found it rather disingenuous that some were for certain environmental issues and against others. He mentioned said he concurred with Supervisor Sokol in that the letter had more meaning than just being a generic letter, as it basically provided the County’s endorsement to the State to move forward to the next step which was a ban on single use plastic bags, and he took issue with that. He said he was in favor of saving the environment, but he took issue with over-regulation and mandates which was why he felt this was the wrong step at this time due to the fact that it had not been vetted enough. He surmised if a public hearing had taken place on the topic several months from now a much larger group would attend. He added he would like to hear from more County residents about their thoughts on the matter. He voiced his opinion that the Board was rushing to push this forward which was why he would be voting in opposition of the proposed Resolution.

Chairman Conover noted that a roll call vote had not been requested on proposed Resolution No. 252.

Supervisor MacDonald requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution 252, *Authorizing a Letter Requesting Legislative Action Aimed at Reducing Use of Single Use Plastic Bags and Promoting Reusable Bags in Order to Address Environmental Concerns.*

Supervisor MacDonald informed a significant amount of money was expended by the County on prevention and/or eradication of invasive species which was why he could not comprehend why they would not support this resolution since the lake was the economic lifeline for the County.

Supervisor McDevitt requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 255, *Approving Internship Agreement for a College Graduate and Waiving Requirement of the Intern Policy Stating that the Intern Must be a Current College Student for the Tourism Department.*

Supervisor Braymer inquired whether the letter referenced in proposed Resolution No. 254, *Accepting and Approving Corrective Action Plan for Warren County Occupancy Tax and Department of Weights and Measures as Presented by the Acting County Administrator*, had already been distributed and JoAnn McKinstry, *Assistant to the County Administrator*, replied in the negative. She informed the Board

needed to adopt the proposed Resolution before it could be transmitted.

Chairman Conover called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 211-255 were approved, as presented with the exception of Resolution Nos. 223 and 242, which were tabled and Resolution No. 252 which failed due to a lack of the majority vote required.

During the roll call vote Supervisor McDevitt explained he would be voting in opposition of proposed Resolution No. 255, *Approving Internship Agreement for a College Graduate and Waiving Requirement of the Intern Policy Stating that the Intern Must be a Current College Student for the Tourism Department*, because it was not a paid internship. He stated he believed internships were beneficial to students and in particular those who attended SUNY Adirondack; however, he noted, the interns should be paid for the work they did.

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

Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, remarked he hoped in the future the County would authorize the letter to be distributed to the Governor and in the meantime do as he did and keep a reusable bag in the trunk of their vehicle, as he believed it was the least that could be done for the environment. He mentioned he wanted to correct the record on one issue and point out that the marl fen appeared in the New York Database starting in 1948. He continued, most geologists felt it was at least 10,000 years old but New York State believed it was 1948. He said he concurred with Supervisor Beaty that he hoped they expended as much time thinking about the marl fen as they had on plastic bags as they were both worthy discussions.

Mr. Lynch stated marl was a hard rock that started at the bottom of the ocean during the time when the region was below the sea. He clarified during his comments earlier he was referring to proposed Resolution No. 223, *Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the Federal Aviation Administration/New York State Department of Transportation for the Runway 1-19 Extension/Phase II FAA RA- Final Design at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport*, and not 224 which he believed he stated. He added Aldis Grocery store was mentioned during the discussion pertaining to plastic bags and he felt compelled to point out they only offered paper bags which they charged consumers a fee for. He said they would be amazed to see how many individuals who shopped there brought their own bags as opposed to Hannaford who provided free plastic bags to customers. He suggested implementing a fee for those who used the single use plastic bags, as he felt this was a valid solution to the issue.

Chairman Conover called for announcements.

Supervisor Strough stated he would like to mention that the 242nd anniversary of the death of Dr. Joseph Warren was occurring three days from now. He explained Warren County was named after Dr. Warren because on June 17, 1775 he made the heroic gesture of staying behind with a group of volunteers during the Battle of Bunker Hill so that other troops could escape with their lives, knowing what the ultimate result would be. He said Mr. Warren had been a part of the Sons of Liberty and turned down an officer appointment offered by General George Washington so that he could fight as a "man in the field".

Supervisor Braymer apprised she had distributed an email to the Board regarding the meeting to discuss the "Responsible Boating Initiative" she was working on with Kate Hogan, *District Attorney*, and the Lake George Park Commission which was scheduled for next Thursday morning and she invited all to attend. She encouraged them to notify her of anyone they knew who lived on the lake or was a

marina operator they felt should attend the event and she would extend an invitation to them. She said this was something they were trying to get off the ground based on a national initiative referred to as "Operation Dry Water" which was focused on ensuring that there was awareness and social responsibility pertaining to drinking and boating, the same as there was about drinking and driving a vehicle. She commented individuals should keep the same frame of mind about drinking and boating as they did about drinking and driving. She mentioned they wanted to place a social stigma on drinking and boating coupled along with an enforcement effort. She said they were trying to put more of a positive swing on it but would be using a tagline of "Remember Charlotte" with the permission of the family. She apprised they were developing this now and she would like some key stakeholders to be involved so if anyone was interested or knew people who would be to please notify her.

Supervisor Brock informed he wanted to add on to what Supervisor Strough said about Dr. Warren. He said they did not realize this was a man who gave his life but was never recognized as a big hero. He said when George Washington and his troops were going up Bunker Hill the British were decimated. He mentioned the American forces generally ran away rather than staying to fight but Dr. Warren did and shortly thereafter when George Washington brought his forces to New York, the British outmaneuvered them to the point they could have over taken them but they did not because they had been so impressed with the fight that the Americans had shown. He commented Dr. Warren was an example of the people in history that were never heard of like many of them, as people who did important things which made the Country what it is, but no one was aware of these actions or people. He added it was important to understand it was people like Dr. Warren who they should try to emulate, rather than well known people like George Washington, etc.

Supervisor MacDonald thanked everyone for attending the meeting, as there was a respectable turnout which he attributed to holding an evening meeting which was more convenient to attend and did not require leaving work early or using vacation and/or personal time to attend and participate in their local government. He said it made it easier for him as a sitting Supervisor since he did not have to negotiate his schedule with work or take time off which he was appreciative of. He suggested scheduling another Board Meeting in the evening later in the year possibly in October or November, and he asked whether there was any interest amongst the Board. Chairman Conover responded he would canvas the Board members to make this determination.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Simpson and seconded by Supervisor Strough, Chairman Conover adjourned the Board Meeting at 8:21 p.m.