

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018**



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 Loeb.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Leggett, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Loeb, Driscoll, Frasier, Simpson, Hogan, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Beaty, Magowan, Thomas, Hyde, Geraghty and Conover - 19; Supervisor Sokol absent - 1.

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Conover noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2017 Board Meetings and the January 4, 2018 Organization Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Braymer and carried unanimously.

Continuing with the Agenda review with the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Conover advised he had attended a presentation regarding Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program in Lake George on January 17<sup>th</sup>. He said much like the aquatic invasive species, the terrestrial invasive species was an issue he believed they would all be hearing much more about in the coming months and years. He mentioned the presentation included what type of terrestrial invasive species had been discovered on Prospect Mountain, their approach to eradicate them and what the remedial follow up approach methodology was. He apprised there were also speakers who had experience dealing with terrestrials throughout the State including the Catskills which he found to be very informative. He added Supervisor Strough had also attended the event and may want to speak more about the matter later in the meeting.

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

Supervisor Simpson stated he would fill in for Supervisor Sokol, who was absent today and report on the January 17<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting. He said this year they handled things differently than in previous years and they thoroughly reviewed and discussed the contracts which were approved at the beginning of the year. He advised he was pleased with the discussion that took place there; noting going forward he felt they had a good plan in place to ensure these contracts were prepared correctly and ready to move forward. He pointed out the bulk of the proposed resolutions before them pertained to the Finance Committee and he requested support of them.

Supervisor Merlino reported on the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Park Operations & Management Committee wherein proposed Resolution No. 42 was approved which he provided a brief overview of.

Supervisor Thomas advised on behalf of the County Treasurer that the total amount of sales tax collected in 2017 was 2.2% more than what had been budgeted. He said this equated to \$1,130,000 in

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additional revenue which was not budgeted, and this was good news.

Supervisor Merlino apprised to add on to what Supervisor Thomas had just said about sales tax, the total amount of occupancy tax collected had increased from 2016 to 2017 by 5% or \$185,000. He stated he had reviewed the records concerning the total amount of sales tax collected each year since 2010 and according to his calculations it had increased slightly more than \$1 million each year. He continued, in 2018 the total amount of occupancy tax collected was \$3,279,000 as compared to the \$4,257,000 collected last year. He requested that everyone review the 2018 Tourism Travel Guide, copies of which were on their desks, as he felt it contained a significant amount of good information.

Supervisor McDevitt welcomed to the Board Supervisor Diamond, who represented the 1<sup>st</sup> Ward in the City of Glens Falls and Supervisor Driscoll, who represented the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward in the City of Glens Falls. He remarked they would both be good additions to the Board.

Supervisor Diamond thanked Supervisor McDevitt for welcoming him, noting he was looking forward to working with everyone. He said the format the Board used was different than what he was used to, but it appeared to be a nice change and he looked forward to everyone's comments as they moved forward in 2018.

Continuing to the report by the Acting County Administrator, Supervisor Geraghty read aloud a listing of the meetings he attended since the December 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, a copy of which is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting. He stated he had completed a few training sessions with new Supervisors which he hoped they found to be useful. He mentioned the Board had a full day of mandatory safety training on December 21<sup>st</sup> which he found to be educational regarding active shooters and how the County handled them. As stated by Supervisor Simpson, Supervisor Geraghty apprised the discussion on contracts at the January 17<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting was both forthcoming and revealing that they needed to do more on contracts and get them out sooner so they had a thorough understanding of each. He indicated there was one that would be held off on until more information was provided. He reported on the Department Head Meeting he held yesterday, as Chairman of the Personnel & Higher Education Committee, the main purpose of which was to lay out the time line for the 2018 Performance Evaluations. He added he provided the Department Heads with some of the highlights on the State Budget he was aware of. He encouraged the Department Heads to seek out the Chair of their supervising Committee if they were in need of anything. He also notified them that the 2% State Tax Cap was going to become permanent which meant everyone needed to be mindful of their spending.

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

- \* Jo Ann Finn for 20 years of service to the Employment & Training Administration; and
- \* Mark Murray for 20 years of service to the Probation Department.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mary Elizabeth Kissane, *County Attorney*, to provide a report from the County Attorney. Ms. Kissane advised that she had nothing to report on.

Resuming the Agenda review, Chairman Conover 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 November 2017 from the Warren County Probation Department.
2. Warren County Department of Weights & Measures Monthly Report for December 2017.

