

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2012**

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. Daniel G. Stec presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Strainer.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Monroe, Girard, McDevitt, Taylor, Loeb, Kenny, Frasier, Vanselow, Dickinson, Merlino, Stec, Mason, Strainer, Westcott, Sokol, Thomas, Wood and Geraghty - 19. Supervisor Bentley absent - 1.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2012 Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Chairman Stec declared the Public Hearing for Local Law No. 1 of 2013 open at 10:01 a.m. and requested Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Chairman Stec requested a moment of silence for the 26 victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings, whose lives had been cut tragically short.

The next order of business, Chairman Stec announced, would be to honor four members of the DPW staff, three of whom were in attendance, for their heroic actions to assist a passenger of an overturned vehicle. He noted that Senator Betty Little was also in attendance to honor these gentlemen on behalf of the New York State Senate.

Senator Little stated that it was a pleasure to be back in Warren County where she had previously served as a Supervisor for the Town of Queensbury, and she expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to join the meeting and be in the presence of three heroes, particularly Mr. Dennis Daly who had personally saved a young woman's life by assisting her to exit the overturned, smoking vehicle in which she was trapped. Senator Little said that in the wake of the incidents at the Sandy Hook Elementary School, she had pondered what made people commit certain acts and she recalled the actions of the School Principal who had confronted the gunman in an attempt to stop him, only to lose her own life; she continued that Mr. Daly had similarly provided assistance to a young lady in need, with no thought to possible consequences or peril to himself, and she concluded that for some people, these heroic actions were based on instinct. Senator Little stated that she was proud to have Mr. Daly, as well as the other three DPW employees who had assisted during the accident, as employees and citizens of Warren County and to represent people of their caliber. She then presented a resolution which would be enacted when the Senate returned to active session, reading a portion aloud, as follows:

“...Dennis Daly should be meritoriously commended for remaining calm under pressure and for showing valor and true courage while performing a life saving deed, which he would probably describe as being normal. Through his spontaneous and heroic actions, Dennis Daly demonstrated his character and his compassion for the welfare of others, personifying by virtue of his actions the collective concern of ordinary citizens across the community of New York State who voluntarily respond without thought of danger or reward when others are in need of help. And therefore be it resolved that we recognize Dennis Daly, an individual worthy of praise

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and admiration.”

Additionally, Senator Little presented Mr. Daly with the New York State Senate Liberty Award on behalf of the people of the State of New York for exceptional valor and dedication, honoring Mr. Daly in recognition of his heroic actions on November 26, 2012 to aid a fellow citizen. A round of applause and a standing ovation were given by the members of the Board of Supervisors and those in attendance.

Chairman Stec also presented Mr. Daly with awards from the County and the New York State Assembly. He read the Proclamation from the County aloud, as follows:

“Whereas, on Monday, November 26, 2012, Dennis Daly, an employee with the Warren County Department of Public Works, came upon the scene of a serious motor vehicle accident on Call Street in Lake Luzerne, and

Whereas, the victim, an 18 year old college student named Chelsea Barton, was trapped upside down in the smoking vehicle. While his co-workers, Jack Wells, Joe Abrahams, and Jeff Fish took immediate action to direct traffic on the busy road, Dennis Daly made the decision to enter the vehicle to free Miss Barton, and

Whereas, Dennis Daly was successful in his attempt to not only help the victim out of the car, but also returned to retrieve her purse, minutes before the vehicle burst into flames,

Whereas, Dennis Daly’s actions can only be described as heroic and selfless, undoubtedly saving the life of this young woman; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that I, Daniel G. Stec, Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the residents and employees of Warren County, and the entire Board of Supervisors, wish to recognize and applaud Dennis Daly for his actions on November 26, 2012, epitomizing the definition of a true hero while giving Chelsea Barton and her family the best Christmas gift they could ask for.”

On behalf of Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, who regretfully could not be present, Chairman Stec presented Mr. Daly with another citation, reading a portion aloud as follows:

“...Resolved, that as a duly elected member of the State Assembly of New York, I recognize that in Dennis Daly we have an outstanding citizen, worthy of public recognition and commendation, fully confident that such praise mirrors his noble accomplishments and selfless bravery.”

Certificates of Appreciation from Warren County and Assemblywoman Sayward were also given to the other DPW staff members who had assisted in directing traffic during the incident to maintain a safe traffic environment, Joe Abrams, Jeff Fish and Jack Wells (*Jeff Fish was not in attendance*). Applause was given between each award.

