

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018**



## NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

### **TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WARREN COUNTY:**

You are hereby notified that I, RONALD F. CONOVER, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, pursuant to the power vested in me by Rule A.3 of the Rules of the Board of Supervisors, hereby call and convene a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County to be held in the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Town of Queensbury, New York, on **NOVEMBER 2, 2018 AT 10:00 A.M.**, for the purpose of:

1. Presentation of the 2019 Tentative Warren County Budget; and
2. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the Board of Supervisors.

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby directed to call for the meeting and give written notice to all members of the Board of Supervisors of such meeting.

Dated: October 15, 2018

RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN  
Warren County Board of Supervisors

To the Members of the Board of Supervisors: At the direction of the Chairman of the Board, I am notifying you of the Special Meeting called for the time, place and purposes set forth above.

AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK  
Warren County Board of Supervisors

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 Thomas.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Leggett, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Loeb, Driscoll, Frasier, Simpson, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Beaty, Sokol, Thomas, Geraghty and Conover- 17; Supervisors Hogan, Magowan and Hyde absent- 3

Chairman Conover noted the purpose of the Special Board Meeting was to present the 2019 Tentative

County Budget. Privilege of the floor was extended to Frank Thomas, Budget Officer, who proceeded to make the 2019 Budget Message, as follows:

“Good Morning. I am grateful to have the privilege to serve as Warren County’s Budget Officer, to prepare and present the Board of Supervisors a proposed 2019 County Budget. Thank you to Chairman Conover and the Board for the opportunity to serve as the County’s Budget officer. Thank you to the Budget team; the County Administrator, Ryan Moore; Assistant to the County Administrator, Tammie DeLorenzo; Deputy Treasurer, Rob Lynch; Confidential Secretary, Kristy Miller; and retired Assistant to the County Administrator, JoAnn McKinstry for your hard work, attention to detail and guidance preparing this budget. Thank you all very much.

Warren County’s many department heads are all very capable, talented and knowledgeable individuals leading their respective departments with the best interests of Warren County’s taxpayers in mind and serving the residents of Warren County in their various capacities. As Budget Officer I have the distinct pleasure of interacting with each one when reviewing and discussing their budgets, listening to their needs and concerns, seeking ways to reduce expenses or increase revenues when possible. I appreciate the knowledge each one brings to the budget process. Thank you to each one.

The total proposed budget is \$156,880,886 of which the property tax levy is \$44,730,096, an increase in the levy of \$1,051,848 or 2.41%. This is \$99,486 below the allowable tax cap of 2.7% or \$1,151,334 for 2019.

The amount of sales tax included in the 2019 budget is \$52,154,551, the actual amount collect in 2017. This is an increase of \$1,130,084 over the 2018 Budget. Currently, at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter sales tax receipts for 2018 were up 5.4% or \$2,127,946 over 2017. This is the largest increase in recent memory and may this hold true through the end of the year.

The budget incorporates the remaining \$425,000 of debt services for the court project and the SUNY Adirondack project that was a reoccurring expense being paid with surplus funds to date. The computer equipment reserve is again funded at \$145,000 and the vehicle reserve is funded at \$301,000. These reserves have served the County well since being established.

A 2.6% wage and salary increase is included for all employees with Warren County. The contingent account is budgeted at \$623,739; \$275,000 is the usual amount and the remaining \$348,739 was an amount accounting for an anticipated settlement of the PBA Union contract. Six full-time and two part-time positions were created in this budget and five full-time and one part-time position were deleted. There were eleven salary adjustments totaling \$23,932.

Changing the Medicare Advantage health care plan for the County’s retirees created enough savings to compensate for a 12% premium increase and reduce the health insurance expense for 2019 by \$122,807. One of the part-time positions created would be tasked with developing a wellness program; being self-insured, it is in the County’s interest that everyone be as healthy as possible in an effort to contain future costs for health care.

To obtain a 2.41% increase in the property tax levy and remain under the tax cap, along

with many other expense cuts and revenue increases, \$1,288,060 of requests had been removed from this budget and are on a list that is before you. I recommend the Board of Supervisors appropriate funds during 2019 from the General Fund Surplus Balance. These items are mainly one-time, not reoccurring expenses that we can pay cash for versus raising taxes. By doing this the General Fund Surplus Balance in this budget will remain at \$1,257,422. Adding to the use of fund balance incorporated into the budget commits the County to future year budget expense, until expenses are reduced or revenues increase to allow the reduction in the use of surplus included in the budget. These requests can be funded as presented, adjusted or eliminated as the Board determines.

