

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 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 10:02 a.m.

Mr. Ronald F. Conover presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Driscoll.

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 and Conover- 19 ; Supervisor Geraghty absent- 1.

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Conover noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of the August 16th Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Braymer, seconded by Supervisor Dickinson and carried unanimously.

Chairman Conover advised they would hold off on the presentation for Employee of the Month until the report by the County Administrator to allow Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, time to finish his phone call with State officials.

Moving along to the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Conover apprised on the afternoon of July 23rd he had met with Mr. Moore to discuss the Capital Facilities Program which was being developed by Mr. Moore; he added he was pleased with the information that had been provided by the towns and he saw this as an evolving process with more information being provided as it moved forward. He stated he had attended the meeting of the Glens Falls Transportation Council on July 31st at their offices in the Town of Queensbury.

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

Supervisor Driscoll apprised he had no Committee report, but he would like to notify everyone that the Quality Care Senior Coalition, which he served on with Supervisors Frasier and Hogan, as well as Tammie DeLorenzo, *Assistant to the County Administrator*, and was chaired by Ginelle Jones, *Director, Health Services*, and Dee Park, *Director, Office for the Aging*, had met earlier this week. He said the Coalition was formed in response to Supervisor Loeb's concerns regarding the issues occurring in some of the senior facilities in the region. He said they met every three months and he noted, their last meeting was very productive.

Mr. Moore entered the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Supervisor Frasier apprised the Health, Human & Social Services Committee had met on June 25th, where the Office of Community Services, Employment & Training Administration, Department of Social Services and Health Services provided updates on their activities. She stated the Committee had

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approved proposed Resolution Nos. 341-348 and she provided a brief overview of each. She reminded everyone of the Summer Youth Ceremony and Picnic was scheduled for today at 12:30 p.m. at Crandall Park and she encouraged all to attend.

Supervisor Simpson stated the Public Works Committee had met on July 23rd, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 349-350 and he provided a brief summary of each.

Supervisor Hogan advised that Cornell Cooperative Extensions continued to do great work throughout the County, informing the annual Youth Fair had occurred last weekend where the children in the program displayed the projects they had been working on all year. She mentioned many of these projects would be displayed at the State Fair which was a great way to showcase Warren County, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the children in the 4H Program. She announced Cornell Cooperative Extensions Annual Golf Tournament and Silent Auction would be held on August 24th at Cronin's Golf Resort in the Town of Warrensburg and she encouraged all to attend.

Supervisor Dickinson stated he had attended several meetings to discuss the Occupancy Tax Budget for 2020 during which he had met with representatives of the Adirondack Civic Center Coalition, who would like to develop a capital improvement budget. He said they had also met with representatives of the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce & CVB, who had made a significant request to continue to make improvements.

Supervisors Strough apprised the Legislative & Rules Committee did not meet last month; however, he noted, a meeting was scheduled for September 5th to continue the conversation regarding the redistribution of sales tax. He remarked that he was pleased to have been appointed to the Adirondack Balloon Festival Committee, as he felt it was a great group of volunteers that were lead by Mark Donohue and he thoroughly enjoyed working with them. He mentioned this years event was impacted by the new rules from the FAA (*Federal Aviation Administration*) regarding balloons which was much more stringent and was brought forward as a result of a balloon accident that occurred in the State of Texas. He acknowledged Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent, Public Works*, the Warren County Sheriff's Office and the members of the Adirondack Balloon Festival Committee for assisting him in ensuring this years event was managed better than the previous years with their focus being on how to improve traffic flow.

Chairman Conover remarked he felt the changes being proposed from the Adirondack Balloon Festival Committee would lead to a better managed operation.

Supervisor Wild advised that he had attended a public gathering yesterday afternoon that was arranged by Supervisor McDevitt and some of the residents of the City of Glens Falls to discuss their concerns with the Warren County Bike Trail and the Stewarts Corporations new retail location and he recognized Mr. Hajos for doing an outstanding job representing the County at this meeting.