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3. Capital District Regional Off Track Betting Corp. Financial Report dated October 31, 2017 - *bound report available for review upon request.*

**Minutes from:**

1. December 13, 2017 meeting - Counties of Warren and Washington Industrial Development Agency Executive/Park Committee.
2. December 13, 2017 meeting - Counties of Warren and Washington Civic Development Corporation Executive Committee.
3. December 18, 2017 meeting - Counties of Warren and Washington Industrial Development Agency.
4. December 18, 2017 meeting - Counties of Warren and Washington Civic Development Corporation.

**Letters/emails from:**

1. Cathy A. Cloutier, Executive Director of the SPCA of Upstate New York, Inc., dated January 2, 2018 regarding certain facets of the County's contract with Warren County SPCA and suggesting that an "as needed" contract would be beneficial.
2. Libby Post, Executive Director of the New York State Animal Protection Federation, dated December 29, 2017 in support of the County's relationship with the Warren County SPCA. *This letter was received by email and was forwarded to all members of the Board of Supervisors on January 5, 2018.*
3. Brian Shapiro, New York State Director of the Humane Society of the United States, dated January 3, 2018 in support of the County's relationship with the Warren County SPCA. *This letter was received by email and was forwarded to all members of the Board of Supervisors on January 3, 2018.*
4. June Maxam, Town of Chester Resident, email dated January 16, 2018 containing an article from the North County Gazette entitled "Warren County SPCA Owes Taxpayers \$220K". *This email was forwarded to all members of the Board of Supervisors on January 16, 2018.*

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 25-43 were mailed; she informed that proposed Resolution Nos. 29 and 35 were amended after mailing based on action taken by the Finance Committee their meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup> and a motion was needed to approve these revisions. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Simpson and seconded by Supervisor Leggett to approve the amendments. Supervisor Diamond stated he was not accustomed to the Board's policies and procedures and he inquired whether this was the correct time for a Supervisor to request discussion on a resolution. Chairman Conover informed discussion on the amendment could be requested; however, he noted, the discussion on resolutions would follow. He explained he would ask for discussion on any resolution that a Supervisor would like to discuss. Chairman Conover called the question and the motion to approve the revisions made to proposed Resolution Nos. 29 and 35 was carried unanimously. Mrs. Allen informed that proposed Resolution Nos. 44-45 were approved at the January 17<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting and a motion was necessary to bring the proposed Resolutions to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Dickinson, seconded by Supervisor Merlino and carried unanimously to bring the resolutions to the floor.

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

Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, apprised he had attended the January 17<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting and he concurred that it was a very good discussion; he stated he was pleased the meeting had been added to the schedule to allow time to discuss the annual contracts. He remarked

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he fully concurred with the withdrawing of proposed Resolution No. 29, *Authorizing Payment to Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board*, until more information was provided. He questioned proposed Resolution No. 32, *Authorizing Agreement with Adirondack North Country Association for Promotional and Economic Development*, as it appeared no one was aware of what this Organization did. He added the contract require them to provide the County with full reports every September and yet he had not been able to locate one or anyone who had seen one. He said he would like to review the report when one was received. He remarked other than that the meeting was comprised of great discussions which he complimented the Board on.

Supervisor Geraghty informed a letter would be sent to the Adirondack North Country Association for Promotional and Economic Development informing the County required an updated contract. Supervisor Simpson stated the Organization worked throughout the Adirondacks and the entire region on matters such as solar power and trying to promote environmentally sound practices. Supervisor Braymer added she believed they were also involved in other research related science projects that were not necessarily related to the environment such as businesses in the Adirondacks that were doing projects from a research based perspective. Supervisor Simpson stated along with promoting economic development, they also promoted environmentally sound practices. Chairman Conover interjected once the information was received it would be distributed to the entire Board, as well as Mr. Whitehead for review. Supervisor Thomas mentioned they may be able to find the report on the Organizations website.

Supervisor Diamond apologized for not being able to attend the January 17<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting due to a commitment he was unable to get out of. He said he had a few questions regarding the contract with the Warren County SPCA which were primarily related to legal issues. He apprised he had with him today a copy of the amendment to the contract, as well as an agreement from 2016 which called for a report to be submitted to the County Clerk no later than the Friday following Labor Day, as well as a Performance Report which was required to be submitted in February of the following year which provided an overview of their performance from the previous year. He advised he took the liberty of contacting the County Clerk to request copies of these reports but was unable to receive them because as of 2017 the Sheriff's Office had taken oversight of the contract. He remarked he felt it was appropriate for the Sheriff's Office to oversee the contract; however, he inquired, whether the contract should be amended remove the County Clerk's Office as the Department where the reports were filed. Chairman Conover informed these reports were on file with the Clerk of the Board's Office and not the County Clerk, but if the contract did state otherwise then it should be amended.