The Local Mortgage Tax is a 1/4 of 1% or \$.25 per \$100 that in 2017 generated \$986,860 of revenue for Warren County. This tax must be renewed every two years by the Board of Supervisors and the New York State Legislature. As we know the Legislature failed to renew this when they were in session and the tax will expire on December 1, 2018. We have been assured it will be renewed, should the Legislature go into session after the November election. If not it could become part of the State Budget which starts on April 1<sup>st</sup> The County can absorb the loss of revenue until April with other mortgage tax revenue not included in the budget. Beyond that if not re-authorized by the State it would be compensated for from the General Surplus funds.

We should remember and point out that Warren County has one of the lowest property tax rates in New York State, remains one of three counties, the other two being our neighbors, Saratoga and Washington Counties, where the sales tax rate remains at 7% and our amount of debt the County had is nowhere near our Constitutional limit. We can always do better, but we should take pause considering we are in New York State, that we are in relatively good shape.

With a budget this large and diverse, my head starts spinning occasionally and it is impossible to satisfy everyone. Not everyone will agree with decisions made preparing this budget. I think it is a responsible budget given the demands placed on the County by New York State. It will fund Warren County's operations and services as structured, remains below the State's tax cap and will maintain the County's fiscal health going forward. I respectfully ask for your consideration and support of this 2019 Budget. Thank you".

Supervisor Thomas then proceeded to make a powerpoint presentation on the 2019 Tentative Budget, a copy of which is on file with the items distributed at the Board meeting. At the conclusion of the powerpoint presentation, Supervisor Thomas opened the floor to any comments or questions on the Budget proposal.

Supervisor Magowan entered the meeting during the presentation of the 2019 Tentative Budget.

Supervisor Diamond apprised he would like to comment on the handout entitled "Personnel Requests-2019 Warren County Budget" which was distributed at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Budget Committee. He said he would like to recommend that the Board consider making the following changes: change the salary of the Human Resources Clerk position that was being created from \$19,200 to \$0, since he felt the County Human Resources Director and Human Resources Specialist positions, who were both receiving a 5.4% salary increase which was more than 2.6% provided to the vast majority of County employees, should be required to take on more work; reducing the salary of the Computer Help Desk Tech I #3 which was created as part of this tentative budget from \$44,000 to \$0 due to the lack of justification or logic provided regarding the need for this position; and reducing the salary of the

Communication Officer #20 which was created as part of this budget for the Sheriff's Office from \$40,564 to \$0 due to the fact that he did not believe the City of Glens Falls would be renewing its contract with the County for dispatching services in the amount of \$140,000 in 2020 resulting in a loss of revenue for the County. Supervisor Diamond advised he interpreted the deletion of the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor Coordinator position to mean that the position was not needed and he questioned why then the salary of the County Planner position was increased by the amount that was previously paid to the Coordinator. He stated if the intent was to increase the salary of County Planner, he would suggest an increase of 2.6%. Supervisor Thomas explained that the \$6,467 salary was a stipend the County Planner was receiving; therefore, he stated, the purpose for the change was to include the stipend as part of the County Planner's salary going forward. With regard to the \$50,000 budgeted for animal control services, Supervisor Diamond suggested this figure be reduced to \$15,000 as a result of the fact that the Sheriff's Office was doing well managing these calls.

Supervisor McDevitt interjected and requested that Supervisor Diamond justify how such a significant reduction could be made. Supervisor Diamond stated that there had only been a few calls for which the majority of which were responded to by the Sheriff's Office. Supervisor McDevitt asked Shawn Lamouree, *Warren County Undersheriff*, to elaborate whether Supervisor Diamond's statement was accurate. Undersheriff Lamouree stated that he was unsure of the total expended for this purpose, but the number of calls was around half a dozen as indicated by Supervisor Diamond. He explained the expense associated with these calls occurred when the Sheriff's Office or State Police were not equipped to handle a call resulting in the use of an expert which incurred a cost. He said these services were usually used when dealing with cruelty and neglect investigations.