Supervisor Beaty reported on the July 23rd meeting of the County Facilities Committee where they approved proposed Resolution No. 328 which he provided a brief overview of. He stated that Don DeGraw, *Airport Manager*, provided an update at the meeting regarding the additional revenue the County was obtaining this year through the contract with the FBO (*Fixed Based Operator*). He said he had asked Mr. DeGraw to provide a monthly update going forward regarding the action taken to decrease the expenses at the Airport while increasing the revenue stream which the taxpayers would benefit from.

Supervisor Magowan indicated he had nothing to report on.

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Supervisor Sokol stated the Finance Committee met in August 1st, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 326-327 and 360-369. He called attention to proposed Resolution No. 362, *Authorizing the County Treasurer to Write off Uncollected Medicaid Receivables Carried over from December 31, 2015 for the Former Westmount Health Facility*, apprising that it was unfortunate that they had to write off such a large sum of money, but was unavoidable due to unforeseen circumstances that occurred when the facility was sold. He informed he had the privilege to attend the luncheon with the State and Federal Legislators on August 1st during which he obtained some information regarding broadband that he had relayed to Supervisor Hogan. In conclusion, Supervisor Sokol wished Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, a happy birthday.

Supervisor Thomas advised he had no Committee report, but he noted he was looking forward to commencing the meetings with the Department Heads regarding their budget requests for 2020 over the next month.

Chairman Conover apprised his concerns were put at ease when he reviewed the most recent figures regarding sales tax revenue.

Supervisor Hyde indicated she had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Leggett reported the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee had met on July 29th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 329-336 and he provided a brief overview of each. He advised Robert Iusi, *Director, Probation*, provided an update at the meeting regarding Bail Reform and Discovery Reform which would be forthcoming and have an impact on the budgets of several County Departments. He added Mr. Iusi was a member of the NYSAC (*New York State Association of Counties*) Task Force, whose purpose related to the forthcoming criminal justice reforms thereby allowing him to keep the County apprised of any updates.

Supervisor Diamond indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor McDevitt stated he had attended a presentation at the Crandall Library this week relative to the new developments on South Street in the City of Glens Falls which he found to be very informative. He thanked Mr. Hajos for addressing the concerns of the residents who lived along the Warren County Bike Trail and the new Stewarts development.

Supervisor Braymer apprised the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee had met on July 22nd where they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 337-340 and she provided a brief overview of each. She stated she believed proposed Resolution No. 338 needed to be amended to add Supervisor Beaty as a member of the Climate Smart Task Force.

A motion was made by Supervisor Braymer, seconded by Supervisor Magowan and carried unanimously to add Supervisor Beaty as a member of the Climate Smart Task Force.

With regard to proposed Resolution No. 339, *Amending Warren County Real Estate Auction Terms and Conditions of Sale Applicable to the Sale of Parcels Acquired by the County by Reason of the Foreclosure of Tax Liens*, Supervisor Braymer apprised that Supervisor Loeb would be proposing an amendment to this resolution. Chairman Conover stated the amendment could be addressed during Supervisor Loeb's Committee report.

Supervisor Braymer recognized Lexie Delurey, *Director, Real Property Tax Services*, and Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, for their efforts to keep as many property owners parcels out of the foreclosure as

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possible. She stated the "Last Chance" meeting took place on August 12th where they approved extensions on past due property taxes for three property owners, as compared to previous years when there were a significant number of people in attendance to request assistance. She mentioned a topic for discussion at Monday's Committee meeting would be the Clean Lakes Collaboration that Supervisor Simpson had brought forward.

