

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2019**



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 Hyde.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Leggett, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Loeb, Driscoll, Frasier, Simpson, Hogan, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Beaty, Magowan, Sokol, Thomas, Hyde, Geraghty and Conover - 20 absent 0.

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Conover noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2018 Board Meeting and the January 4th Organization Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Sokol, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll and carried unanimously.

Moving along to the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Conover advised he had been involved with the preparation of the 2019 Standing Committees which he hoped everyone was pleased with and he encouraged anyone who would like to see adjustments made to contact him directly. He noted there was a resolution before them today that changed the number of Committee members on the Public Works Committee from nine to eleven. He informed one of the items he had mentioned during his State of the County address which was of particular interest to him and would be moving forward with action shortly pertained to the assessment of the infrastructure needs throughout the County and for a plan or strategy to be developed going forward to assist communities with addressing those needs. He acknowledged the County staff and others who contributed food for the lunch that followed the conclusion of the Organizational meeting, as he thoroughly enjoyed being able to sit down and chat over a nice meal after the meeting. He stated he had attended a meeting of the Adirondack-Glens Falls Transportation Council on January 9th at Crandall Library where the 2019 Workplan was presented. Chairman Conover advised on January 10th he had attended a meeting of the LCLGRP (Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board); he noted he was pleased with the continued improvements that were being made by that organization. He recognized Dave O'Brien, *Chairman*, and Beth Gilles, *Director*, for putting together a presentation on the Boundary Grant Program that the County was now eligible to participate in which included an outline of the Program, what was eligible and how to apply. He said a few Supervisors from Warren County had attended, as well as State representatives, who answered questions that arose and he would look into whether the presentation was available on the LCLGRP website and if so whether it would be permissible to place it on the County website, as well.

Supervisor Dickinson commented on how he would like to emphasize how Mr. O'Brien had done a stellar job putting in the time and effort to turn around the LCLGRP which he felt Mr. O'Brien should be recognized for.

Chairman Conover continued with the report by the Chairman, apprising the Resolution concerning the Home Rule Request pertaining to the additional mortgage recording tax that had been approved

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at the January 16th Special Board Meeting had been forwarded to the State Legislature and would be discussed at the January 31st Special Board Meeting. He voiced how pleased he was with the attendance at the workshop portion of the January 16th Special Board Meeting where sales tax was discussed and he acknowledged Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, for the work he did on the presentation regarding same. He mentioned additional workshop meetings would be held throughout the County and with the business community and area Chambers of Commerce and he encouraged anyone with suggestions pertaining to the matter to notify himself or Mr. Moore.

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

Supervisors Hyde and Geraghty indicated they had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Leggett apprised he had no Committee report, but he offered privilege of the floor to Brian LaFlure, *Director, Office of Emergency Services/Fire Coordinator*, to speak about the upcoming weather.

Mr. LaFlure stated that he had distributed a copy of this mornings update from the National Weather Service, a copy of which is on file with the items distributed at the January 18th Board Meeting. He said his office received updates from the National Weather Service regarding the weather two times a day. He requested that the Board members review the update to ensure they were aware of what was anticipated for the upcoming weekend, as it appeared there would be a significant storm. He informed how he distributed these weather updates to all of the fire and ems agencies on a regular basis and he encouraged anyone interested in being added to the distribution list to contact him.

Mr. LaFlure apprised the second item he would like to discuss concerned the drone they would be flying in the vicinity of County Route 418 to view the ice issue in that area. He said the purpose was to obtain photography of the issue before it was covered with significant snow accumulations rendering it difficult to determine what was occurring there. He stated the purpose of him attending the meeting today was to notify the Supervisors of what kind of accumulations they were anticipating with the upcoming storm, as well as the drone activity and he encouraged anyone who required his assistance with anything to contact him.

Supervisor Dickinson inquired where Mr. LaFlure had acquired his information regarding the forthcoming snowstorm and Mr. LaFlure responded the information before them was obtained from the National Weather Service. Mr. LaFlure stated he had a conference call with representatives from the National Weather Service at 2:00 p.m. today, adding he participated in calls with them whenever a major weather event was approaching. Supervisor Geraghty added there was a call scheduled for today at 11:00 a.m. with the Governor's Office to discuss the storm, as well. Mr. Moore interjected that the call time had been changed to 3:00 p.m.

Supervisor Dickinson questioned whether the drone being used was County-owned or whether they had a contract in place for this service and Mr. LaFlure replied the drone belonged to the NYS DEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*), as NYS DEC had a good program in place for these services.