Continuing with the agenda review, Chairman Stec announced that Peter Kehoe, President of the New York State Sheriff’s Association, was in attendance to make a presentation to the Sheriff’s Office. Speaking as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Mrs. Wood expounded that Mr. Kehoe would be presenting a re-accreditation for the Sheriff’s 911 Communications Center, and she said she was very pleased to have him in attendance. Mr. Kehoe thanked Chairman Stec and Mrs. Wood for their introductions and for providing him with the opportunity to make this presentation. Additionally, he thanked Chairman Stec for all of the wonderful work he had done for Warren County and his Town of Queensbury constituents; he also congratulated Chairman Stec on his election to the New York State

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Assembly and wished him luck in this new endeavor.

Mr. Kehoe stated it was his pleasure to attend the meeting on behalf of all the Sheriff's of New York State to recognize and honor Bud York, Warren County Sheriff, along with all of the men and women employed by the Warren County Sheriff's Office on the occasion of re-accreditation of the Sheriff's 911 Communications Center. He apprised that only 12 of the 62 Counties in New York State had qualified for the accreditation, signifying that this was no easy accomplishment. Furthermore, Mr. Kehoe said, Sheriff York and his staff maintained similar accreditations for both the Corrections and Civil Divisions from the New York State Sheriff's Association, and for the Law Enforcement and Road Patrol Divisions from the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Council, meaning that the Sheriff's Office had obtained every accreditation available. He stated that these achievements were a great testament to Sheriff York and his staff and clearly demonstrated their pursuit of excellence in their profession. Mr. Kehoe commended Warren County on having an outstanding Sheriff's Office which had long been respected across the State, and he said both the Warren County Board of Supervisors, and the residents of Warren County who provided the funding for law enforcement operations, should be proud of these accomplishments. He apprised that the accreditation process was comprised of 70 individual components which were submitted to scrutiny by an outside Board of Assessors to ascertain whether the Communications Center met their demanding standards; he continued that subsequent to their review, the Board had determined that Warren County's Communications Center met, or exceeded, every standard. Mr. Kehoe congratulated Sheriff York and his staff and applauded them for their accomplishments, noting that it took a considerable amount of hard work by a lot of people to achieve the accreditation, and therefore, he said, the entire staff of the Communications Center should be recognized. He said he wanted to take a moment to recognize a couple of staff members who had devoted a great deal of extra time and effort to the many administrative and operational details required to successfully document and demonstrate that the Warren County Sheriff's Office was deserving of this recognition. Mr. Kehoe proceeded to present certificates of appreciation to Larry Jeffords, Communications Supervisor; Mark Zahn, Senior Communications Officer; and Brian Engle, Senior Communications Officer, thanking them for their tremendous effort. A round of applause was given. Mr. Kehoe then presented Sheriff York with a plaque honoring the Sheriff's 911 Communication Center on the achievement of their re-accreditation, following which another round of applause was given.

Sheriff York noted 2012 was the first year Messrs. Jeffords, Zahn and Engle had been involved in the accreditation effort, and although it had been a difficult learning process, all three staff members had proceeded very quickly and professionally, leading one member of the Board of Assessors to assert that this was one of the best assessments they had done. Sheriff York personally thanked Messrs. Jeffords, Zahn and Engle for their hard work and dedication.

Resuming the agenda review, Chairman Stec announced that Kelli Kennedy, President of the CSEA, was in attendance to address the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Kennedy advised that after many months of negotiations, the CSEA was pleased to have reached what they felt was a fair contract, given the current fiscal climate faced by both the CSEA workers and the taxpayers of Warren County. She said during their negotiations, the CSEA had maintained that meaningful savings could be achieved while preserving vital services, and they felt the tentative agreement did just that. Through a respectful, collaborative process, Ms. Kennedy advised an agreement had been reached that achieved needed savings and preserved services for Warren County citizens while also offering needed job security for CSEA members. She thanked Kevin Geraghty, Budget Officer, and Paul Dusek, County Administrator, for their commitment to wrapping up the negotiations and she also extended her appreciation to the members of the CSEA Negotiating Committee for all of their hard work. In closing, Ms. Kennedy offered congratulations to Chairman Stec on his election to the New York State Assembly and she asked him to keep in mind that Warren County had the "best of the best" employees. A round of applause was

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given.

Chairman Stec thanked Ms. Kennedy for all of her hard work, advising the Board of Supervisors was pleased with the CSEA Negotiating Team's dedication to achieving a reasonable and fair outcome for residents and taxpayers, as well as for the employees that the County tried to do their best by in this difficult economy. He advised that further discussion on the collective bargaining agreement would be held later in the meeting.