Supervisor Loeb stated the Support Services Committee had met on July 22nd, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 351-354. He stated Electronic Polling Books would be used for the elections this year and he asked the town Supervisors to notify their constituents to better prepare them for this change. He remarked the donation from the Estate of John Austin, *former County Historian and Warren County Judge*, for the care and maintenance of his historical and genealogical library which had also been donated to Warren County and would be housed in the Warren County Records Storage Center was an asset to the County. With regard to proposed Resolution No. 339, *Amending Warren County Real Estate Auction Terms and Conditions of Sale Applicable to the Sale of Parcels Acquired by the County by Reason of the Foreclosure of Tax Liens*, Supervisor Loeb stated he had some concerns relating to the pile of rubble located on a Ridge Road property in the Town of Queensbury that was debated for several years. He explained the terms and conditions made no mention of disposing of rubble when buildings were demolished on properties that were purchased at the Foreclosure sale, meaning it could remain there indefinitely. He said he had asked Supervisor Braymer to consider an amendment to the terms and conditions to ensure this was addressed.

Supervisor Braymer suggested amending proposed Resolution No. 339, *Amending Warren County Real Estate Auction Terms and Conditions of Sale Applicable to the Sale of Parcels Acquired by the County by Reason of the Foreclosure of Tax Liens*, to include that the demolished material must be removed from the property. Mr. Moore apprised Mrs. Kissane suggested the amendment state that the demolition should include removal of all demolished material and Supervisor Braymer concurred.

Supervisor McDevitt questioned what would occur if a property owner refused to remove the demolished material and Mr. Moore responded the enforcement mechanism in this case would allow the County to take the property back dependent upon what the material consisted of, as they may not want to.

A motion was made by Supervisor Braymer, seconded by Supervisor Magowan and carried unanimously to amend proposed Resolution No. 339 as outlined above.

Returning to the presentation of the employee of the month award, Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, stated one of the things that was occasionally taken for granted was the physical environment that County employees worked in, but he felt having clean offices, paint job, etc. could be as important as having a good boss to motivate the employees. He apprised the County's Buildings and Grounds staff did an excellent job at this, as they were all hard workers that deserved to be recognized. He continued, but anyone who worked here or any member of the public that visited the campus was well aware that Warren County had one of the most beautiful outdoor campuses of any County in the State of New York and the August employee of the month had a lot to do with that. He invited Mr. Hajos to come forward and introduce her.

Mr. Hajos advised Brenda Ashline, who worked for the Buildings and Grounds division of the DPW, was well known by most of the Supervisors for the work she did on the grounds outside of this facility, such as the flowers; however, he noted, many were not aware of the other work she did which consisted of painting, clearing snow off the Public Health fleet vehicles, etc. He informed Brenda had been employed by the County in September for fourteen years, first as a Cleaner, then as an MEO-Light for three years

and finally working in her current capacity for the Buildings and Grounds Department. He remarked Ms. Ashline was why the outside of the campus looked so beautiful and he thanked her for her efforts. A round of applause followed. Mr. Moore and Chairman Conover presented Ms. Ashline with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Board and a piece of pottery featuring a rendering of outline of Lake George.

Ms. Ashline advised she thoroughly enjoyed working for the County, apprising she had attempted to ensure she added her own personal touch to her work. She stated she was pleased that her and her co-workers efforts were being recognized and she thanked them for the recognition. Another round of applause followed.

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:

- * Elizabeth Berk for 20 years of service to Social Services;
- * Leisa Grant for 20 years of service to the Tourism Department;