Supervisor Diamond continued with his suggestions for changes to the 2019 Tentative County Budget, recommending that the Contingent Account, which had already been reduced by \$39,000, be reduced an additional \$51,000 resulting in an approximate balance of \$531,739. He proposed reducing the salary increase to the Deputy Self-Insurance Administrator to 2.6% to align it with the salary increases given to the majority of the County employees. In conclusion, Supervisor Diamond implored that the level of occupancy tax funding provided to the LGRCC&CVB (*Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce & Convention and Visitors Bureau*) be maintained at \$300,000 for 2019.

Supervisor Braymer acknowledged Supervisor Thomas for his efforts in putting together the County Budget, as she was well aware how difficult the budgeting process was. She informed that the residents of the City of Glens Falls were struggling due to the amount of taxes they had to pay which included County, City and School taxes and anywhere these taxes could be reduced would be helpful. She thanked Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, for taking the time to review the proposed Budget with her. She remarked although the Budget would only raise taxes for the City residents by \$.40 she firmly believed they should make cuts wherever they could. She apprised she felt it was imperative for them to be fair when they provided salary increases to employees. She recalled the performance evaluation process which had been implemented a few years prior to base Department Head salary increases on the ratings they received to ensure they were not given out in an arbitrary way while offering Department Heads with an incentive to do well in their job. She stated she was aware they had tried to give raises based on this method last year, but they had run into some issues. Supervisor Thomas interjected that he had been criticized for using this method to justify pay increases. Supervisor Braymer voiced her disappointment that it appeared they were going back to the former method of offering salary increases, as she believed Mr. Moore had done an exceptional job carrying out the performance evaluations which she felt they should make meaningful to their Department Heads. She stated she had inquired about this before today and was told there was an insufficient amount of money available to give out salary increases based upon the results of the performance evaluations; however, she noted, if they eliminated some of the positions Supervisor Diamond had just reviewed

*WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018*

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with the Board, they could use these funds, which equated to slightly more than \$100,000, to fund salary increases based on the evaluations and not the arbitrary figures that had been provided to several employees. She pointed out there were several positions that were receiving adjustments above the 2.6% that everyone else was being awarded for no other reason than they had requested them. She said she was not implying that these positions were not deserving of the increases; however, she noted, there were several other Department Headwells deserving of raises, as well.

In the case of the County Human Resources Director, Supervisor Thomas advised that she had indicated to them since she had served in her position for three years she felt she was worthy of the \$85,000 annual salary paid to the previous person in the position. Supervisor Braymer remarked that she did not agree with this justification. She stated she felt everyone should be given the standard rate of 2.6% and the Board could go back and review the results of the performance evaluations than provide salary increases or bonuses which was something that was permissible to do.

Supervisor Braymer continued with her suggestions for possible changes to the Tentative 2019 County Budget, apprising she concurred with Supervisor Diamond that the funds allocated to the Contingent Account should be reduced, as there was no reason this figure had to be set at \$275,000. She added this would lessen the tax levy on the residents throughout the County. In conclusion, she also concurred that the LGRCC&CVB funding should remain the same as it was in 2018.

Supervisor Beaty remarked he would like to discuss some of the suggestions made by the previous speakers, apprising that he concurred with about 90% of Supervisor Diamond's suggestions, as well as Supervisor Braymer's. With regard to the Surplus Fund Balance, he thanked Supervisor Thomas and Mr. Moore for doing a tremendous job in ensuring the County remained in good financial standing through correct budgeting and leadership. He remarked with this being said, he believed they could find ways to have no tax increase and he pointed out how Saratoga County had actually decreased the tax rate for their County residents. He apprised if they were to bring it down to a flat tax rate the County still reserved the right to increase the tax under the State Tax levy of 2%. He recommended scheduling another meeting of the Budget Committee prior to approving the Tentative Budget to allow them to iron out items that could be cut back with the possibility of reaching a flat tax rate. He said as long as this meeting was scheduled within a week they could keep the process moving forward while also addressing Supervisors Diamond and Braymer's suggestions which were what he had planned to bring up, as well. He apprised it was always a sensitive subject when they dealt with personnel and salaries and he noted he had extensive experience in dealing with matters such as this. He continued, what would occur if they did not handle the procedure correctly was that it caused significant issues with morale due to some Department Heads feeling the playing field was not level. He informed he would like to make some suggestions during the Budget Committee meeting regarding how they could level this playing field to ensure it was as fair and even as possible and reward those who were doing their job above par. He recommended holding off of adopting the 2019 Tentative Budget today to allow them to iron out some of the suggestions made today by himself and Supervisors Diamond and Braymer at a Budget Committee meeting following which they could adopt it at the regularly scheduled Board Meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Leggett asked whether the mortgage tax revenue budgeted excluded the 1/4% and Supervisor Thomas replied in the affirmative, explaining there was about \$200,000 that was typically left out of the Budget due to the conservative budgeting he and the County Clerk employed. Supervisor Thomas stated that he was anticipating receiving about \$200,000 which would assist with carrying the County through April when the State Legislature met again.