Chairman Stec called for discussion on the Public Hearing for Local Law No. 1 of 2013; there being none, he declared the Public Hearing closed at 10:18 a.m.

The next agenda item, Chairman Stec advised, pertained to a request from John Currie who desired to address the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the Warren County Conservation Council (WCCC). He noted that prior to the meeting, Mr. Currie had questioned whether there were any resolutions to be addressed regarding the invasive species issue and Chairman Stec pointed out proposed Resolution No. 732, Proclaiming Warren County's Commitment to Reduce and End the Infestation and Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in Publicly Accessible Water Bodies Throughout Warren County, which was included in the packet of resolutions to be voted on that day.

Mr. Currie thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them on this important issue. He said he was a member of the WCCC and a life-long resident of the Warren County area who was very interested in maintaining the ability to fish local waterways. He then proceeded to read aloud a memo from the WCCC which briefly outlined the purpose of the WCCC, listed the many clubs they represented, and stating their position on the boat decontamination program intended to control the introduction or further proliferation of invasive species and the \$40 per boat fee proposed by the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) to offset the program costs; *a copy of the memo is on file with the minutes*. In summary, the WCCC was opposed to the \$40 inspection fee as many of the people the organization represented owned small fishing boats, canoes or other such vessels which were taken in and out of the water with each use, amounting to multiple cleaning fees. The memo also included the WCCC's recommendation for a three point program based on training and testing to qualify boat owners and operators to self-inspect their boats prior to launch and following removal from the water; self-certification that the boat has been inspected as required; and enforcement to be conducted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) as well as other authorized agencies. In closing, the WCCC's memo relayed their opinion that by working together in a cooperative spirit, they could develop and implement the most cost effective program to protect the quality of the water and fisheries of Warren County, as well as other neighboring Counties that influenced local lakes and streams due to proximity, shared borders and transient sportsmen.

Mr. Dickinson stated that he was pleased to welcome the assistance of the WCCC in putting together a program to address the invasive species issue and he said they were correct in their assessment that a cooperative effort was needed. He continued that he agreed with many of the points made in the WCCC's memo and the directives sought, but indicated some of the statements made were a bit skewed by misinformation. Mr. Dickinson noted that the \$40 boat cleaning fee proposed by the LGPC was simply a general suggestion for a means to support the program and he further noted that the program could turn out to be free. He stated that one of the guidelines adopted by the Invasive Species Sub-Committee, of which he served as Chairman, was to promote education and cooperation in determining a means to achieve eradication of invasive species in local water bodies and stop them from being spread to other waterways. Mr. Dickinson continued that they needed to be sure that no one inadvertently introduced new invasives to Lake George and surrounding water bodies which could ruin them. He said the points made by the WCCC were valid and he agreed the smaller vessels used by their members, which were able to be transported on top of ones vehicle, were not as likely to introduce or

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spread the invasive species; however, he noted, the problem with a self-certification program was that many people who thought they were effectively cleaning their boats, might not be doing so. Mr. Dickinson advised that everyone involved in the decision making process for the future of the boat washing program had the interests of the fishermen and women in mind and he advised that he and other members of the Invasive Species Sub-Committee would welcome the opportunity to meet with WCCC representatives and discuss the matter further.

Mr. Geraghty said it was very important that everyone understood the invasive species issue and the problems it presented and he applauded the WCCC for taking the time to provide their opinions on the matter. Mr. Westcott thanked Mr. Currie for his presentation, as well, and suggested that proposed Resolution No. 732 be amended to include the three point self inspection proposal. Mr. Dickinson pointed out that the purpose of the proposed resolution was simply to show a united front when petitioning for assistance at the State and Federal levels, as well as to any other organization where funding might be sought; he added that the resolution indicated there was an issue about which there was great concern and a desire for resolving actions to be taken.

Upon suggestion made by Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, Chairman Stec advised that it did not seem appropriate to amend proposed Resolution No. 732, and he recommended the issue be referred to the Invasive Species Sub-Committee for further discussion. Mr. Conover also agreed that the matter should be referred to the Committee level for further consideration as education and awareness were important facets of any program. He added his suggestion that the Invasive Species Sub-Committee review the proposal with WCCC representatives and try to include some of their suggestions in the program they were trying to develop. Mr. Dickinson confirmed that the Committee would discuss the matter at their next meeting and respond to Mr. Currie with respect to the suggestions made by the WCCC.

Mr. Strainer pointed out that proposed Resolution No. 732 called for the resolution to be sent to Warren County's representatives at the State level, and he said that since this seemed to be a State-wide problem, maybe the resolution should be forward to all New York State Legislative representatives. Mr. Mason stated that the resolution was flexible as it was written and should be left as it was, without including additional inspection facets.