Mr. Moore stated two resolutions had been revised after mailing, the first of which was proposed Resolution No. 352, *Amending Resolution No. 17 of 2019, Appointing Members of the Board of Directors of the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, to Change the Term of an Appointee*. He explained this related to a compliance matter with Supervisor Thomas's term on the Board of Directors for the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District and required a technical correction. He informed proposed Resolution No. 355, *Amending Table of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2019*, had also been revised to add a decrease in the salary of First Assistant County Attorney by \$200 to be in line with the salary grid that was used to guide the County in assigning attorney salaries; he said the decrease was from the one year step to the entry level step. Finally, there was a proposed Floor resolution concerning a settlement relating to a resident of the former Westmount Health Facility that the County Attorney would address during her report; he acknowledged Attorney Tom Clements and the County Treasurer for their work negotiating this settlement. He concluded by reading aloud a listing of the meetings he had attended since the July 19th Board Meeting; *a copy of Mr. Moore's report 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 advised the proposed floor resolution before them today pertained to Warren County vs. Bernard King which was discussed two months ago. She said Tom Clements, who was retained as outside counsel for the County on the matter, had won a judgement against the Bernard King estate in Surrogates Court following which the estate filed a notice of appeal which triggered a civil appeal settlement conference. She informed on August 13th Mr. Clements and Mr. Swan attended this conference, apprising the County was initially owed \$111,929 from the estate, but Messrs. Clements and Swan were able to negotiate a settlement of \$185,000 out of which the County would retain around \$133,000 with the balance would be allocated to Mr. Clements for his contingency fee. She mentioned the \$133,000 retained by the County would be allocated to the Westmount Reserve account to pay legacy costs and would offset a portion of the amount being requested to be written off that was going before the Board today as noted in proposed Resolution No. 362, *Authorizing the County Treasurer to Write off Uncollected Medicaid Receivables Carried over from December 31, 2015 for the Former Westmount Health Facility*. She stated an executive session would be required if any member of the Board would like to discuss the matter further. Finally, she notified she was pleased to announce that Robert Terwilliger, *First Assistant County Attorney*, had commenced working for the County this past Monday and would be covering the Committee meetings in her absence next week.

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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 Report dated May 31, 2019.

Letters/emails from:

1. Letters of resignation from Timothy Costello and Brad Magowan, resigning from the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors;
2. Letters from the Brant Lake Camp and Point O' Pines Camp for Girls commending and supporting efforts by Warren County to re-open hiking access to Swede Mountain and its firetower;
3. Letter from Howard Denison, Chairman of the Southern Adirondack Realtors Government Affairs Committee, expressing concerns regarding Warren County's collection and enforcement of occupancy tax;
4. Letter from Mary Kissane, Warren County Attorney, confirming the Assistant County Attorney order of succession for her Office: Robert Terwilliger shall serve as First Assistant County Attorney and Ryan Dickey shall serve as the Second Assistant County Attorney.

Other:

1. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation June 2019 payment in the amount of \$3,728;
2. Washington County Board of Supervisors Resolution Nos. 147 of 2019, adopting Adirondack Community College Budget, and 164 of 2019, appointing member of the Warren-Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency and Civic Development Corporation.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 326-369 were mailed; she apprised proposed Resolution Nos. 352 and 355 were amended after mailing and a motion was needed to approve these revisions. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Dickinson, seconded by Supervisor Magowan and carried unanimously. Mrs. Allen stated a motion was necessary to bring to the floor proposed Floor Resolution No. 1 pertaining to a settlement in the matter of Warren County vs. Bernard King as previously explained. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Simpson and seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. She informed proposed Floor Resolution No. 1 would now be referred to as Resolution No. 370.

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

Supervisor Strough requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 369, *Approving the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board 2020 Budget*, because he was appointed as a member of this particular Board.

Supervisor Thomas requested roll call votes on proposed Resolution Nos. 331, *Adopting Amended Fee Schedule for the Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement Department Within Warren County*, and proposed Resolution No. 351, *Authorizing Agreement with Tenex Software Solutions to Purchase Ninety (90) Tenex Electronic Poll Book Computers Including Hardware, Software, Licensing, Registration, Management and Onsite Training*.

With regard to proposed Resolution No. 354, *Accepting and Expressing Appreciation to the Estate of Judge John Austin for the Gift of Informational Materials and \$5,000 to the Warren County Records Center*, Supervisor Sokol inquired whether a letter thanking the estate for their donation could be sent

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similar to how one was sent to the Lewis Trust for their annual donation to Up Yonda Educational Center and Chairman Conover replied affirmatively.

