

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 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 Beaty.

Roll called, the following members present:

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

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Conover noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of the September 19th & 21st Board Meetings, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Dickinson, seconded by Supervisor Frasier and carried unanimously.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Conover declared the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No. 6 Entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 4 of 1996, Which Established Residency Requirements for Warren County Deputy Sheriff's, to Change the Title to Include all Patrol Officers and Correction Officers Including Supervisory Titles" open at 10:02 a.m. and he requested that Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, read aloud the Notice of Public Hearing, which she proceeded to do. Chairman Conover then called for any public comment; there being no response, he declared the Public Hearing closed at 10:03 a.m.

Continuing with the Agenda review with the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Conover advised he had attended the annual meeting of The New York State Business Council, Inc. at the Sagamore Resort on September 26th during which the Governor addressed all of the attendees. He stated that he had the opportunity to attend the 4th Annual Salt Summit held at the Fort William Henry on October 2nd which was hosted by the Fund for Lake George and had a larger attendance than any prior years event. He said the initiative to reduce the amount of salt on the roadways surrounding the County's waterways was a partnership between the public and private partners to assist the towns with obtaining the necessary equipment to better address the issue. He added the data presented by the scientists at the Summit supported the fact that salt was not solely an issue in Warren County, as it was negatively impacting waterways across the Country. Chairman Conover reported on the October 10th meeting he had attended with the AGFTC (*Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council*) at the Crandall Library where the discussion concerned how there was an insufficient amount of money being provided for infrastructure which he believed everyone was well aware of. He stated later that afternoon he had attended a meeting at the Fund for Lake George which was hosted by the SAVE (*Stop Aquatic InVasives from Entering*) Group where they entertained visitors from Chateaugay County to discuss their experiences and approach to deal with the harmful algae blooms issue that existed in their region. He said this was the second meeting he had attended on this matter, apprising the first meeting occurred a few months ago when they met with representatives from Skaneateles, New York who also

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had issues with harmful algae blooms. He said he found both meetings to be very informative, as they had shared information and experiences pertaining to how each municipality was dealing with this issue. He added there was a significant amount of interest in how Lake George was taking steps to ensure this issue did not become one here. Chairman Conover advised that along with a number of the Supervisors, he had attended the Bolton Fire Company Parade and Celebration for the 100 years of service to the area. He remarked he felt everyone who had attended would concur that it was quite the milestone for this organization to achieve. He informed he had the opportunity yesterday to assess the paving project his town was finishing up on South Trout Lake Road with the assistance of several other towns. He said this supported the fact that the towns had been carrying out shared services for a number of years. He acknowledged the Towns of Warrensburg, Hague, Stony Creek, Lake Luzerne, Chester, Johnsburg, Lake George and Thurman for the assistance they had provided to his town on this project and for carrying out shared services.

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

Supervisor Beaty advised the County's Shared Services Committee did not meet last month, but he had chaired the County Facilities Committee meeting on behalf of Supervisor Diamond who had been unable to attend. He stated the Committee had approved proposed Resolution Nos. 388-389 and he provided a brief overview of each. He acknowledged Supervisors McDevitt, Diamond and Sokol for their efforts negotiating an agreement with Rich Air, as well as Richard Schermerhorn and his staff for being both professional and cordial during the process. He remarked he was fully confident that the best interests of the County and its residents were met in the MOU (*Memorandum of Understanding*) and that Mr. Schermerhorn's involvement with the Airport was beneficial for everyone. He added he had distributed the MOU to each of the Supervisors prior to the meeting to allow for questions should any arise at the appropriate time.

Supervisor Magowan stated he had gone through his first round of meetings with the Budget Team and the Department Heads and he thanked the Department Heads for their efforts to keep costs down.