Rich Haag, Secretary of the WCCC, questioned whether it was possible to be notified of upcoming meetings of the Invasive Species Sub-Committee so that they might attend. He said that WCCC representatives had been invited to participate in meetings held by other area organizations with respect to the invasive species issue to relay their position on the matter and he advised they would like to do the same at the County level. Chairman Stec advised that if Mr. Haag left his contact information with Mrs. Sady, she would be sure to advise him of upcoming Invasive Species Sub-Committee meetings.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Brian LaFlure, Fire Coordinator, who indicated that posters had been distributed to the Board members promoting volunteer firefighting recruitment. He said there was a State-wide initiative being undertaken by the Firemen's Association of the State of New York to promote recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS) responders. Mr. LaFlure advised that volunteerism was very important in Warren County because if they were unable to attract the appropriate number of volunteers, they would be forced to institute salaried positions for emergency personnel. He asked that the Supervisors take the posters back to their Towns and hang them in areas where they could be seen by the public. Mr. LaFlure congratulated Chairman Stec on his election to the New York State Assembly and he presented him with a bright red cell phone attachment which he said would be sure to help Chairman Stec stand out in any crowd.

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Chairman Stec responded in appreciation.

Continuing the agenda review with the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Stec apprised that as he prepared to assume his elected position in the New York State Assembly, he had taken some time to reflect on his position as Chairman over the last couple of years and the accomplishments made. He noted that Warren County had been successful in maintaining small tax increases and employing minimal appropriations of their general fund balance, all before the State imposed their tax cap regulations, which had allowed Warren County to successfully abide by the regulations without the struggles faced by other surrounding Counties. Chairman Stec said that a lot of big projects had been undertaken, such as the Corinth Road Project which had been underway for a decade but was finished in 2011, and he noted that despite reductions in funding, the Department of Public Works had continued to operate efficiently, successfully completing four bridge replacement projects during the last year.

Warren County had taken great strides to address the invasive species in Lake George, Chairman Stec said, regardless of the fact that the State was the responsible party, providing funding to the effort and considering the adoption of a local law based on a similar version that the State was unable to get in place. He opined that the State could learn a lot from the County in this area and he would be happy to bring this message and mission along with him to the State Assembly. He said it was encouraging to note that every Board member, while having a different view on the end result, realized that the invasive species eradication in Lake George was a problem that had to be addressed.

Chairman Stec recalled that the Board of Supervisors had worked through difficult personnel situations within the Department of Social Services, compounded by the fact that municipal issues were publicly aired and could not be addressed as quietly as they could be in a private industry setting. He said that although it had been a lengthy process, he felt they had achieved a good result in appointing Suzanne Wheeler as Commissioner of the Department of Social Services; Chairman Stec added that the Board appreciated the patience of both Ms. Wheeler and her staff during the interim period when they had performed due diligence measures to ensure prior personnel related errors were not repeated, and he said he felt the end result was well worth the wait. He stated that Warren County had many great employees and he recalled awards presented earlier that morning to DPW staff for honor and valor, as well as those presented to staff of the Sheriff's Office for outstanding accomplishments. Another positive employee-related accomplishment, Chairman Stec advised, was the ability to achieve what was perceived to be a fair and reasonable labor agreement with the CSEA for Union employees, and he recognized and appreciated the effort involved in that process.

Chairman Stec said Mr. Geraghty would be nominated as the next Chairman of the Board and he was confident that Mr. Geraghty would do a fine job in the position. He stated that in his experience, it was his personal opinion that in many cases, serving as Budget Officer, as Mr. Geraghty had done for the past couple of years, was more difficult than serving as Chairman of the Board in light of the level of work required to maintain the County Budget. Chairman Stec said Mr. Geraghty had been a good friend to him over the years and an excellent Budget Officer, and he wished him the best of luck in his future Chairmanship.

Chairman Stec thanked each member of the Board of Supervisors for their fellowship, support and encouragement during his tenure as Chairman and he said he was very proud of the work they had accomplished together; he added that each Board Member and Department Head should be similarly proud of the achievements made during these trying times. Chairman Stec stated that it was a great honor to be elected to public office, and he was deeply honored to have been re-elected as many times as he had to the Town of Queensbury Supervisor position and he was both humbled and honored to

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have been elected to the State Assembly. He further stated that he said he wanted the members of the Board of Supervisors to know how much it meant to him to be elected by them as Chairman of the Board.