Supervisor Thomas voiced his opposition to proposed Resolution No. 331, *Adopting Amended Fee Schedule for the Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement Department Within Warren County*, as he believed the increase of \$0.15 to \$0.25 per square foot, which equated to a 67%, was too significant. He stated the construction industry increased the assessed value in the towns, as well as the County which spread out the tax burden making it easier for everyone to pay their taxes. He remarked he felt attempting to balance the County Budget on fees for a department with such a minuscule budget was ridiculous; he pointed out the Sheriff's Budget totaled around \$24 million and yet no fees were charged when someone called for assistance when they had issues with a neighbor. He referred to the call for Affordable Housing Programs and how this was impacted by the increased fees, building costs, labor and codes and changes, all of which made it more difficult for affordable housing to be realized for those who fell into the lower income bracket. He apprised he would propose reducing this fee from \$0.15 to \$0.10 and eliminate about half of the other fees listed in the proposed resolution. He pointed out economic development, which for some of the towns consisted only of construction, and was imperative for growth would be more difficult to achieve as a result of this action.

Supervisor Simpson apprised he concurred with everything Supervisor Thomas had just stated and would like to add no discussion had occurred at the Committee meeting regarding a reduction in the cost, as they moved directly into increasing the fees that were already being born by the taxpayers on the property tax side of the County Budget meaning in essence this was another hidden tax on top of a tax that was already being collected. He informed he did not believe the County would be getting the best bang for their buck to make up \$26,000 which was what the increase would equate to in additional revenue.

Supervisor Driscoll informed he had voiced his opinion on this matter at the Committee meeting, apprising he would like this particular resolution to go back before the Committee to develop a long-term plan that would not impact the taxpayers with such a significant increase occurring all at once. He suggested they consider a gradual annual increase or putting an increase in place every other year to lessen the impact on the taxpayers. Chairman Conover asked whether Supervisor Driscoll was making a motion to table proposed Resolution No. 331 and send it back to Committee and Supervisor Driscoll replied affirmatively. Supervisor Beaty seconded the motion. Chairman Conover called the question and the motion to table proposed Resolution No. 331, *Adopting Amended Fee Schedule for the Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement Department Within Warren County*, was carried by majority vote, with Supervisors Braymer and Strough voting in opposition.

With regard to proposed Resolution No. 341, *Authorizing the Chairman of the Board to Send a Letter to Congresswoman Stefanik, Senator Gillibrand and Senator Schumer Opposing Changes to the SNAP Program*, Supervisor Braymer requested that the resolution be amended to include sending letters to Senators Gillibrand and Schumer, as well. With respect to proposed Resolution No. 362, *Authorizing the County Treasurer to Write off Uncollected Medicaid Receivables Carried over from December 31, 2015 for the Former Westmount Health Facility*, Supervisor Braymer questioned how many residents the write off pertained to.

Chairman Conover advised they would deal with the proposed amendment to Resolution No. 341 prior to addressing Supervisor Braymer's question regarding the number of residents the write off pertained to. A motion was made by Supervisor Braymer, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll and carried unanimously to amend proposed Resolution No. 341, *Authorizing the Chairman of the Board to Send a Letter to Congresswoman Stefanik, Senator Gillibrand and Senator Schumer Opposing Changes to the*

SNAP Program, as outlined above.

In response to Supervisor Braymer's question regarding proposed Resolution No. 362, *Authorizing the County Treasurer to Write off Uncollected Medicaid Receivables Carried over from December 31, 2015 for the Former Westmount Health Facility*, Mr. Moore replied he believed it involved thirty-five residents, but he was unsure. Mrs. DeLorenzo apprised that she did not know the figure off the top of her head, but concerned well over one hundred residents. Mrs. DeLorenzo explained these were dollar amounts that had accumulated over time and not just in December of 2015.