Supervisor Sokol informed the Finance Committee had met on October 4th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 386-387 and 417-425; he noted he believed Resolution No. 418 would be withdrawn. He apprised he had the opportunity to stand in for Chairman Conover at a meeting at SUNY Adirondack where they were introduced to SUNY Chancellor Dr. Kristina M. Johnson. He added Supervisor Driscoll commented on behalf of the County at the meeting. Supervisor Sokol apprised he would like to echo Supervisor Magowan's comments regarding the excellent work the Department Heads did to keep their budgets down, as he was well aware this was not always easy to accomplish and he was pleased that everyone including the Board continuously worked to find ways to bring in additional revenue and reduce expenses. He concluded by stating there would be no report from the County Treasurer today.

Supervisor Thomas apprised that the allowable increase for the 2019 County Budget was 2.7% on the tax levy and currently they were approaching 2.5%. He indicated they were \$1.3 million over the permissible amount when they commenced with preparing the budget, but as previously stated they had decreased this to 2.5%. He stated there had been some changes which he would provide an overview of at the October 23rd Budget Committee meeting following which the tentative 2019 County Budget would be presented to the full Board at the November 2nd Special Board Meeting.

Supervisor Hyde indicated she had nothing to report.

Supervisor Geraghty stated that the Personnel & Higher Education Committee had approved proposed

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Resolution Nos. 413-416 which he requested support of.

Supervisor Leggett reported the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee had met on October 1st, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 390-395 and he provided a brief summary of each. He offered privilege of the floor to Shawn Lamouree, *Warren County Undersheriff*, to discuss proposed Resolution No. 418, as well as two other resolutions that would be brought from the floor.

Undersheriff Lamouree stated he was requesting for proposed Resolution No. 418, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lowest Responsible Bidder for Hindsight G-3 Geo-Diverse Redundant NG 911 Multi-Media Logging Recording System (WC 59-18) for the Warren County Sheriff's Office*, to be withdrawn because the bid included the wrong specifications. He explained the vendor had inadvertently sent to them causing the bid to come in at a much higher rate than what they anticipated paying for the upgrade which was required due to the age of the system. He said there would be a resolution coming from the floor that would put this out to bid again with the correct specifications to allow them to carry out the work before the end of the year which, he noted, was the deadline for the grant money to be expended.

Motion was made by Supervisor Leggett, seconded by Supervisor Dickinson and carried unanimously to withdraw proposed Resolution No. 418, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lowest Responsible Bidder for Hindsight G-3 Geo-Diverse Redundant NG 911 Multi-Media Logging Recording System (WC 59-18) for the Warren County Sheriff's Office*.

Chairman Conover apprised for informational purposes under the reading of resolutions Mrs. Allen would introduce two floor resolutions, one of which was to reject the bids that had come in and the other was to go back out to bid the recording system.

Supervisor Leggett commended the Sheriff's Office for continuously bringing in revenue through grants and other avenues as noted in proposed Resolution No. 387, *Amending Warren County Budget for 2018 for Various Departments Within Warren County*.

Supervisor Diamond advised he had been unable to attend the County Facilities Committee meeting, but was requesting support of proposed Resolution Nos. 388-389, both of which were approved at the Committee meeting. He recognized Supervisors McDevitt, Beaty and Sokol for their efforts negotiating with Rich Air regarding FBO (*Fixed Based Operator*) services for the Airport. He stated he was fully supportive of moving forward with the MOU with Rich Air, noting Mr. Schermerhorn had invested a substantial amount of money at the Airport.

Supervisor McDevitt informed he would like to comment on proposed Resolution No. 389, *Authorizing Airport Real Property Lease Agreements with Schermerhorn Aviation, LLC for Hanger No. 7 and Hangar No. 8 at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport, Warren County, New York*. He stated he felt it was important to note that the County had the option to purchase the building for \$1 following the end of lease agreement in forty years, apprising he believed this was a benefit for the County.