Supervisor Diamond indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor McDevitt stated he would like to discuss something that could tie into job creation and why individuals wanted to live in Warren County. He discussed an article featured in yesterday's newspaper regarding the IBM sponsored Jefferson Project which provided a water quality monitoring system on

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Lake George. He said IBM had patented the intelligent system which could be used to identify, characterize and monitor vertical temperature profiles and ingredients that impacted marine life, lakes and other aquatic ecosystems. He mentioned Lake George and Skaneateles Lake in Onondaga County were the only ones participating in this program. He remarked he believed the reason companies moved to areas like this County and would continue to do so in the future related to the fact that they preferred to deal with communities that were using smart technology and had an educated population. Supervisor McDevitt advised today's newspaper featured a letter to the editor regarding how the City of Glens Falls and the Town of Queensbury had established Sustainability Committees; he added they had both been certified by NYSERDA (*New York State Energy Research & Development Authority*) as clean energy communities though their efforts to pursue actions that lowered their respective carbon footprints. He informed of the City had been awarded a Smart Grant in the amount of \$43,500 and the Town of Queensbury had recently received an award, as well. He apprised the City, Town and County were pursuing converting their street lights to LED (*Light Emitting Diode*) bulbs or procuring substantial amounts of their energy from regional hydro facilities. He suggested the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee research this further; however, he suggested they should consider forming a Sustainability Committee whose purpose would be to determine the progress of weaning off of carbon based fuel products.

Supervisor Dickinson advised IBM was seeking patents on the orange platforms located on Lake George which contained equipment that generated data on the water and air profile, as well as rainfall and he commended them for doing an exceptional job with this project. He stated the SAVE (*Stop Aquatic Invasives from Entering*) Group received a request from Skaneateles Lake to attend a meeting to discuss the program here during which representatives from The Fund For Lake George, IBM and RPI discussed extending the program to Skaneateles Lake. Supervisor McDevitt remarked that the County had a world class system that was setting the standard for clean water in the world and he felt a number of people should be credited with having the foresight to put this together. Supervisor Dickinson stated he concurred with Supervisor McDevitt that Warren County was setting the standard on a number of actions being taken that concerned the environment.

Supervisor Braymer thanked Chairman Conover for appointing her to Chair the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee, adding she believed that Committee was doing exciting work. She recognized Supervisor Dickinson for his accomplishments during his tenure as Chair of the Committee. She stated she felt they should look into Supervisor McDevitt's suggestion regarding the formation of a Sustainability Committee to form structure around the good work they were already moving forward with. She informed the next meeting was scheduled for January 22nd during which representatives from Adirondack Lake Alliance would be in attendance to discuss their organization as a result of Supervisor Simpson's suggestion and she encouraged anyone interested in learning more to attend the Committee meeting.

Chairman Conover requested that Supervisors McDevitt and Braymer, as well as any other Board members with suggestions regarding the make-up of a Sustainability Committee to forward them to Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, and/or Mr. Moore to compile for him to review.

Supervisors Loeb, Driscoll, Frasier and Simpson indicated they had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Hogan thanked Chairman Conover for appointing her to serve as the Chair of the Extension Service Committee, noting she was very appreciative of this. She stated Cornell Cooperative Extension had welcomed a few new Board members at their Organizational Meeting on January 5th. She said during the meeting Dr. James A. Seeley, *Executive Director*, outlined several new initiatives the organization would be working on and she requested that the Town Supervisors post the calendar

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someplace in their community where it was visible to the public. She remarked one of the most exciting initiatives they were working on was the Farm to School Program which they were awarded a substantial amount of grant funding for and five schools were participating in. She mentioned that it was a team effort by Cornell Cooperative Extension to apply for and be awarded the grant and she believed they should be commended for their efforts to bring this program to the schools in the County.

Supervisor Dickinson indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Merlino stated the Tourism Committee would be meeting next Friday, January 25th at 11:30 a.m. He acknowledged Chairman Conover for holding the Special Board Meeting on January 26th to discuss the sales tax allocation and he thanked Mr. Moore for the comprehensive presentation regarding same. He asked Chairman Conover whether additional meetings would be scheduled to continue the discussion and Chairman Conover replied in the affirmative.

Supervisor Strough advised he had no Committee report, but he wanted everyone to be aware he was supportive of the suggestions made by Supervisors McDevitt and Braymer to continue with their efforts to move away from carbon based fuel products and he questioned whether the County had any electric cars in its fleet. Supervisor Braymer responded that the County did not have any electric cars yet, but they did have some hybrid vehicles. Supervisor Strough remarked he felt using hybrid cars was a step in the right direction; however, he noted, they could be doing more. Supervisor Strough apprised he concurred with the comments Supervisor Dickinson made about Mr. O'Brien, as well as the ones he made about the County's efforts to improve the quality of the waterways in Warren County.

Supervisor Wild indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Beaty apprised he had no Committee report; however, he noted, he felt Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, should be recognized for the new direction of the LCLGRP, as none of the improvements would have been made if Mr. Whitehead had not brought to light the issues there. He stated he was pleased with all the improvements that had been made, but he did not believe these ever would have come about without Mr. Whitehead's efforts to shed light on all the wrong doing that was going on within the organization.

Supervisors Magowan indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Sokol advised he had nothing to report on, nor did the County Treasurer have a report to give.