In closing, Chairman Stec invited everyone to his swearing in ceremonies which would be held on January 1st at noon in the Warren County Supreme Court Room and on January 8th at 2:00 p.m. at the New York State Assembly Legislative Office Building, Hearing Room C, in Albany, NY. He advised that he had received his Assembly Committee assignments which consisted of the Banks, Local Government, Tourism, Social Services and Environmental Conservation Committees.

Chairman Stec called for reports by Committee Chairman on the past months meetings or activities and the following gave verbal reports: Supervisor Sokol, Health Services; Supervisor Thomas, Finance, Soil & Water Conservation District; Supervisor Wood, Public Safety; Supervisor Geraghty, Budget; Supervisor Conover, Personnel; Supervisor Monroe, Legislative & Rules and Gaslight Village Ad Hoc; Supervisor Girard, County Facilities; Supervisor Taylor, Economic Growth & Development and Support Services; Supervisor Loeb, Social Services; Supervisor Kenny, Occupancy Tax Coordination; Supervisor Dickinson, Invasive Species Sub-Committee; and Supervisor Merlino, Tourism.

With respect to the Health Services Committee, Mr. Sokol announced that the last meeting had been held at the Westmount Health Facility, following which a tour of the Co-Gen Facility was provided. He noted that several resolutions had been approved for the Public Health Division to address typical business items, as represented by proposed Resolution Nos. 705 - 711; he pointed out that the Public Health Division was on target to incur a 3% budget savings for Warren County, on top of the 4% savings achieved for 2011.

Mr. Sokol advised proposed Resolution Nos. 760 and 761 sought to ratify actions taken by the Personnel Committee with regard to the hiring freeze in authorizing vacant nursing positions to be filled within the Public Health Division and the Westmount Health Facility in order to maintain operations and he said he hoped these resolutions would be supported. In closing, Mr. Sokol wished Chairman Stec the best of luck at the New York State Assembly, commending him for the work he had done at the County level over the years he had served as Supervisor for the Town of Queensbury, and stating that he would be missed.

Mr. Thomas advised the Finance Committee had met on December 12th, approving a number of the proposed resolutions being presented. He pointed out proposed Resolution Nos. 735, Authorizing Agreement with NTS Data Services, LLC to Provide Full Document Imaging Technology, which pertained to the Board of Elections; 736, Authorizing Renewal of the Agreement with Hess Corporation as Preferred Supplier for Natural Gas Through the Municipal Electrical & Gas Alliance (MEGA) and Ratifying Execution and Fixed Price Agreement; 739, Authorizing Interfund Advance to Westmount Health Facility to Cover Cash Flow, which would provide funding in an amount not to exceed \$1.5 million to the Facility while they awaited receipt of IGT (inter-governmental transfer) monies, with the borrowed funds to be repaid within one year at an interest rate of .25%; 742, Authorizing Payments to SUNY Adirondack; 743, Authorizing Payment to the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District of 2013 in the Amount of \$284,000; 745, Resolution Setting the Hours of the Warren County Treasurer's Office to be Open to the Public, which would alter hours of operation in an effort to curtail overtime use; and 748, Consenting to Deviation of Uniform Tax Exemption Policy of the City of Glens Falls Industrial Development Agency, pertaining to the redevelopment of buildings located at 21 Bay Street in the City of Glens Falls. Mr. Thomas noted that the agenda packet also included a number of proposed resolutions requesting budget amendments and supplemental appropriations to take care of necessary end of the year transfers to keep budget codes in balance. He apprised that earlier in the week, the Soil

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and Water Conservation District had held their annual meeting, during which they typically presented their Conservationist of the Year Award. Mr. Thomas advised that for 2012, they honored two recipients, Bill Lupo, of the NYSDEC, and Warren County. He said the Board of Directors of the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District felt that over the years, Warren County and all of its Departments had greatly supported the Conservation District.

Mrs. Wood advised that the Public Safety Committee had met on November 29th to address typical business items. She noted that proposed Resolution No. 779, Awarding Bids and Authorizing Agreements with Warren Tire Service Center, Inc., Warrensburg Car Care, LLC and Maltbie's Garage Co. Inc. for Routine Maintenance of Warren County Sheriff and District Attorney's Office Vehicles (WC 56-12), had been approved after the Committee meeting, subsequent to the bid opening. Mrs. Wood said it was her understanding that both Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, and Sheriff York had reviewed the bids and recommended proceeding with the businesses listed in the resolution.