Supervisor Loeb questioned why Supervisor Thomas had requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 351, *Authorizing Agreement with Tenex Software Solutions to Purchase Ninety (90) Tenex Electronic Poll Book Computers Including Hardware, Software, Licensing, Registration, Management and Onsite Training*. Supervisor Thomas voiced his concern that while they may be more efficient and useful for the new laws that had been put in place, he felt this change would open them up to hackers, as the information contained in the e-books would be stored on the internet. He said there were enough issues with the elections already and he did not believe it was necessary for them to place their rolls on the internet.

Supervisor Loeb advised he could be wrong, but he did not believe this information would be stored on the internet, as he believed it was going to be self-contained. Supervisor Thomas stated he had received a request from the Board of Elections to provide them with his Towns password for their internet network which was why he felt this was where it would be stored. Supervisor Hogan stated she would like to discuss this with the Commissioners for the Board of Elections; however, she noted, she thought this topic was covered at the Committee meeting where they were assured the information was protected. Supervisor Thomas pointed out the same could be said about all the banks that had been hacked, as well as Equifax, etc. and yet they were still hacked causing millions of individuals personal information being accessed. He remarked he felt they were heading up a "slippery slope" in the wrong direction. He said he was aware they would be unable to change it since they were only a County Board of Supervisors, but he still wanted to voice his opposition. Supervisor Wild advised after discussing the matter with the Commissioners of the Board of Elections he felt comfortable moving forward, as this was an improved software from the State, who was also concerned with ensuring that there was integrity with the elections and the County Director of Information Technology was also involved in the process. Supervisor Braymer pointed out this concerned the voter rolls which were already public documents that were currently available on the internet or at the Board of Elections Office which was why she was not concerned about the voter rolls themselves. Supervisor Hogan informed the voter rolls were emailed on a regular basis and she felt the benefits far outweighed the concerns that may have already been addressed. In response, Supervisor Thomas advised he did not feel it was about emailing the rolls, but rather his concern was with changing or altering the rolls resulting in individuals voting more than once. Supervisor Magowan apprised with regard to security his understanding was that there were modified ipads that were directly linked to the main server for the Board of Elections. He added they had been assured this was one of the more secure connections which was why he felt comfortable moving forward with this.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Conover called for a vote on resolutions, following which 326-370 were approved, as presented with the exception of proposed Resolution Nos. 338, 339 and 341, which were amended from the floor, and proposed Resolution No. 331, which was tabled.

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

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Mr. Moore apprised for clarification purposes the number of residents impacted by the write off in proposed Resolution No. 362, *Authorizing the County Treasurer to Write off Uncollected Medicaid Receivables Carried over from December 31, 2015 for the Former Westmount Health Facility*, was 109.

Dr. Stan Cianfarano, *Warren County Historian*, advised he was here on behalf of the Warren County Historical Society, which he served as Co-President of, to notify the Board members what was occurring there as a result of the County's support of their organization. He introduced Terry Podnorski, *Executive Director, Warren County Historical Society*, who had been leading the efforts to have a museum that represented the County in place. He proceeded to distribute an invitation to the open house event for their museum to the Board members; a copy of the invitation is on file with the items distributed at the August 16th Board Meeting.

Ms. Podnorski stated she was pleased to be present at the meeting this morning to first and foremost thank the Board members for their confidence and continued support of their organization, as well as to announce that they had opened a museum and a permanent display. She mentioned the invitations being distributed by Mr. Cianfarano were for their opening reception and debut on Thursday, September 12th from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at their headquarters located at 50 Gurney Lane in the Town of Queensbury. She said she hoped everyone could attend, as they had an exciting evening planned, but if they were unable to she would be happy to provide a tour at their convenience. She mentioned two years ago they had moved from a smaller building on Sunnyside Road in the Town of Queensbury to their current location on Gurney Lane which they had transformed into a destination venue for the County for residents and visitors alike for the purpose of learning about the County's history and heritage. She informed they were a small historical society that was chartered in 1997; however, she noted, when the County provided them with the opportunity to make their headquarters at the Gurney Lane Facility they moved forward to develop a permanent display and museum which was referred to as "Warren County 360, Celebrating Place and People". She said they chose as their model or paradigm cultural geography and they set about the task of researching and writing an exhibit that would tell the story of the evolution of Warren County through the lense of cultural geography, meaning that they focused on the importance of the County's natural resources, its geography and how the economy, cultural and society were developed. She stated they had something brand new and innovative to offer with an exhibit filled with beautiful, professionally designed displays through the use of their items and artifacts from their collections, as well as a slide show of historical images of the County. She remarked she believed the Board members would all be amazed at what they had created; she added this was a big step for them that they could not have accomplished without the assistance the County had provided them.