Supervisor Diamond apprised a few months ago a question raised by a Supervisor regarding whether the County was obtaining adequate services for the \$100,000 they were paying the Warren County SPCA lead him into looking into the matter further by reviewing these reports. He remarked he found the reports he obtained from the Sheriff's Office to be confusing and difficult to decipher which was why he wanted to discuss the billing process. He explained the Warren County SPCA submitted quarterly vouchers for \$25,000, as well as an overall cost of the contract for services on an annual basis which was around \$330,000 in 2016, noting this included calls for the entire County. He continued, his concern related to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter call log for 2017 they provided which was converted into an organizational chart that he found to be both redundant and difficult to decipher. He said the current form of the report had made it rather challenging for him to decipher whether the County was getting a good deal for the services they paid for. He suggested going forward the report be streamlined to include only calls that were directly associated with the County rather than continue to include all calls they answered. He advised he thought this would improve the billing process and assist with determining whether the County was obtaining the appropriate amount of service for the amount they were paying the SPCA on an annual basis. He added he was not implying the County was not getting

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the appropriate amount of services from the Warren County SPCA, but rather that he found it difficult to decipher the reports they submitted to the County. He stated they should consider including the streamlining of the reporting in the RFP process for those services.

Ms. Kissane apprised the reports from the Warren County SPCA for 2016 were on file with the Clerk of the Board's Office because they were the Department charged with overseeing the contract during this timeframe; however, she noted, in 2017 the oversight of the contract was shifted to the Sheriff's Office and the reporting requirements were changed to only require quarterly reports since the ones due on Labor Day and February 1<sup>st</sup> were redundant.

In regards to the reporting requirements of the contract, Ms. Kissane stated information was supposed to be provided in a format which displayed the purpose of the call, what town it was in and how much time they expended on that call. She informed because the reports they received were not in this format, it was not considered proper pursuant to the contract. She advised unless the Sheriff's Office, who was charged with overseeing the contract, brought to her attention the SPCA was not meeting the requirements of the contract, she had no way of knowing whether this was occurring; however, she noted, going forward this could be something that was addressed.

Supervisor Beaty pointed out this matter was discussed thoroughly at the January 17<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting which Supervisor Diamond had been unable to attend. He said they were covering a significant amount of ground which has been discussed in previous Committee meetings. He concurred that there was a need for a detailed County report from the Warren County SPCA.

Supervisor Braymer advised she was aware that Supervisor Diamond had been unable to attend the January 17<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting; however, she noted, because of the questions he was bringing forward today they were made aware that the Warren County SPCA was not meeting the contractual requirements which was what she had been trying to say. She said to have this information before them made her hesitant to approve proposed Resolution No. 35, *Authorizing Temporary Renewal of Agreement with Warren County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc.*, as she believed it was necessary for these services to continue; however, she advised, she questioned why they would continue a contract with someone who was not meeting the obligations. She remarked her goal was to ensure the County "got the best bang for their buck" while ensuring a contract was in place that met County's needs and that they complied with that contract. She commented she though the Warren County SPCA was a needed organization here which all the towns benefitted from.

Supervisor Beaty stated he concurred with Supervisor Braymer, as he had always been in favor of fulfilling contracts, but the County seemed to let some "slide through" such as the one for the railroad, as well as some others, which, he noted, he was thoroughly opposed of. He said he thought the Finance Committee had addressed that the Warren County SPCA needed to improve their reports to be more detailed. He mentioned going forward he did not think the Board would see much push back from the SPCA regarding this need to improve the reporting to meet the contract stipulations. He advised on the side issue, if Ms. Braymer was implying they should hold off on voting on the contract today, he may consider this; however, he noted, according to the Sheriff and numerous others that the Warren County SPCA was the best provider of this service in this area. He reminded them of the incident which occurred in the City of Glens Falls where the City was unable to get the organization they contracted with for animal services to respond so the Warren County SPCA stepped in and took care of the situation for them. He said he was not implying the Warren County SPCA was without fault since they were not following the contract by not providing the County with the information required as stated in the contract. He mentioned he was fully supportive of "tightening that up" to ensure they followed the contract requirements; however, he noted, he would feel uncomfortable not having a service in

place which all indicators pointed to it being the best in the area.