Mr. Geraghty apprised that Governor Cuomo's Executive Chamber had acknowledged the letter sent with regard to increasing retirement costs and indicated they would take this under advisement. He thanked Chairman Stec for the kind words offered about his future Chairmanship and said it had been a pleasure working with him.

Several meetings of the Personnel Committee had been held since the last Board meeting, Mr. Conover stated. He said the first meeting was held on December 12th, represented by proposed Resolution Nos. 756 - 763, and the second was held on December 19th, where proposed Resolution Nos. 784 - 786 were approved. Mr. Conover pointed out proposed Resolution Nos. 785, Authorizing Public Employment Agreement Effective January 1, 2012 Through December 31, 2016, and 786, Lifting Hiring Freeze and Authorizing the Filling of Vacant Positions Tabled at October 19th Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Mr. Monroe commented that the Legislative & Rules Committee had met jointly with the Invasive Species Sub-Committee where proposed Resolution No. 731 was approved, Ratifying the Actions of the Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors in Requesting the Adirondack Park Agency Modify the General Permit for Invasive Species Control Regulations, in order to address some of the permitting limitations. Mr. Monroe advised that Gaslight Village Ad Hoc Committee had also met, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 753 - 755 which pertained to use of the Festival Space for upcoming events. He apprised that although he had not yet received a formal confirmation, he had received an email from Robert Blais, Mayor of the Village of Lake George, indicating that \$750,000 in grant funding had been awarded for use in connection with the Festival Space on the former Gaslight Village Property, as well as an additional \$150,000 grant from the Wood Foundation. Chairman Stec indicated that he had received this information, as well, and said this was excellent news.

Relative to the last meeting of the County Facilities Committee meeting, Mr. Girard pointed out the items approved as being proposed Resolution Nos. 726 - 729, which he proceeded to outline briefly. He stated that it had been a pleasure to work with Chairman Stec over the years and he appreciated all of the support given to both Warren County and the City of Glens Falls through his advocacy of the Glens Falls Civic Center. Mr. Girard expounded that Chairman Stec had a good understanding of the workings of Warren County and he had helped him to gain a better understanding of them, as well. He opined that Chairman Stec had a great family background and was one of the hardest working politicians he knew; he added that he looked forward to seeing Chairman Stec in action at the State Assembly level, noting that he was one of the best candidates to represent the area at the State level. Finally, and most importantly, Mr. Girard stated that he was happy to call Chairman Stec a friend and he wished him the best of luck in his new endeavor.

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Mr. McDevitt stated that he had no Committee report to provide, but said he also wanted to offer Chairman Stec his congratulations and well wishes. He noted that he would miss the political banter he and Chairman Stec had shared over the past few years and he recalled an instance when Chairman Stec had been able to point out an error on a roll call vote when although it had initially be thought that the vote had passed, it had actually failed. Mr. McDevitt advised this situation had occurred when he first joined the Board of Supervisors and the weighted vote process was still elusive to him; he recalled that he had been very impressed with Chairman Stec's ability to make this determination just from listening and quickly calculating the votes himself. Mr. McDevitt concluded that he had enjoyed working with Chairman Stec and wished him luck in his new position as Assemblyman.

Mr. Taylor began by stating that he appreciated Chairman Stec's sense of humor and his ability to make serving on the Board of Supervisors a fun job, as well as his work ethic. He said his advice to Chairman Stec would be to maintain his sense of humor and work ethic in his position as State Assemblyman. Moving on to his Committee report, Mr. Taylor apprised the Economic Growth & Planning Committee had met and approved two resolutions, proposed Resolution Nos. 693 and 694, both of which were intended to improve the GIS services previously provided by the County's GIS Coordinator position which had been eliminated upon resignation of the prior incumbent in order to reduce Departmental costs. He continued that the Support Services Committee had met, as well, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 775 - 777, all of which were new Local Laws, and proposed Resolution Nos. 781 - 783, which pertained to renewals of the County's insurance policies.

Concerning the prior meeting of the Social Services Committee, Mr. Loeb advised proposed Resolution Nos. 684, 685, 688 and 763 had been approved and he proceeded to outlined them briefly, placing special emphasis on proposed Resolution No. 763, which sought to appoint Suzanne Wheeler as Commissioner of the Department of Social Services. Mr. Loeb congratulated Ms. Wheeler on this nomination, noting that she had been doing an excellent job working as Acting Commissioner. He questioned whether a roll call vote was necessary to approve this resolution, due to the compensation package offered with the position, and Chairman Stec replied in the negative but advised a roll call vote could be requested, if desired. In conclusion, Mr. Loeb offered Chairman Stec his best wishes in his future endeavors and said he felt that Chairman Stec had done an excellent job of serving the Chairman position and he felt Mr. Geraghty would do just as well.