Supervisor Braymer indicated she had attended the NYSAC Conference at end of September and she had been discussing some new ideas with County leaders to work on new initiatives. She added she had attended the meeting at the Cedars Meal Site and she was looking forward to addressing some of the concerns brought forward there at the Health, Human & Social Services Committee meeting. In conclusion she thanked Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, for distributing copies of the letter that she thought would be part of proposed Resolution No. 408, *Opposing the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Application to Have the Sanford Lake Line of the Railroad Deemed*

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Abandoned and Authorizing a Letter Expressing Same to the Surface Transportation Board. She said she was pleased they had decided to slow the process down with regard to taking action pertaining to the abandonment proceeding, as she believed this was something they should take their time on.

Supervisor Loeb thanked Supervisor Leggett for Chairing the Support Services Committee meeting in his absence. He advised proposed Resolution Nos. 409 and 410 were approved at the Committee meeting. Supervisor Loeb stated that he had the opportunity to attend a meeting hosted by the Board of Elections where they provided an overview of a possible option for new polling equipment for the County which may be discussed in more detail at a later date. He informed he had spent seventeen days working on hurricane relief in South Carolina and he thanked those who covered for him during his absence. He said while it was an honor to provide assistance to the residents of South Carolina it had also reminded him that at any point in time the experience of the highly trained staff of the County could be needed. He advised it was necessary for the Board to continue to hire experienced individuals and provide them with the tools, resources and training to ensure they were able to step up if a need arose.

Supervisor Driscoll stated he had nothing to report, but said he had attended the meeting at the Cedars Meal Site, as well. He informed this Wednesday he had the opportunity to meet the Assistant Director of the New York State Office for the Aging , as well as a registered dietician for a 20 county area that included the Warren-Hamilton Office for the Aging. He stated while the Meals on Wheels Program still needed some work, both of these individuals had nothing but praise for the program here.

Supervisor Frasier advised the Health, Human & Social Services Committee had met on September 27th, during which each Department Head presented their 2019 Budget Request and they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 401-406.

Supervisor Simpson stated he had been unable to attend the monthly meeting at Cornell Cooperative Extension, but he would like to highlight some of their upcoming events, the first of which was the Farm and Food Business Expo they would be hosting at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, New York along with the Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension. He said the Adirondack Chamber of Commerce was working with them to notify local vendors and buyers, apprising that there would be free admission. He added the 2018 Annual Report and 2019 Calendar had recently been printed and were available. Supervisor Simpson informed during the NYSAC Public Safety Standing Committee meeting he recently attended a lengthy discussion occurred regarding the lack of cell phone coverage in certain areas in the State and the impact it had on emergency responders, as well as the software and equipment they used. He apprised he had also attended the Transportation and Public Works Standing Committee meeting where they had adopted several resolutions he felt the Board would be supportive of; he said he had copies available for anyone who would like to review them. Supervisor Simpson reported on the September 28th meeting of the Public Works Committee during which the representatives from Revolution Rail Riders provided an update on their business. He added there was also a presentation from the owners of the Stony Creek Ranch regarding a holiday-themed train ride they would like to offer this season. He informed the Committee had approved proposed Resolution Nos. 407-409. With regard to proposed Resolution No. 408, *Opposing the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Application to have the Sanford Lake Line of the Railroad Deemed Abandoned and Authorizing a Letter Expressing Same to the Surface Transportation Board*, Supervisor Simpson informed he had met with representatives from the NYSDEC to discuss the abandonment action filed by the State with the Surface Transportation Board and the implications it would have on Warren County. He said he had emphasized how imperative it was for the State to understand that Warren County was the only public entity who was incurring a financial obligation on this railroad and that the County needed to have options whether that be for a train or recreational purposes. He said

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the County did not want it dictated to them what would occur with the railroad without their concerns being addressed. He advised that he was pleased to report the State had filed an advance on the abandonment action resulting in a 90-day period where no action would be taken to allow the State to work with Omni Tracks and Iowa Pacific Holdings on a potential sale of the Sanford Lake Line, as well as to ensure that if the sale went through there would be no storage of any type of rail cars along the line. He stated in light of this action he would suggest that they table proposed Resolution No. 408, *Opposing the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Application to have the Sanford Lake Line of the Railroad Deemed Abandoned and Authorizing a Letter Expressing Same to the Surface Transportation Board*, as the County would have another chance to voice their opinion on the matter following the 90 day period.

Motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Braymer and carried unanimously to table proposed Resolution No 408.

Supervisor Simpson informed the WWIDA&CDC (*Warren-Washington County Industrial Development Agency and Civic Development Corporation*) did not meet last month, but as the Chairman of the organization he would like to voice his support of the appointment of Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, to their Board, as suggested by proposed Resolution No. 415.

Supervisor Hogan indicated she had nothing to report, but she would like to recognize Supervisor Simpson and Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, for their efforts to ensure the remaining railroad equipment was removed from North Creek. She added there had been a significant improvement to the appearance of the property.

Supervisor Dickinson advised the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee meeting held on October 2nd had been very informative, but no resolutions were requested. He proceeded with a report on the September 27th meeting of the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee during which proposed Resolution Nos. 397-400 were approved. He acknowledged Lexie Delurey, *Director, Real Property Tax Services*, Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, and the County Attorney's Office for their efforts to work with individuals to ensure their properties were not foreclosed on. He apprised the number of properties included in the 2018 County Foreclosure Auction had been drastically reduced due to these efforts.

Supervisor Merlino stated the Tourism Committee had met on October 2nd, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 411 and 412; then he provided a brief overview of each. He stated that the Park Operations & Management Committee had also met on October 2nd during which they approved and referred to the Finance Committee three requests from the Village of Lake George for reimbursement for expenses they had incurred pertaining to the Charles R. Wood Park.

Supervisor Wild indicated he had nothing to report, but he would like to commend all of the Supervisors who chaired Committees, as he felt they all did excellent jobs with managing the meetings.

Supervisor Geraghty commended Supervisor Dickinson for his efforts in working with the officials from the Cool Insuring Arena to bring the NYSPHSAA (*New York State Public High School Athletic Association*) boys basketball championships back to the arena in 2020. He advised the entire region reaped the benefits when the tournament, which attracted a substantial amount of visitors, was held here.

Chairman Conover congratulated Supervisor Dickinson for the award presented to the Town of Lake George for their work to reduce wintertime salt use on the roadways. He apprised that the award was well deserved since the Town of Lake George had been leading the initiative for salt reduction in the

region.

Supervisor Dickinson apprised he could not take credit for the award, as the reason they received it was due to the efforts of the Town's Highway Superintendent and the DPW employees. He stated the Town was rapidly approaching a 50% reduction in salt use which he believed was rather significant, apprising they now had three live-edge plows that they would use on their three major roads. He informed their trucks had also been equipped with all of the latest technology to assist with a reduction in salt use, as well. He added this was the second major award the Town of Lake George DPW had received for their efforts to reduce the amount of salt on the roadways.

Supervisor Merlino stated because of the great job the live-edge plows did he had attempted to obtain one through grant funding; however, he noted, he was told the funding was only made available to municipalities located with the Lake George Basin. He said he found this to be troubling since grant money awarded by the State was allocated from taxpayer funds. He said for this reason he did not believe grant funding that was allocated for within use within the County should be set aside for specific areas, but rather it should be made available to all of the municipalities. He pointed out the cost of the plow was \$22,000 which was difficult for small towns such as his to afford due to their limited tax base. He said any assistance that could be provided to assist with the purchase of the plow would be appreciated.

Supervisor Dickinson advised that he felt purchasing these plows was money well spent and he fully understood the difficulties the towns located outside of the Lake George Basin had coming up with the funds for this purpose. Chairman Conover informed he felt the demonstration program had revealed the use of these plows resulted in a significant reduction in salt on the roadways. He added all waterways throughout the County were important and it was imperative that they be protected. He said he would convey Supervisor Merlino's concerns along to the appropriate parties.