Supervisor Thomas announced the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District would be conducting a "Farm Talk" this evening at 6:00 p.m. at the NYS DEC building in the Town of Warrensburg and he encouraged anyone interested in attending to pre-register, as this was a requirement. He mentioned the topic of the meeting pertained to growing berries in backyards. Next, Supervisor Thomas advised the final figures for sales tax collection were in and he was pleased to report they ended up being almost \$4 million over the budgeted amount.

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

Continuing to the report by the County Administrator, Mr. Moore recognized the following people for their years of service to the County which he said he was greatly appreciative of

* Former Supervisor Louis Tessier, who served as an Election Inspector for the Board of

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- Elections for 35 years of service to the County;
- * Larry Jeffords for 35 years of service to Sheriff's Office;
 - * Colleen Mosher for 30 years of service to Department of Social Services;
 - * Betsy Henkel for 20 years of service to the County.

Mr. Moore read aloud a listing of the meetings he attended since the December 21st Board Meeting; a copy of which is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting. He stated proposed Resolution No. 21, *Amending Resolution No. 533 of 2018, Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2019 "A Local Law Imposing an Additional Mortgage Recording Tax in Warren County", to Change the Date of the Public Hearing Due to a Publishing Error*, was required to change the date of the public Hearing regarding the additional mortgage tax from today to Thursday, January 31st at 9:30 a.m. at a Special Board Meeting following which the Board would entertain the adoption of the proposed Local Law. He stated typically at this time he would report on his activities since the last Board Meeting, but he would be deferring this because he had been asked to provide the Board with an assessment of how the federal government being shutdown was impacting County programs. Mr. Moore proceeded with a report on the shutdown and its impact on services provided by the Departments of Social Services, Veterans', Health Services, Office for the Aging, Employment & Training Administration, Public Works, Office of Emergency Services and the District Attorney; a copy of the report is on file with the items distributed at the January 18th Board Meeting.

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

Reports from:

1. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation, Financial Reports dated October 31, 2018 and November 30, 2018 (*bound reports - not emailed to Board*)
2. Warren County Probation Department, Report of Criminal and Family Workloads for October and November 2018 (*emailed to the Board 01.17.19*)

Minutes from:
None.

Letters/emails from:

1. Gerald W. Delaney, Executive Director of the Adirondack Parl Local Government Review Board, introducing himself as the new Director following the retirement of Fred Monroe (*emailed to the Board 01.17.19*)

Other:

1. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp. November payment in the amount of \$3,338 (*emailed to the Board 01.17.19*)
2. Town of Stony Creek Resolution No. 30 of 2019, designating Frank Thomas as the Town of Stony Creek's representative on the Warren County Youth Board (*emailed to the Board 01.17.19*)
3. Orange County Legislature Resolution No. 330 of 2018, *Resolution Calling for New York State Legislative Action to Classify as Controlled Substances Certain Fentanyl "Analogues" that are Responsible for Opioid Overdose Deaths* (*emailed to the Board 01.17.19*)
4. Adirondack Park Agency Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for amendments to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan involving travel corridors (*link to online version emailed to the Board 01.17.19*)
5. Warren-Washington Counties IDA & CDC 2019 Final Budgets

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Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 5-21 were mailed. She stated there were no additional resolution to be brought to the floor; however, she noted, a correction was made to the Certificate of Appointment naming members of the Warren County Youth Board after it was mailed adding Supervisor Thomas as a representative pursuant to the resolution provided by the Town of Stony Creek requesting same. She advised no action was required in relation to this change because it was an appointment by the Chairman of the Board.

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

Supervisor Sokol requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 11, *Appointing Members to the Lake Champlain -Lake George Regional Planning Board*.

With regard to proposed Resolution No. 20, *Resolution Altering the Standing Rules of the Board, as Adopted by Resolution No. 1 of 2019, to Change the Time and Date of the June 2019 Board of Supervisor Meeting, as Well as to Revise the Committees of the Board of Supervisors as Provided in Section C to Increase the Number Serving on the Public Works Committee*, Supervisor Geraghty questioned whether the Rules of the Board had always indicated that any resolution that amended the spending guidelines for occupancy tax could only be adopted by a 2/3rd majority vote of the Board of Supervisors and Ms. Kissane replied in the affirmative.

Chairman Conover called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 5-21, were approved as presented.

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 Braymer announced the Pond Hockey Tournament was scheduled for Crandall Park from February 2-3, 2019. She stated this was the first year for the event and she encouraged anyone with a team to register or to just come as a spectator.

Supervisor Beaty stated he was pleased that one of the ice rinks for the Pond Hockey Tournament would be named after former County Resident David Strader, who was known for his telecasting work in the National Hockey League before he passed away in 2017.

Supervisor Geraghty advised the Lake George Winter Carnival had scheduled their snowmobile races on the Warren County Fairgrounds sight and he requested that any towns with excess snow they were seeking to dispose of to contact Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, as the event would like to use it to construct the jumps for this event.

Supervisor Simpson apprised the Barney Barnhard Fishing Derby was scheduled for next Saturday on Brant Lake and he encouraged everyone to attend.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Dickinson and seconded by Supervisor Simpson, Chairman Conover adjourned the Board Meeting at 10:37 a.m.