

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2007**

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. William Thomas presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor O'Connor.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Gabriels, Monroe, Girard, Sheehan, Mason, O'Connor, Kenny, Belden, Bentley, W. Thomas, Tessier, Merlino, Stec, Caimano, Champagne, VanNess, Sokol, F. Thomas, Haskell, and Geraghty - 20.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2007 Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Chairman Thomas declared the Public Hearing on the proposed assignment and amendments to the three Airport Real Property Lease Agreements with Schermerhorn Commercial Holdings, LLP open at 10:01 a.m. and requested the Clerk to read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Privilege of the floor was extended to John Lapper, Counsel for Schermerhorn Aviation, who explained Mr. Schermerhorn was requesting separation of his business of Schermerhorn Commercial Holdings, LLP to Schermerhorn Aviation, LLC with the same terms and conditions of the original Lease Agreements. He added that Mr. Schermerhorn was ready to build two additional hangars; therefore he wanted a separate entity for his business at the Airport. He noted the other changes had been requested by the jet owners with regard to their lease agreements.

There being no one further wishing to speak on the proposed assignment and amendments to the three Airport Real Property Lease Agreements with Schermerhorn Commercial Holdings, LLP, Chairman Thomas closed the hearing at 10:04 a.m.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Michael O'Connor, Chairman of the Mental Health Committee. Mr. O'Connor apprised that the month of May had been designated as Mental Health Month in Warren County and he read a Proclamation declaring the same.

Chairman Thomas recognized the City of Glens Falls Mayor, LeRoy Akins. Mayor Akins thanked all of the Supervisors and the various staff members of the departments of Warren County for coming to the opening of the roundabout in the City of Glens Falls.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Candance Kelly, Director of the Office for the Aging. Mrs. Kelly stated that in addition to May being Mental Health Month, it was also Older Americans Month. She added that yesterday they had honored the Senior of the Year, as well

as the Outstanding Contributing Senior at the Senior Luncheon. She noted that this year, they had received the most nominees that they had ever had throughout all the Towns. She announced that Albert Doring was nominated by the Queensbury AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) as the Senior of the Year and Betty Jane Meade was nominated as the Senior that made an Outstanding Contribution. Mrs. Kelly congratulated both recipients on behalf of the Office for the Aging.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Supervisor Daniel Stec, who introduced Albert Doring of the Town of Chester, who was recommended by the Queensbury Chapter AARP, and who was being recognized as Warren County's Senior of the Year. He presented Mr. Doring with a plaque and the board members responded with applause in recognition of Mr. Doring's accomplishments.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Supervisor Fred Monroe, who introduced Betty Jane Meade of the Town of Chester, who was selected as the recipient of the 2007 Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Award. He remarked on the many accomplishments of Ms. Meade. He presented Ms. Meade with a plaque and the board members responded with applause in recognition of the honoree.

Chairman called for reports by Committee chairmen on past activities and the following gave verbal reports on May meetings or activities:

Supervisor Geraghty, Insurance; Supervisor Haskell, Westmount Health Facility & Countryside Adult Home, Parks, Recreation & Railroad and County Facilities; Supervisor Sokol, Information Technology; Supervisor VanNess, Fire Prevention & Control; Supervisor Champagne, Community College; Supervisor Caimano, Budget; Supervisor Tessier, Tourism, Social Services and Criminal Justice; Supervisor Bentley, Sheriff & Communications; Supervisor Belden, Real Property Tax Services and DPW; Supervisor O'Connor, Municipal Shared Services; Supervisor Mason, Health Services; Supervisor Gabriels, Personnel/Human Resources; Supervisor Monroe, Support Services and Economic Development.

With regard to the Insurance Committee meeting, Mr. Geraghty expounded that the Committee authorized the extension of the health insurance agreement with Capital Financial Group and a RFP (Request for Proposal) would be prepared for the Property and Casualty Insurance in September.

In connection with the Westmount Health Facility & Countryside Adult Home, Mr. Haskell stated a vehicle from the Countryside Adult Home had been involved in an accident, at no fault of the County driver, and the vehicle had extensive damage and may possibly have been totaled.

Concerning the Parks, Recreation and Railroad Committee, Mr. Haskell advised that a licensing agreement would not be needed with Lime Adirondack Timber Company for the snowmobile trail that went through the South Warren Snowmobile Club because the Open Space Institute would be purchasing that area. He added that the fees for the use of the Warren County Fairgrounds had been reduced from \$300 per day to \$150 per day. He noted

a grant would be submitted for the renovations of the Kellogg Property in North Creek and added that they had met with the Open Space Institute, owners of the property, and they had agreed to send a letter of intent to turn the property over to the County.

Paul Dusek, County Attorney, referred to the vehicle from the Countryside Adult Home that was involved an accident and said that an offer had been made to settle the claim by the other insurance carrier. He noted a resolution would be needed to settle the claim.