Supervisor Thomas pointed out this was a reimbursement contract and not a service contract which meant the County had the option not to pay them if they were not meeting the requirements. Supervisor McDevitt stated he thought they had an extensive and emotional conversation at the Finance Committee meeting this week regarding this issue. He said this conversation had been on the verge of not occurring which was why it was healthy that it had taken place, as it resulted in a proposed Resolution which cut in half the timeframe involved for the Warren County SPCA. He questioned why they were rehashing an issue today that had been discussed extensively already this week. He mentioned if people in the room today could better understand the incident and specifics of what occurred on New Years Eve in the Town of Horicon involving frozen animals. He said the Warren County SPCA rented a Uhaul on New Years Eve and picked up the animals impacted; he noted the organization answered their phone. He stated the issue before them concerned the humane treatment of animals which was why he could not understand why they were even considering tabling the proposed Resolution. He said although the accounting issues were a valid issue, he believed they could be taken care of going forward. He encouraged them to vote in favor of the proposed Resolution so there was no void in the service.

Mr. Leggett remarked to be clear the issue was not about the humane treatment of animals, but rather it concerned the County's responsibility for paying for it.

Supervisor Diamond informed he brought his concerns to light to ask a few legal questions; however, he noted, he was not indicating or suggesting that there be a break in the service. He said he believed the billing process could be modified by sitting down with the County Attorney and the Warren County SPCA to work on streamlining the billing process to allow the County to better understand and review the expense portion. He commented he felt the service was important to continue on; he noted he was not opposed to the proposed six month extension, as he was in favor of looking into the RFP process to include a possible consolidation of services. He reiterated his intent had been to bring up a few issues that required addressing, along with the billing issues, all of which he thought could be addressed in a timely manner to allow the County to prepare for the RFP Process going forward.

Ms. Braymer asked for clarification that proposed Resolution No. 29, *Authorizing Payment to Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board*, had been withdrawn and Mrs. Allen replied affirmatively. Chairman Conover pointed out the proposed Resolution included a notation stating such.

Ms. Braymer inquired whether there was any additional information regarding the request Supervisor Merlino brought before the Finance Committee pertaining to the contract with the Lake George Chamber of Commerce & CVB and Chairman Conover replied following the meeting it was determined that the contract could be extended without further action from the Board since the contract included extension provisions. He continued, between now and some future date the County would transition into a new work program at the amount which was budgeted for. Ms. Braymer asked whether they still planned on releasing an RFP for those services and Chairman Conover responded in the affirmative.

Chairman Conover called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 25-45, were approved as presented, with the exception of Resolution No. 29 which was withdrawn.

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

Kathy Bozony, *Town of Queensbury Clean Energy Community Representative*, advised Mrs. Allen had

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forwarded to them yesterday and email from her inviting them to join herself and the Clean Energy Communities. She said she was currently working with the Town of Queensbury on the "Solarize Queensbury Campaign" which they would like to open to all of the municipalities in Warren County who would like to join them in the Solarize Campaign. She said they may also want to consider becoming a Clean Energy Community, as well; however, she noted, that was not imperative for joining them on tis campaign. She stated their goal was to gain approval from NYSERDA (*New York State Energy Research and Development Authority*) in early March following which an RFP would be released to solarize vendors and then hold a "kick off" meeting in April and go through the end of November. She advised they were anticipating that there would be incentives and discounts offered by the solarized vendors they selected for the Program. She said they were a community approaching this along with the Cities of Albany, Schenectady, Troy and Saratoga. She mentioned the Town of Queensbury and the Clean Energy Communities were working with representatives of NYSERDA on the campaign. She encouraged anyone with questions to contact her; she noted additional details would be available when the application was submitted to NYSERDA in the near future.

Mr. Whitehead stated that he was a member of the Committee relating to Clean Energy Communities, advising he thought it was a "win, win" and he encouraged them to look into it further, as there were some additional benefits for many of their residents they may want to take advantage of what would not have been there otherwise.