Supervisor Simpson interjected that there was \$8,000 in funding available through the County's Snow & Ice Contracts to the towns for equipment upgrades that could be used for the purpose of purchasing one of these plows. Supervisor Thomas added that the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District was attempting to promote and highlight the Upper Hudson River Watershed which had been overlooked for several years now. Chairman Conover stated that he did not believe there was any question that salt contamination was an issue for everyone as supported by scientific data. He informed the SAVE partnership had attempted to put together a demonstration model with an outcome of real world results. He said he thought when brining and the different types of equipment and applications were applied correctly a significant salt reduction would occur which was their ultimate goal.

Continuing to the report by the County Administrator, Mr. Moore read aloud a listing of the meetings he attended since the September 21st Board Meeting; a copy of which is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mary Elizabeth Kissane, *County Attorney*, to provide a report from the County Attorney. Ms. Kissane apprised she would like to call attention to proposed Resolution No. 389, *Authorizing Airport Real Property Lease Agreements with Schermerhorn Aviation, LLC for Hanger No. 7 and Hangar No. 8 at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport, Warren County, New York*, as it had been revised. She explained the original resolution had only included the square footage for the building requiring a revision to include the square footage for the building and the land which resulted in an increase in the annual rent owed to the County. Ms. Kissane informed proposed Resolution No. 425, *Amending Resolution No. 368 of 2018, Awarding Bid and Ratifying the Actions of the Chairman of the Board in Authorizing an Agreement with Drilling Technologies, Inc. as the Lowest Responsible Bidder*

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for Directional Boring Services for the Sewer Extension Project for Horicon Avenue in the Town of Warrensburg, New York (WC 50-18), to Amend the Agreement and to Change the Funding Source, had also been revised to include a \$2,250 Mobilization/Demobilization fee resulting in an increase in the not to exceed amount listed in the resolution. She stated she would also like to remind the Board that the foreclosure auction was scheduled for tomorrow in the Warren County Court Room at 10:00 a.m. with the doors opening at 9:00 a.m. She advised there had been 654 properties in default when they had commenced with the foreclosure process this year; however, she noted, tomorrow there would only be 30 properties up for auction.

Chairman Conover advised prior to moving along to the reading of communications he would like to note that on each Supervisors desk was a Report of Committee on Assessment Rolls which he felt was one of the most important documents for them to review because it provided a breakdown of the assessed value of the County by municipality. He encouraged everyone to review the report and keep a copy on file.

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

Reports from:

1. Warren County Probation Department Monthly Reports of Criminal and Family Workloads for August of 2018 (*emailed to the Board 10.18.18*)
2. Capital District Regional Off Track Betting Corp. June 30, 2018 and July 31, 2018 Financial Reports (*bound reports - not emailed to the Board*)
3. Drescher & Malecki, CPA - Annual Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report for the County of Warren for the year ended December 31, 2017 (*emailed to the Board 10.18.18*)

Minutes from:

1. Counties of Warren & Washington Industrial Development Agency September 19, 2018 Executive/Park Committee meeting (*emailed to the Board 10.18.18*)
2. Counties of Warren & Washington Civic Development Corporation September 19, 2018 Executive Committee meeting (*emailed to the Board 10.18.18*)

Letters/emails from:

None

Other:

1. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp. August payment in the amount of \$7,291 (*emailed to the Board 09.06.18*)
2. New York State Association of Counties packet of resolutions adopted by County delegates at the 2018 NYSAC Fall Seminar (*bound packet - not emailed to the Board*)
3. Washington County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 235 of 2018, *Supporting Adirondack Community College Capital Improvement Plan for 2019-20 in the total amount of \$1,464,900* (*emailed to the Board 10.18.18*)

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 382-426 were mailed; she informed that proposed Resolution Nos. 389 and 425 was amended after mailing and a motion was needed to approve these revisions. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Simpson seconded by Supervisor Dickinson and carried unanimously. She stated Resolution Nos. 427-428 were developed after the mailing and a motion was required to bring them to the floor; the necessary motion was made by Supervisor Thomas, seconded by Supervisor Hogan and carried unanimously. Mrs. Allen

stated a motion was necessary to bring to the floor proposed Floor Resolution Nos. 1 and 2 pertaining to action required by the Sheriff's Office as previously explained. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Sokol and seconded by Supervisor Leggett.