Mr. Sokol apprised he had the privilege of chairing his first Committee meeting, Information Technology, in the absence of Chairman Sheehan. He said during that meeting, discussions were held regarding the use of laptops in the Board Room for each Supervisor and added that a questionnaire would be sent to the Supervisors to determine the consensus of the group. Mr. Sokol noted he had used one of the new voting machines at Queensbury School when voting on the school budget and said the machines were very user friendly.

Mr. VanNess stated that although there had not been a Fire Prevention and Control Committee meeting this month, he wanted to keep the Board members abreast of the Fire Training Center. He advised that studies of the properties would begin soon and by next month they should have more answers.

Concerning the Community College Committee, Mr. Champagne said he had attended the Adirondack Community College (ACC) graduation ceremony and he enjoyed it immensely. He noted that construction for the Regional Higher Education building would begin in late September and there was still a possibility of having a four-year institution located on the ACC campus.

Mr. Caimano referred to a handout that he had distributed to the Board members entitled 'Warren County Budget 2007 Summary of Costs to County', a copy of which is on file with the minutes. He noted it included a more detailed description of dictated costs. He added that the total cost for mandated expenses was \$49,375,219.87. Additionally, he said that he had recently used the new voting machines also and found them very easy to use.

In connection with the Tourism Committee, Mr. Tessier apprised Francis O'Keefe, County Treasurer, had given a power point presentation on Warren County Occupancy Tax Revenues and Expenditures. With regard to the Social Services Committee, he said that Capital Project No.H234.9550 280-Purchase of Social Services Vehicles, had been closed and the remaining funds would be transferred to the General Fund.

With regard to the Sheriff and Communications Committee, Mr. Bentley expounded that the Committee authorized Sheriff Cleveland to proceed with the addition of a shared sub-station in the Town of Warrensburg

Regarding the Real Property Tax Services Committee, Mr. Belden said discussions were held in relation to a county-wide assessment and a meeting would be scheduled with Senator Little and Assemblywoman Galef to further those discussions. He added, as Chairman of the DPW Committee, he was very proud of where the Department was at and

credited Mr. Lamy with leading the Department in the right direction.

Mr. O'Connor stated that the Municipal Shared Services Committee did not meet this month; however, many discussions had been held surrounding the condition of the Glens Falls Civic Center. He reminded the Board members that Senator Little had secured grant funding in the amount of \$500,000 and the City of Glens Falls was responsible for an additional \$350,000. Mr. Caimano added he had attended the Glens Falls Common Council Meeting and the discussions were focused on replacing the seats at the Civic Center. He noted that he had mentioned to the Common Council that if they were looking for assistance from the County, they would need to contact the Board before the end of May because the budget process would begin soon. He said he recently received a letter from Councilwoman Judy Villa-White, predicting a request of \$340,000. Mr. Caimano advised another Common Council meeting would be held with representatives from the City on Monday, May 21, 2007 and he believed that they would be asking the County for \$200,000 towards renovating the Civic Center.

Mr. Haskell questioned if the County would need to enter into a contract with the City of Glens Falls to provide the funding, in order for it not to be considered an illegal gift. Mr. Dusek replied that the constitutional prohibition against gifts was related to private entities, not municipalities. He further stated that as long as there was a County purpose being served, which in this case there was in terms of it being a regional type of operational facility, the grounds would be justified. He added that the County would want to have a contract with the City to clearly identify how the funds would be used.

Mr. Kenny asked if there was a specific time-line in which the Civic Center planned to begin the renovations.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Suzanna Bernd, Business Manager for the Glens Falls Civic Center. Ms. Bernd apprised if the Civic Center wanted to accomplish the objective of having the seats completed prior to the new season (September), the funding would need to be established within the next week. Ms. Bernd reviewed a list of potential upcoming events planned at the Civic Center.

Returning to reports by Committee chairmen on past activities, Mr. Mason said in relation to the Health Services Committee, a representative from Congresswoman Gillibrand's Office toured the Health Services Department. He added that he was informed that the funding requested was a result of the request from the Department for the Point of Care initiative. He added that Mr. Caimano had stated that the funding for the Point of Care Program would be included in the 2008 County budget if it could not be secured prior to that.

In connection with the Personnel/Human Resources Committee, Mr. Gabriels expounded Resolution No. 318 included in the Supervisors packets was to further clarify the County's process with regard to reclassifications, increases in salaries and the creation of new positions.

Regarding the Support Services Committee, Mr. Monroe advised he chaired the meeting in the absence of Chairman Sheehan, and discussions were focused on the Election Inspectors and whether they were County employees or independent contractors. He noted that the consensus of the Committee was to research what other counties were doing with this issue, and for the time being, the Election Inspectors would remain independent contractors. Mr. Dusek added he had been researching the issue and had discovered additional information which he would present at the next Support Services Committee meeting.

Concerning the Economic Development Committee, Mr. Monroe said the Adirondack Regional Business Incubator (ARBI) was a few months away from being launched and they expected to have tenants in the building within six to nine months. He noted a request had been submitted to the County from the ARBI for \$50,000 in funding and the Finance Committee decided to table the request pending receipt of additional information.

Chairman Thomas thanked JoAnn McKinstry, Deputy Commissioner of Administrative and Fiscal Services, for preparing the report that was distributed to the Board members and reviewed by Mr. Caimano.