Mr. Whitehead voiced his concerns regarding how the Committee assignments were made and in particular he noted that Supervisor Braymer, who had been a leading representative on the County Facilities Committee was no longer a member of this Committee. He added the new Chair for that Committee had never attended a meeting of this Committee. He questioned how the Committee assignments were made and whether qualifications were considered. In addition, he apprised it appeared Supervisor Braymer was slighted by not being made a Chair of one of the Committees even though she was highly qualified to Chair the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee, which would be chaired by Supervisor Dickinson who was already the Chair of another Committee. He advised those struck him wrong and since this was supposed to be an open and fair administration he wondered if Chairman Conover could take a few minutes and explain the reasoning behind those assignments.

Chairman Conover informed normally he would not respond to such comments, however, he noted, in this circumstance he would provide a brief explanation. He apprised Committee meeting assignments and Chairs were by appointment from the Chairman of the Board and had Supervisor McDevitt been elected Chairman of the Board he would have made his own appointments. He continued, as an example had Supervisor McDevitt selected someone else to Chair the Finance Committee it would not have been as a result of political retaliation against Supervisor Sokol. He mentioned a significant amount of work was required to make those appointments, such as how many members would each Committee have and who was assigned to each Committee. He said he would never claim that the process he used was perfect; however, he noted, a lot of effort was required. He stated the suggestion that as a result of the election indicating that Committee assignments were modified or changed was simply wrong. He informed most, if not all of the Committee assignments were completed well in advance of the meeting by him. He said he had the utmost respect for all of Board members; he pointed out all Board members were provided with free access to participate in Committee meetings whether you were a Committee member or not, as well as here at the Board meetings. He stated this was his public answer and this was his answer today.

Mr. Whitehead remarked it certainly was Chairman Conover's privilege as Chairman, but it was also a reason to select a Chairman or not based upon those decisions. He opined that these assignments were

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based upon qualifications, but were based on something else; he noted he was entitled to have his own opinion, as well.

Supervisor McDevitt thanked Ms. Bozony for her participating in the Clean Energy Campaign, as he thought it was a component of the County that required attention. He pointed out it was very rare for Mr. Whitehead and Supervisor Strough agreed on something, but they did on this.

Supervisor Braymer thanked Mr. Whitehead for making the remarks regarding Committee and Chair assignments, as she was disappointed that she was no longer a member of the County Facilities Committee. She said she was also disheartened that she was not the Chair of the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee, as she believed she was more than qualified for the position and had been doing a lot of work pertaining to that Committee. She commented what was more bothersome to her than those was Supervisor Dickinson's treatment of her at the last Board meeting which she thought she would have received an apology for, but she had not. She mentioned she was appreciative of the respect that Chairman Conover provided to everyone in the Board Meetings.

Supervisor Beaty stated he would like to opine on the matter, as well. He remarked having the most qualified Supervisors on the Committees was a responsibility of the Chairman. He continued, every resident of Warren County expected the "best of the best" and not the second best and so on. He pointed out Supervisor Braymer was an environmental lawyer and the only Board member who was a lawyer. He said Supervisor Braymer had taken command and Chairmanship of the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee over the past six months as the former Chair, who was no longer on the Board deemed it necessary due to her expertise. He commented there was no question she was the most qualified Board member to lead that Committee and yet she did not. In regards to Chairman Conover's comments, Supervisor Beaty advised with all due respect these comments made no sense since he as Chairman had the right to select who he wanted to Chair the Committee and yet he did not choose the most qualified individual; he noted this was blatant to all who were present today.

Chairman Conover interjected that Supervisor Beaty was entitled to his opinion. Supervisor Beaty exclaimed that he was not finished with his comment and he inquired whether Chairman Conover was going to interrupt and Chairman Conover responded that Supervisor Beaty was out of order, but he would allow him to continue. Supervisor Beaty questioned how he was out of order when he was merely speaking his mind and Chairman Conover replied that there were no action items on the Agenda. Supervisor Beaty apprised the second item he was going to mention was that there were serious environmental concerns at the Airport which was why he was perplexed that Supervisor Braymer, an environmental lawyer who had lead the bulk of the serious discussions that occurred over the past few months in the County Facilities Committee meetings, was no longer appointed to the Committee and yet four brand new Supervisors were. He questioned how they could consider this as appointing the most qualified individuals to the Committee. He commented he was flabbergasted that the Chairman was making these decisions which made no sense at all and he believed everyone in the room would agree with. Finally, he said he too was appalled at the January 4<sup>th</sup> Organization Board meeting when a fellow colleague rudely interrupted a colleague when they were talking. He advised they did not interrupt colleagues around here, as it was not the way they conducted business. He continued, they let their colleagues speak their minds and respect that regardless of whether they agreed with them or not because this was what democracy stood for. He said this was referred to as democracy, progress, as well as being civil. He pointed out although he did not agree with a number of the opinions on the Board, he did not interrupt, as he always allowed them to speak their mind in a civil manner, noting he would not be rude to them. He informed he would like to see this as part of the Board's mantra going forward; he added he hoped Supervisor Dickinson found the time to apologize to Supervisor Braymer for his behavior a few weeks ago so they could all move forward as a group in a positive

manner which was what he would like to see.