Supervisor Merlino remarked he felt Supervisor Thomas had done an exceptional job on preparing the

2019 Tentative County Budget; however, he noted, there were a few niches that should be addressed by the Budget Committee such as the funding which was cut for the LGRCC&CVB. He advised this had been a remarkable year for tourism with both sales tax revenues and occupancy tax collections increasing substantially in the County which he attributed to the efforts of the County working with the LGRCC&CVB. He pointed out occupancy tax funds, which did not originate from the County taxpayers, were used to fund this contract and he felt additional discussion on matters such as this were required before they approved the Budget. He voiced his support of using funds from the Surplus General Fund to fund one-time expenses rather than including them in the Budget to keep the tax rate lower. He stated he would like a Budget Committee meeting scheduled for next week to allow them to go over a few things.

With regard to his recommendation that during 2019 funds be appropriated from the Surplus Fund Balance to pay for one-time expenses such as County Road Projects, etc., Supervisor Thomas advised that \$1.3 million had been removed from the Budget in order to achieve the 2.41% tax rate; however, he noted, these were all items he felt should and could be funded through the Surplus Fund Balance next year. He added if the State Legislature did not approve the additional Mortgage Tax then they would have to spend an additional \$1 million of the Surplus Fund Balance.

Supervisor Dickinson stated he would like to comment on the contract with the LGRCC&CVB which was a performance contract in the amount of \$300,000. He said since the agency had far exceeded the goals and guidelines the County had established for this contract, he felt the County should continue on with the present funding which was allocated from occupancy tax to allow the organization to continue doing the exceptional work on behalf of the County. Supervisor Thomas interjected that he was not involved with the budget concerning occupancy tax, apprising he left this up to Supervisors Dickinson and Merlino, as they were more knowledgeable in this area. He said he was agreeable to whatever they put forward as long as it was nothing too far fetched.

Supervisor Loeb advised the Budget Team felt the proposed salary increase for the Deputy Self-Insurance Administrator was justified due to the work performed by this individual. In regards to the creation of Computer Help Desk Tech I #3, he informed this request had been brought forward and approved by the Support Services Committee.

This concluded the comments on the 2019 Tentative Budget.

Chairman Conover apprised what had been presented by Supervisor Thomas was the 2019 Tentative County Budget and the resolution the Board members had before them established the preliminary County Budget; he added following the public hearing the Budget could be changed again to the final adopted Budget. He informed there were a number of different ways they could approach this, the first of which was to review the suggestions made today one at a time to determine which budget codes would be impacted, such as if there was a deletion which revenue code would be involved. He said these changes could be made in the form of an amendment. He stated another option would be adopt the proposed resolution before them today following which the Supervisors who had suggested changes could meet with Mr. Moore to identify the correct format such an amendment would take. He continued, if the Supervisors so chose, they could introduce those amendments at the conclusion of the public hearing to allow them to be acted upon individually or a macro amendment could be entertained, as well. Chairman Conover asked whether Supervisors Diamond, Braymer and Beaty whether they preferred to deal with his suggestions on an individual basis today or meet with Mr. Moore before addressing them with the full Board. He added it was imperative that they understood the scheduling as dictated by State law in terms of when the County was required to adopt its budget in December. He advised of another option which would be to table the proposed resolution and hold

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018**

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a Budget Committee meeting; however, he noted, if they moved forward in this manner he would suggest that they have a more specific idea regarding which departments and budget codes would be impacted in order to achieve a final budget. He informed if it was their desire to table the proposed resolution they would take action to do so during the portion of the meeting where the resolutions were discussed. He stated if there was enough support for the motion to table, then a Budget Committee meeting could be held to review some of the proposed changes.