Supervisor Loeb stated that these two proposed Resolutions appeared to be related to one another and he inquired what their relationship was. Supervisor Leggett advised as a result of proposed Resolution 418, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lowest Responsible Bidder for Hindsight G-3 Geo-Diverse Redundant NG 911 Multi-Media Logging Recording System (WC 59-18) for the Warren County Sheriff's Office*, being withdrawn the two proposed Floor resolutions were required. He explained the first pertained to rejecting all bids received with regard to the NG 911 Multi-Media Logging Recording System (WC 59-18) and the second authorized going out to bid again for the upgrades to this system that included the correct specifications. Supervisor Braymer asked whether the issue was that the bids had come in too high and Supervisor Leggett replied the original bid had included the wrong specifications.

Chairman Conover called the question and the motion to bring proposed Floor Resolution Nos. 1 and 2 to the floor was carried unanimously. Mrs. Allen announced proposed Floor Resolution No. 1 would now be proposed Resolution 430 and proposed Floor Resolution No. 2 would now be Resolution No. 431. She added that the Resolution Index did not list proposed Resolution Nos. 399 and 400 as being subject to roll call votes, but they would both require them because they dealt with the transfer of real property, as required by the Rules of the Board.

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

Supervisor Hogan requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 294, *Authorizing an Amendment Agreement with Correctional Medical Care for One Part-time Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner for the Warren County Correctional Facility*.

Supervisor Magowan requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 388, *Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding Between Warren County and Schermerhorn Aviation II, LLC, the Fixed Base Operator Regarding Services at the Warren County (Floyd Bennett Memorial) Airport*.

Supervisor Beaty requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 415, *Appointing Member of the Counties of Warren and Washington Industrial Development Agency and Civic Development Corporation*.

Supervisor Loeb requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 393, *Authorizing Agreement with Capital Digitronics, Inc. for Installation of Emergency Equipment in MRAP (Mine-resistant Ambush Protected) Vehicle for the Sheriff's Office*.

With regards to proposed Resolution no. 415, *Appointing Member of the Counties of Warren and Washington Industrial Development Agency and Civic Development Corporation*, Supervisor Beaty voiced his support of this appointment, as he believed Mr. Whitehead was one of the hardest working citizens in the County as proven by his efforts in determining the facts regarding many situations involving the County. He said he felt Mr. Whitehead would use these skills to assist in finding the best avenue for the County taxpayers when action was taken by the agency. He said having someone of this caliber on this Board would prevent issues such as the ones that arose with the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board from occurring. He added he wished they could appoint Mr. Whitehead to the other outside agencies who he felt went awry upon occasion to ensure the best interest of the County taxpayers were being served.

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There being no further discussion, Chairman Conover called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. Resolution Nos. 386-431 were approved as presented, with the exception of proposed Resolution No. 408, *Opposing the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Application to Have the Sanford Lake Line of the Railroad Deemed Abandoned and Authorizing a Letter Expressing Same to the Surface Transportation Board*, which was tabled and Resolution No. 418, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lowest Responsible Bidder for Hindsight G-3 Geo-Diverse Redundant NG 911 Multi-Media Logging Recording System (WC 59-18) for the Warren County Sheriff's Office*, which was withdrawn.

During the roll call votes Supervisor Loeb voiced his opposition to Resolution No. 393, *Authorizing Agreement with Capital Digitronics, Inc. for Installation of Emergency Equipment in MRAP (Mine-resistant Ambush Protected) Vehicle for the Sheriff's Office*, as he did not feel there was a need for this equipment in Warren County, nor did he feel any money should be invested for same.

Chairman Conover called for public comments from anyone wishing to address the Board on any matter, but no response was given.

Chairman Conover called for announcements.