A motion was made by Supervisor Thomas and seconded by Supervisor Frasier to adjourn the meeting.

Supervisor McDevitt implored with them not to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Diamond stated he had one additional comment he would like to make.

Chairman Conover asked whether Supervisors Thomas and Frasier would like to withdraw their motions to adjourn and both replied in the negative.

Supervisor Dickinson stated he would like to make one very brief point.

Chairman Conover called for a roll call vote on the motion to adjourn the meeting following which it was determined the motion failed due a lack of the majority vote required with a vote of 23 in favor (*Supervisors Thomas and Frasier*) and 892 against (*Supervisors Loeb, Driscoll, Simpson, Hogan, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Beaty, Magowan, Hyde, Geraghty, Leggett, Diamond, Braymer, and Conover*) and 85 absent (*Supervisor Sokol*).

Supervisor Dickinson welcomed Supervisor Hogan, as he was pleased the Town of Johnsbury would be represented on the Board. He quoted Dennis the Menace who stated the following: "it was impolite to talk with your mouth full of dumb ideas." He suggested they all think about that before they spoke.

Supervisor Diamond thanked the Board for supporting proposed Resolution No. 31, *Authorizing Agreement with the City of Glens Falls for Capital Improvements and Operation and Maintenance for Various Recreational Facilities*, as it displayed the Board's understanding of the need for these improvements that were on-going on the Crandall Park Recreation Center Ice, which was where the Queensbury School's hockey team played along with the City of Glens Falls hockey team. He said the money allowed the City to improve their recreational facilities which he was very appreciative of.

Chairman Conover called for announcements.

Supervisor Loeb apprised this past week he had started meeting with the ten departments that made up the Support Services Committee. He said as they were all aware the County had very talented employees who worked for the County residents. He mentioned he was looking forward to working with these Department Heads to allow them to continue to do an exceptional job.

Chairman Conover welcomed Supervisor Loeb returning as a Board member.

Supervisor Strough stated as previously mentioned by Chairman Conover, both of them had attended the Hemlock Woolly conference which was so well attended it consisted of standing room only. He stated this was something they should all be concerned about because the bugs drew on the sap of the trees which disallowed the sap from getting to the leaves thereby killing the trees. He said the tree they specifically targeted hemlock trees which were imperative to the ecological balance of any watershed area. He mentioned there was investigations and experiments going on pertaining to the controls of this bug through chemical and biological means. He reminded them the County had an incident with this bug on Prospect Mountain this year which was why it was so important for them to be alert and take notice if any hemlock trees in this region had the white spots which were indicators of an infestation and if so to report them. Supervisor Strough added he too had attended the Active Shooters Training which he felt was well conducted by the Warren County Sheriff's Office. He stated he had also attended the County's E-Waste Collection Training, as the County had a new vendor handling this waste

for them. He said adaptations were required on the parts of the Towns, but he was hoping the vendor would work with the towns and be flexible with their requirements. He thanked Ms. Bozony, Robin Reynolds and Mr. Whitehead for their work on the Clean Energy Community Campaign. He encouraged the Town Supervisors to go online and review the State's Clean Energy Communities website, as well as solarize, as he believed they would see the benefit of this.

Supervisor Driscoll advised he had the privilege of attending the Finance Committee meeting which occurred earlier this week and was pleased to see so many present that there was standing room only. He mentioned he thought this spoke of the sincerity and sincerity of elected officials and the public to want to engage in open conversation and dialogue about important issues moving forward with the County. He advised he had the opportunity over the last 32 years to work with the Department of Social Services and he would like to publicly thank Maureen Schmidt, *Commissioner of the Department of Social Services*, and wish her well on her retirement. He said under Ms. Schmidt's leadership the Department had done a great job.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Dickinson and seconded by Supervisor McDevitt, Chairman Conover adjourned the Board Meeting 10:52 a.m.