Mr. Kenny commented that the Occupancy Tax & Coordination Committee had met on December 10th to hold their annual workshop meeting where determinations were made as to the distribution of occupancy tax funding. He said that during this meeting they had reviewed several applications with a cumulative funding request of \$666,000 and subsequently awarded funding to 51 applicants at a total of \$391,500 (*with \$41,500 coming from the occupancy tax reserve fund*). Mr. Kenny thanked the Occupancy Tax Committee members for doing their due diligence in sitting for several hours to review the applications, prior to meeting to make these funding determinations. He also offered his congratulations to Chairman Stec and wished him luck in his new position.

Both Mrs. Frasier and Mr. Vanselow advised they had no Committee report, but said they wished to present Chairman Stec with a gift they had prepared. In honor of Chairman Stec's familiar analogy comparing increases in State mandates on Local Governments to hiking with a backpack becoming increasingly full of rocks, Mrs. Frasier and Mr. Vanselow gifted Chairman Stec with a backpack full of rocks on which they had painted the names of several unfunded State mandates. Mr. Vanselow stated that they hoped this would serve as a reminder of his promises to advocate the County's unfunded mandate concerns and attempt to address these issues at the State level in his new position. Chairman Stec thanked Mrs. Frasier and Mr. Vanselow for their gift, and a round of applause was given.

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Mr. Dickinson apprised that the Invasive Species Sub-Committee had met and approved proposed Resolution No. 732, Proclaiming Warren County's Commitment to Reduce and End the Infestation and Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in Publicly Accessible Water Bodies Throughout Warren County. He mentioned he had read in a local newspaper that his position as Chairman of the Invasive Species Sub-Committee had been termed as the "kiss of death", and he said he did not believe this would be the case. Mr. Dickinson stated that he had worked longer with Chairman Stec's father than he had with the Chairman, himself, but said that he had developed the same positive impression. In closing, Mr. Dickinson quoted the graduation speech given by Dr. Seuss at a college graduation commencement ceremony, for which, he said, Dr. Seuss was paid very handsomely, "Good Morning...Good Job...Good Luck...Goodbye".

The Tourism Committee had met and approved proposed Resolution Nos. 699-704, Mr. Merlino announced, all of which pertained to agreements for brochures, media operations and things of that nature. He advised that each Town Supervisor had been provided with a copy of the large poster pertaining to their municipality that would be placed in the satellite Tourism Office located at the Adirondack Factory Outlet Mall, along with brochures for events and attractions in each respective Town. Mr. Merlino thanked Chairman Stec for being so friendly and helpful to him when he joined the Board of Supervisors and for assisting him whenever necessary. He said that many Town Supervisors contacted Chairman Stec for counsel or advice with issues in the Towns and Chairman Stec was always very good about returning those calls quickly. Mr. Merlino stated that he also appreciated Chairman Stec's humor and wit and said he would miss working with him and seeing his Dad at Board meetings.

Mr. Merlino pointed out two items he hoped the Board would address in 2013, the first being the Town agreements with Time Warner Cable which had been signed five to seven years ago for cable television which allowed the Towns to receive a certain amount of revenue for the services provided. He said that since the contracts were signed, Time Warner had increased the services provided to include telephone and internet, which the Towns had no control over, but continued to receive complaints from citizens due to rising costs. Mr. Merlino noted it was possible that the Towns were being short changed on the amount of revenues received and he suggested that a small Committee be developed in 2013 to review and address these issues. Additionally, Mr. Merlino apprised that according to a recent newspaper article, it appeared the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors had adopted a resolution supporting gambling in their County and, although he said he was not for or against the introduction of gambling institutions in this area, he believed the Warren County Board of Supervisors should adopt a similar resolution in order to state their interest in this possibility due to the potential revenue stream, leaving it up to the citizens of Warren County to make a final decision on the matter. Mr. Merlino pointed out that the Budget Officer had already done a great job of reducing expenses in the County Budget wherever possible; however, he said, tough budgetary situations were projected for the coming years which could be aided by developing new funding streams such as this. He advised Governor Cuomo would be tasked with identifying seven areas of New York State where allowances would be made to attract gambling establishments and he thought a small Committee should be established to address this issue as well, in an effort to assist Warren County in becoming one of the areas to be considered. Chairman Stec agreed that gambling was an issue that the Board of Supervisors would have to take a position on in the coming year, and it was likely that a position would have to be adopted at the State level, as well.