Chairman Conover called for announcements.

Supervisor Loeb advised he had requested that the Commissioners for the Board of Elections address Supervisor Thomas's concerns regarding the safety of the E Poll Books at the Support Services Committee meeting on Monday.

Supervisor Simpson stated he would like to ensure the Board members were aware of a State decision that would impact the towns with state land located in them. He advised there was a court decision that was made which effectively changed the interpretation of what a tree was that caused the NYS DEC to determine they could not cut down any trees meaning any of the hiking trails that were being proposed or any of the trail improvements occurring throughout the High Peaks were placed on hold. He said the NYS DEC announced last week they would be appealing the courts decision, but the process would take some time. He mentioned the balance that was promised through Article 14 in the Adirondack Park was

in jeopardy with this type of issue being debated at this point.

Supervisor Braymer apprised Supervisor Simpson was aware that she was one of the attorneys that was representing the group that had brought forward this Article 14 lawsuit. She said she concurred that the NYS DEC had taken the position that this was a broad reaching decision and they had notified local governments that they would not be cutting down any trees going forward; she added she felt this was unfortunate because this was not what the decision stated, as it was in accordance with long-standing case precedent and the State Constitution itself which was put into place in 1894 which indicated the Forest Preserve meaning State land in the Adirondack Park was supposed to remain forever wild and no trees i.e timber were supposed to be cut. She said case law had occurred over time that indicated a reasonable amount of trees could be cut; however, she noted, the case was brought forward as a result of the NYS DEC cutting down 25,000 trees as part of its construction project in the Adirondack Park to which the Appellate Court decided was too many. She said this meant the ruling did not indicate no trees could be cut down, but rather 25,000 was too many which was why she felt the NYS DEC was overreacting; she added the State was appealing the decision.

Supervisor Merlino acknowledged Amy Clute, *Self-Insurance Administrator*, for her efforts to reduce the costs of the Workers Compensation Insurance, as the Town of Lake Luzerne's premium had been reduced significantly over the past five years. He said if it was an option to nominate a Department Head for the employee of the month award then he would nominate Ms. Clute, as she was deserving of this recognition.

Supervisor Beaty remarked he was impressed with the interaction of the experts from the healthcare, education and business communities at the 20/30 Task Force meeting. He said these individuals were committed to try and reverse a trend that was difficult in its concept, but he felt the end result would be positive from this. He advised after only two meetings they were further along than he had anticipated with discussions concerning the lack of broadband access and how it impacted businesses and education. He thanked Mr. Moore for being instrumental in helping coordinate this task force. Finally, Supervisor Beaty thanked the Board members for unanimously voting for him to be appointed as a member of the Climate Smart Group, as he was hoping to add as much as possible to that group.

Supervisor Driscoll announced Friday, September 6th was the annual Tri-County Interagency Community Resource Day at Aviation Mall from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. He mentioned last year over fifty not-for-profits and for-profits that provided quality of life programs and services had participated in the event and he encouraged all to attend this years event to learn what programs were available. Supervisor Driscoll apprised this upcoming Tuesday evening as part of his tour of the County he would be presenting regarding SNAP(*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*) and Federal feeding programs in the Town of Stony Creek; he added this would preclude his presentations, as he had carried out the presentation at every municipality on that subject and he thanked the Town Supervisors for being gracious and introducing him to their Town Board members.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Dickinson and seconded by Supervisor Sokol, Chairman Conover adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:21 a.m.