Supervisor Geraghty stated he would like to address the Board to make a request that they review the sales tax spread sheet that had been distributed by the Treasurer's Office, as he believed they would feel a grave injustice was being done in the way sales tax was distributed if they lived in his community. He stated with 4,094 residents his town, Warrensburg was the second largest municipality in the County and yet they received the third lowest amount of sales tax from the distribution. He said what he was told was that sales tax was distributed based upon the assessed valuation meaning there was not much he could do to change this since his town was already at 100%. He pointed out that \$9,250,300 of assessed value in his town was exempt from taxes because of County and State-owned buildings. He continued, while he was appreciative of these workers for coming to Warrensburg to work everyday and he was confident they spent money in his community and he was not seeing any of these funds. He said this figure did not include the new Hudson Headwaters Health Network building which served a significant amount of people, but was tax exempt. He said while he was grateful the office was located there it equated to a loss of \$9,772,900 in property tax revenue for his town. He remarked he felt it was time action was taken regarding how sales tax was distributed, pointing out the lakefront communities had town tax rates ranging from 0 to \$1.52 as compared to his town's tax rate for next year of \$3.69. He continued, if they looked at the sales tax distribution table by population for the first three quarters of this year, the highest one he could locate, which was a lakefront community, called for their residents to be refunded \$1,654.46 per resident back in sales tax while Warrensburg residents were receiving \$161.04. He reminded everyone that when the requested funding for invasive species had been raised he had been fully supportive of providing the wealthiest communities around the lake with funding for this purpose, as he was well aware of how important it was to protect Lake George. He apprised when the County entered into an agreement with the City of Glens Falls in 2002 to provide them with additional sales tax funding to assist with paying for the sewer upgrade to accommodate the extra capacity from the Town of Queensbury residents, which was one of the richest communities in the County the Supervisors from the northern portion of the County had voted in opposition of this proposal which initially awarded the City an additional \$388,027.25 in funding, an amount that was now well over \$600,000 a year. He remarked he thought any of the Supervisors could locate efficiencies with the way money was distributed, but he was just appreciative of them listening to his concerns and he added he had all of the documents with him if they would like to do a comparison. He mentioned it was difficult for a non-lake community to manage their budgets, noting he was in the same shape as the City was. He reiterated he was pleased to have the workers for the County and State coming into his

community everyday; however, he noted, their buildings were not on the tax roll nor was the County Fairground property which could never be sold thereby limiting his assessed tax basis even further. He requested that everyone thoroughly review the sales tax spread sheet that had been distributed by the Treasurer's Office and consider whether the County should look into other methods of distributing sales tax that were acceptable by the State. He stated if everyone was fine with the appropriation as it stood then he would accept that, as his town was surviving, but he wanted them all to be aware that his residents did not understand how the second largest town in the County was allocated such a small amount of the sales tax distribution. He pointed out even though the sewer project for Countryside Adult Home was a County Project his town had expended \$50,000 for engineering studies and had been doing all of the work themselves until this week when the County staff commenced assisting them. He encouraged anyone with questions regarding the sales tax distribution to contact him, adding he did not begrudge any of the communities that were receiving such a significant amount; however, he noted, if they lived in his town they would be questioning the table.

Supervisor Diamond stated that when he was the Mayor for the City of Glens Falls he had reviewed the Treasurer's spread sheet concerning sales tax distribution and had noticed how little the distribution was to the northern communities in the County. He said he understood the difficulty these communities had in balancing their budget since they were dealing with a limited revenue stream and consistently increasing expenses. He suggested that the County consider increasing the sales tax rate in an effort to grow the amount of revenue for the City, as well as these small communities.

Supervisor Merlino commended Supervisor Geraghty for bringing this matter up today, as he had been complaining about this for several years now. He said there was no way for small communities such as his to attract the big box stores such as Lowe's, Home Depot, etc. to their community resulting in their residents having to shop and spend money in the Town of Queensbury and yet his Town did not receive a portion of these funds back from the sales tax distribution. He said he felt it was the appropriate time for the Board to review the distribution method and determine what changes could be made to assist the smaller towns such as his. He reiterated that he would like to purchase a live-edge plow for his town to use, but due to the \$22,000 price tag, he was unable to do so.