Supervisor Diamond informed since it was not his intention to slow the process he would propose that he meet with Mr. Moore to review his requests and determine exactly which budget codes would be impacted and then distribute them to the full Board to allow them to determine whether they would like to act upon them at the November 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Chairman Conover stated he felt this was the appropriate way to handle the matter, as it provided them with time to review the changes and make an informed decision at the November 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Supervisor Braymer stated it was also not her intention to slow the process down either; however, she noted, she was concerned that there would be no time to discuss the changes proposed amongst themselves except at the November 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, which she did not believe any of them wanted to do. She said this was why she felt they should hold a separate Budget Committee meeting to discuss these proposed changes. Supervisor Thomas interjected that he was willing to hold another Budget Committee meeting, but he did not believe they could take any action there. He said they could discuss the proposed changes and then make recommendations at the November 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Supervisor Beaty apprised he was in favor of Supervisor Diamond meeting with Mr. Moore to determine which budget codes would be impacted following which these changes could be discussed at a special meeting of the Budget Committee. He remarked, to him this was the most logical course of action for them to take, as they could adjust the budget based upon the recommendations made at the meeting at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>. He added even though the deadline to adopt the Budget gave them until December, he would like this to occur during November.

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

Terry Maguire, *Town of Lake Luzerne Resident*, inquired how much was budgeted for animal control services, as she believed it was around \$5,000 and Supervisor Thomas interjected that \$50,000 had been budgeted. She stated if this figure was based upon the amount of calls they received, this was probably an adequate amount, but it was not a sufficient amount if it was based upon the issue. She informed she had recently been bitten by a stray cat causing the animal to be quarantined for ten days, as per the law. She apprised she had to quarantine the cat herself because she had been unable to find a location available to take the cat in, as Warren County had no SPCA and all other shelters from here to Albany, New York were either at full capacity or did not return her phone call. She advised the nuisance issue with cats was created by owners who did not take responsibility for setting them free or letting them go outside without sterilizing them resulting in further population. She stated there were tens of millions of stray cats located all across the United States and she did not believe this County was the only one with an issue. She informed her original intent was to bring the Board of Supervisors' attention to the seriousness of the number of stray cats, but in her search she found an interesting solution that she hoped they would at least give some consideration to, apprising that she had printed out a guide and requested that each Board member be provided a copy of it. She encouraged everyone to watch the YouTube video listed on the front of the guide entitled "Feral Cats" which was created by the United States Humane Society. She apprised the program this agency encouraged implementing to control the stray population was referred to as TNR (*Trap, Neuter, Return*)

and called for a cooperation of many individuals throughout the community since this was a regional issue and not just one the Board of Supervisors had to deal with. She said cooperation was required from veterinarians, animal shelters, municipal leaders, health professionals and wildlife advocates. She advised this program was used in a trailer park located down the road from the Lake Luzerne Town Hall where there was a severe stray cat issue. She said she took in three of the kittens from there, one of which died from feline leukemia and she recently got another kitten that was captured from there. She appraised ten kittens and the adult ferals were captured and two of the ferals had FIV, which was similar to HIV, and two were euthanized for being in such poor condition. She advised one individual managed and fed the other females which were spayed and released because if the food was taken away they would move closer to where they could get food such as garbage cans, etc. She added a vacuum would be created if these cats were removed because more cats would move in since there was no other cat to keep them away. She referred to a larger scale of TNR which was carried out in Newbury Waterfront Park in Massachusetts in 1992 when 200 of the 300 total stray cats were captured, 100 of which were adopted. She continued, in 1998 there was 100% sterilization resulting in six cats remaining there in 2007. She stated kittens were adopted out and the adults were sterilized preventing them from having future litters of kittens resulting in attrition occurring naturally. She informed there were no more kittens in the trailer park since the ones there were removed and the adults were sterilized. She remarked that this program worked, but would take a significant amount of preparation and commitment from a number of individuals. She added there was also a 150 acre farm that took in sterilized cats to assist with controlling the vermin population such as mice and rats which wreak havoc with the hay and grain. She pointed out ignoring the issue was not taking care of anything, as it did not address the public health concerns, reduce predation or improve animal welfare for them and other animals nor did it reduce nuisance complaints. She added if the cats were sterilized there would be no spraying or cats fights. She implored with the Board members to consider this issue because it was a significant one. She said she did not expect this to be addressed today or next week, but she would request that the Board consider recognizing it and at the very least watch the video. She concluded by thanking the Board members for the opportunity to address them.