Chairman called for reading of communications.

Clerk read communications, including the following:

Minutes from:

Warren/Washington Counties IDA and Executive/Park Committees.

Monthly Report from:

Veterinarian.

Annual Reports from:

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation;
Warren County Local Development Corporation - 2005 and 2006 Annual Reports;
Warren County Economic Development;
Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District;
2006 Financial Report for Warren County;
Warren County Health Services 2006 Annual Report.

Capital District Off-Track Betting, April surcharge in the amount of \$10,558, as well as January, February and March 2007 financial reports;

State of New York, Department of Environmental Conservation, notice of award for Water Quality Improvement Funding;

Town of Queensbury, notice of re-opening of SEQRA review of Hiland Park Planned Unit Development;

Richard Fuss, M.D., note expressing his appreciation to the Westmount Health Facility and Countryside Adult Home staff;

North Country Engineering, letter regarding availability of office space on Route 9;

Senator Little, acknowledging receipt of resolutions adopted by the Board;

Communications, resolutions and reports ordered placed on file.

Chairman called for reading of resolutions and discussion.

Mr. Haskell requested to waive the rules of the board requiring that a resolution be in writing. Motion was made by Mr. Haskell, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to waive the rules of the board.

Mr. Haskell explained a resolution was required to authorize the settlement of the auto insurance claim at the Countryside Adult Home. Mr. Dusek added that the insurance company had offered a sum of \$797 as a salvage value or the County could get rid of the vehicle for \$12,815. Mr. Haskell advised that a larger amount of money could be obtained if the vehicle went to the County auction. Mr. Dusek commented that if the County wanted to keep the vehicle, the insurance company would pay \$12,018. The Board members agreed the vehicle should be retained and then sent to the County auction.

Motion was made by Mr. Haskell, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to authorize the settlement of the auto insurance claim at the Countryside Adult Home for a total amount of \$12,018 and the County would retain the vehicle until it went to auction. Clerk noted it would be Resolution No. 342 of 2007 for the record.

Mr. Champagne stated he had a resolution to bring from the floor from the Warren County Sewer Committee, Resolution No. 341 of 2007, which was distributed to the Board members. He explained the resolution would authorize Change Order No. 1 with Over & Under Piping Contractors, Inc. for an extension of time of completion for Phase III of the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvements. Mr. Lamy further explained there had been a delay in the delivery of materials which initiated the request for the extension.

Mr. Bentley advised he had a resolution to bring from the floor as well from the Office for the Aging, Resolution No. 340 of 2007, which authorized the continuation of a lease agreement with NCR of Queensbury Housing Development to provide congregate meals as a satellite nutrition site at Solomon Heights Senior Housing.

Clerk apprised Resolution Nos. 285 through 339 were mailed. Mrs. Sady added that a motion was needed to bring Resolution Nos. 284, 340 and 341 to the floor. Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. VanNess and carried unanimously to bring Resolution Nos. 284, 340 and 341 to the floor.

Chairman Thomas called for a vote on the resolutions.

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Resolution Nos. 284 through 342 were approved. Proclamation declaring the month of May as Mental Health Month was submitted and the Mortgage Tax Report was submitted.

Mr. Haskell announced that a Memorial Service would be held at the Westmount Health Facility on Saturday, May 26, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. and he encouraged all Supervisors to attend. He added that the Thurman Town-Wide Garage Sale was this weekend.

Mr. Kenny announced that the Soap Box Derby would be held on June 2nd and 3rd, 2007 on Murray Street Hill in the City of Glens Falls. He noted that the LARAC (Lower Adirondack Regional Art Council) Festival would be held the second weekend in June in Glens Falls City Park. He also thanked Candace Kelly for attending the "Old Fashioned Town Hall" meeting in Glens Falls last week to explain the services that the Office for the Aging offered.

Mr. Bentley announced that tomorrow was the Annual Fishing Derby open to all kids in Warren County.

Mr. Monroe announced that the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages would be holding their Annual Meeting in Lake Placid, New York on June 10, 2007 and Commissioner Grannis would be speaking at that meeting. He encouraged all Supervisors to attend because there had been a number of recent events that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) had been involved in that were not good for local governments and this would be a good opportunity to address those issues.

Marvin Lemery, Administrator of Fire Prevention and Building Code Enforcement, reminded the Supervisors that he had sent each of them a letter requesting information on the possible locations for cell phone towers in their towns. He said he needed the Supervisors to provide him with a response in order to continue to move forward. Chairman Thomas said this was a very important issue for the County.

Chairman Thomas commented that Thomas the Tank Engine would be in North Creek over the next two weekends.

Mayor Akins thanked the Board of Supervisors for their concern and support of the City of Glens Falls.

Mr. Lamy referred to the positive comments made earlier in the meeting by Mr. Belden regarding DPW. He stated that he was very proud of the Department also and the direction they were going in. He noted that it was due to the cooperation and team work of the DPW staff. He added that he appreciated the support of the DPW Committee and the Board of Supervisors.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Haskell, Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