Chairman Conover remarked that he believed this was an appropriate topic for discussion; however, he noted, he would like the Board members to keep in mind that every dollar of revenue that was brought into the County benefitted each municipality on an assessed value basis. He stated if every dollar of sales tax collected remained with the County each town would benefit based upon their assessed value and if the town took money into its budget than their liability to the County Budget remained the same. He continued, this matter differed from the discussion concerning how they assisted the smaller towns and the sidebar agreement on the sewer which Supervisor Geraghty touched upon. He apprised it was imperative that they all understood the figures and how they factored into the County Budget following which an informed discussion could occur regarding the matter.

In response to Supervisor Diamond's suggestion to consider increasing the sales tax rate, Supervisor McDevitt advised this was something he would not support due to the County presently being in good financial standing. He said he did not sense that Supervisor Geraghty was requesting that the sales tax rate be increased and Supervisor Geraghty concurred. Supervisor Geraghty stated he was asking the Board to consider looking into the possibility of changing the way sales tax was distributed, as he did not believe those who lived in lakefront communities spent that much more than those in the smaller ones to justify receiving so much more sales tax revenue. He pointed out according to a study by the County Treasurer a few years ago the residents of Warrensburg received less sales tax than what was collected in their community. He reiterated his request that the Board members review the chart and if they were comfortable leaving it as it stood then he would make due. Supervisor McDevitt stated that

he planned on reviewing the chart; however, he said, he did not believe the individual who lived in the multi-million dollar home was pleased when they received their property tax bill. Supervisor Geraghty advised he was sympathetic to the plight of the City of Glens Falls, as well as the City's tax rate compared to the other tax rates based on 100% was double the amount.

Supervisor Braymer pointed out the taxes in the City of Glens Falls were significant compared to neighboring Town of Queensbury where they were about half as much and this was without even considering school taxes. She said she understood where Supervisor Geraghty was coming from and planned on reviewing the data thoroughly. Supervisor Braymer informed the proposed Local Law banning thin-film plastic bags was returning to Legislative & Rules Committee for further discussion. She announced the Adirondack Film Festival was taking place in the City and she encouraged all to attend.

Supervisor Loeb stated the flow of money in all directions involved a number of different levels. He said as an example the tax roll they had just signed indicated where the funds originated from with regard to the annual levy, but made no mention as to where these funds were spent. He said on one level the City made out very well in terms of services because it was based on need such as social services, support services, etc. but on the other hand the City did not receive any road patrol or road work from the County. He said it may be appropriate to redistribute the flow of the money to allow the small towns to get more of a share because every resident was of equal value and it was the Board's responsibility to take care of all of them.

Supervisor Wild advised he would like to publicly commend the Planning & Community Development Department for their work on developing the recreation mapper, as he had used it over the past few weeks to locate hiking trails he was previously unaware of.

Supervisor Beaty informed he would like to comment on the meeting that took place at the Cedars Meal Site in the Town of Queensbury last week. He said the type of input he received from the County's seniors, volunteers and employees was valuable to him and he thanked the Supervisors who were able to attend. He apprised he felt they had a nice path moving forward to solve some of the issues that would please the seniors there. He concluded by thanking Virginia Wolfe and Frank O'Keefe for taking the time to organize and conduct the meeting.

Supervisor Driscoll remarked he was appreciative of the efforts of the Basketball Committee and Supervisor Dickinson for their efforts to try and bring the NYSPHSAA boys basketball championships back to the arena in 2020 for an extended period of time, as several communities in the region benefitted from this event. He reminded the Board members the opening game of the Adirondack Thunder was scheduled for tomorrow night.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Frasier and seconded by Supervisor Frasier, Chairman Conover adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:24 a.m.