Supervisor McDevitt apprised that one of the issues he felt would be forthcoming in the future was that Warren County did not have an animal shelter nor did Washington County. He said although some felt it was “corny” to spend money on cats and dogs he did not, as he believed this was something they should be doing as human beings. He suggested they consider partnering with Washington County on a joint shelter which both Counties could support.

Ms. Maguire stated her understanding was that a quarter of the budget was spent on picking these animals up, euthanizing and disposing them. She advised her suggestion was not for a shelter, but rather for a joint cooperative venture which did not encompass taking the cats in. She said the cats would be sterilized and then released resulting in the population being reduced by normal attrition; however, since these cats lived in colonies someone had to take on the responsibility of feeding them. She added the other portion was educating the public.

Chairman Conover continued with the Agenda review, calling for discussion on the proposed resolutions and he called for a motion to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 431 and 432 to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously.

Chairman Conover called for anyone wishing to comment on proposed Resolution No. 431, *Amending Tentative Budget Submitted by the Budget Officer for Fiscal Year 2019*.

Supervisor Loeb interjected that there was a misprint on the Resolution Index and the actual proposed

Resolutions before them today were proposed Resolution Nos. 432-433. Chairman Conover requested that the record show that they were discussing proposed Resolution Nos. 432-433, beginning with 432.

Supervisor Geraghty requested an explanation as to why proposed Resolution No. 432, *Amending Tentative Budget Submitted by the Budget Officer for Fiscal Year 2019*, was required. Supervisor Thomas informed the paving projects had been placed into one Budget Code, but Mr. Lynch requested that it be broken down by project. Chairman Conover apprised that his understanding was that it was a more detailed breakdown of that appropriation. Supervisor Thomas stated he was supportive of the proposed Resolution as long as Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, and Supervisor Simpson, who served as Chairman of the Public Works Committee, were comfortable with these changes. Supervisor Geraghty stated that his only issue was that he had repeatedly requested that the Road Projects be identified where they were taking place and yet this was still not being done. He asked whether these were the road projects that would be worked on in 2019 and Mr. Hajos replied in the affirmative. Supervisor Geraghty stated he would like to know what communities the road projects would be completed in. Mr. Hajos stated that he could provide this information, but was unable to do so for this particular proposed Resolution because the New World software used by the Treasurer's Office did not have the capability of listing where the project was taking place. He provided an overview of where the following road projects would take place as follows: Federal Hill Road, Town of Bolton; Friends Lake Road, Town of Chester; Knapp Hill Road, Town of Chester; West Hague Road, Town of Hague; New Hague Road, Town of Hague; East Shore Drive, Town of Horicon; Beaver Pond Road, Town of Horicon; Peaceful Valley Road, Town of Johnsbury; Gore Mountain Road, Town of Johnsbury; Bloody Pond Road, Town of Queensbury; Main Street, Town of Johnsbury; Queensbury Avenue, Town of Queensbury; West Mountain Road, Town of Queensbury; High Street, Town of Thurman; Golf Course Road, Town of Warrensburg; Harrington Hill Road, Town of Warrensburg; and the crack sealing would be performed on many different roads throughout the County. Mr. Hajos added he would distribute the listing of the road projects to the Board members following the conclusion of the meeting.

Supervisor Simpson inquired whether the Beaver Pond Road Project was for the intersection since it was a Town Road and Mr. Hajos replied in the affirmative.

Supervisor Beaty thanked Mr. Hajos for the information, as it allowed them to get a better understanding of where the funds were being spent.

Chairman Conover called for a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 432 following which it was adopted by unanimous vote.

Chairman Conover then called for anyone wishing to comment on proposed Resolution No. 433, *Adopting Tentative Budget Providing Appropriations for the Conduct of County Business for the Fiscal Year 2019 and Authorizing Public Hearing on the Budget*, and he requested that Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, and Mr. Moore provide information regarding the schedule and the possible implications to the tax bills if a delay were to occur. Mr. Moore advised the process indicated whatever the tentative County Budget with any amendments such as the one that was just adopted by resolution goes to a public hearing. He informed Section 360 of County Law which dealt with adoption of the County Budget and the appropriation resolution read as follows: "After completion of the public hearing required by Section 359, the Board of Supervisors by resolution may further change, alter and revise the tentative budget. The tentative budget as changed, altered and revised shall be finally adopted by resolution of the Board of Supervisors not later than December 20<sup>th</sup>".

Mr. Swan apprised that final adoption of the 2019 Budget on December 20<sup>th</sup> would not provide the Real Property Tax Services Department with a sufficient amount of time to work on the tax bills and

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018**

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distribute them to the towns, more specifically with the Town of Queensbury which required them the week between Christmas and New Years. Chairman Conover inquired how much additional time was required and Mr. Swan replied he would suggest backing it up at least an additional ten days, as this would provide the towns and the Real Property Tax Services Department enough time to do the bills. He apprised in 2009 when the County Budget was adopted extremely late the bills went out late which caused all of the payment periods to be pushed back considerably resulting in a number of issues. He added legislation had also been required to permit the tax warrant to be extended longer then the normal period of time. He remarked he believed the Real Property tax Services Department could get everything done in time if the Board adopted the Budget by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Conover stated his desire to discuss this matter related to the fact that they were required to introduce a public hearing to be held at a later date and he asked Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, what would be the most appropriate dates to hold the public hearing if they did not hold one on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Allen apprised a special Board Meeting could be scheduled to hold the public hearing on November 30<sup>th</sup> or December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman Conover reiterated the options before them today were as follows: Approve the Tentative County Budget with the one amendment they approved today and hold the public hearing on November 16<sup>th</sup> following which any amendments could be introduced; between now and November 16<sup>th</sup> a Budget Committee meeting could be scheduled for the purpose of determining whether their desire was to introduce those amendments on November 16<sup>th</sup>, as well as to assist with drafting them to ensure they were proper format when introduced; and schedule a Special Board Meeting on either of the dates Mrs. Allen identified.

Supervisor Geraghty advised he would like to attend a Budget Committee meeting with everyone present to go over each one of the recommendations made to determine whether they could come to a solution. He added he would be voting in favor of the 2019 Tentative Budget, as he believed some valid points had been brought up that needed to be discussed as a group and it was permissible for changes to be made to the preliminary budget before it was adopted. He remarked he felt it was unnecessary to prolong the process, apprising they could all adjust their schedules to meet the required timeframe. He stated if there were concerns the Budget Committee should be reconvened as soon as possible to discuss them in an attempt to resolve them while staying on the course, if possible and hold the public hearing on November 16<sup>th</sup> following which any Supervisor who would like to introduce amendments could do so. Chairman Conover indicated he felt this would be the appropriate way to move forward, as there was nothing preventing them from tabling the Budget on November 16<sup>th</sup> if they so choose.

Supervisor Diamond stated he could suggest his amendments at the public hearing on November 16<sup>th</sup> and the Budget could be amended at that time. Supervisor Braymer apprised she and Supervisor Diamond had both indicated they had no desire to slow the process down; however, she noted, she would like a commitment from Supervisor Thomas that a Budget Committee meeting would be held between now and November 16<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Thomas interjected that as he had indicated earlier in the meeting he had no issue with scheduling a Budget Committee meeting for next week. Supervisor Geraghty suggested that the Budget Committee meeting be scheduled for next Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup> if everyone was agreeable to this date to allow for further discussion. Supervisor Thomas requested that the Budget Committee meeting be scheduled for Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Chairman Conover announced a meeting notice would be distributed following the conclusion of the meeting to set the date and time as previously indicated. Mr. Moore requested that the meetings with the Supervisors proposing budget changes be scheduled on Monday or Tuesday, as he had a prior commitment on Wednesday and would be out of the office. Chairman Conover suggested that if

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2018**

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necessary Mr. Moore send his Assistant to these meetings in his place.

Chairman called for a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 433, *Adopting Tentative Budget Providing Appropriations for the Conduct of County Business for the Fiscal Year 2019 and Authorizing Public Hearing on the Budget*, following which it was adopted by unanimous vote.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Sokol and seconded by Supervisor Simpson, Chairman Conover adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.