Chairman Stec thanked everyone for their kind words, and he also thanked his parents, wife and son, Peter, for their support during his tenure with the Warren County Board of Supervisors, as well as in his pursuit for his State Assembly position. He said he was very blessed to have such a tremendous amount of support from his family.

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Resuming the agenda review, Chairman Stec called for the report by the County Administrator. Mr. Dusek apprised that, as previously noted by Ms. Kennedy, he had served as a member of the Labor Negotiating Team, providing a report on the final agreement to the Personnel Committee, where it was approved and he said he felt the summarization of the agreement written and published by Don Lehman, of *The Post Star*, was very good and accurate. Mr. Dusek stated he appreciated that the CSEA realized the financial challenges the County would face in future years, as well as the economic realities faced by residents and taxpayers of Warren County and he felt an agreement had been reached which was beneficial to both the County and the CSEA members and he thanked Ms. Kennedy for her assistance in reaching this agreement. Mr. Dusek commented that it had been a pleasure to serve as County Attorney, and later County Administrator, during Chairman Stec's tenure on the Board of Supervisors and under his leadership as Chairman, and he was sure that Chairman Stec would be quite successful in the State Assembly and he offered his own personal well wishes.

Chairman Stec noted there was a litigation matter to be reported on and he questioned whether an executive session would be necessary. Mr. Auffredou advised that an executive session would not be necessary, and he reported briefly on the pending McNaughton litigation case which had been in existence since 2005 and concerned the foreclosure process employed by the County for a parcel located in the Town of Chester. He apprised that when the case was heard at both the Supreme Court and Appellate Division levels, the County's foreclosure process had been upheld and he said he was pleased to report that on December 11th notification had been received from the Court of Appeals affirming the Appellate Division's ruling that the County had appropriately notified all interested parties in their foreclosure proceedings. Mr. Auffredou advised a copy of the decision was available in his Office for anyone wishing to peruse it and he said that although it had been a long battle, he was happy to say that the County had been successful.

Chairman Stec called for the Reading of Communications, which Mrs. Sady proceeded to read aloud as follows:

Minutes from:

1. Warren/Washington Counties Mental Health Subcommittee;
2. Warren/Washington Counties IDA, Executive/Park Committee and Civic Development Corporation;

Monthly Report from:

1. Probation

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp., October and November 2012 surcharge in the amounts of \$6,341 and \$6,427, respectively;

Southern Adirondack Library System, Letter thanking the Board for their continued funding for the County's libraries;

Warren/Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency, 2013 Adopted Budget.

Chairman Stec then called for the reading of resolutions. Mrs. Sady advised proposed Resolution Nos. 682 - 777 were mailed and a motion was needed to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 681 and 778 - 791 to the floor.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 681 and 778 - 791 to the floor.

Chairman Stec called for discussion on resolutions.

Mr. Loeb noted there were several resolutions relating to tax levies and he asked for an explanation as

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to their purpose. Mike Swan, County Treasurer, advised that all of these resolutions related to the Real Property Tax Services Law for collection of taxes. He explained that there were agreements between the school districts, towns and County that the County would serve as the enforcing agent and would make the towns whole for the collection of unpaid school taxes, water rents, etc., levied on the tax bills sent to the property owner, following which the County would begin their own collection/foreclosure process (*Resolution No. 769*). Because the City of Glens Falls was its own entity, he advised the City was removed from this process and was responsible for collecting their own taxes. Mr. Swan noted that the County served as the City's vendor for printing tax bills and the County allowed the City to put water rents and levies unpaid on the January tax bill that went to the City in an effort to collect the unpaid amounts (*proposed Resolution No. 766*). The resolution pertaining to omitted items (*Resolution No. 770*), Mr. Swan advised, addressed items that were omitted at some time in the past that the school district/town/city felt needed to be added in the future in order to correct a mistake or address some other type of issue. One example of an omission requiring correction, he said, was a case in the Town of Chester where a building had been deemed uninhabitable and demolition and removal of the building had been ordered with the costs subsequently being added to the January tax bill to recoup the demolition costs. Mr. Swan stated that while this was not an unusual occurrence, he noted that it did not happen all the time. Mr. Loeb thanked Mr. Swan for the clarification.

With referenced to proposed Resolution No. 722, Authorizing the Deletion of Items from the Waste Management CL8160 Asset Inventory, Mr. Kenny questioned what items were being deleted and where they had gone. Mr. Swan advised the Waste Management CL8160 Asset Inventory consisted of containers purchased using grant funds when solid waste operations were decentralized to the towns. Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of Public Works, interjected that approximately 200 containers had been purchased and over the years, they had been picked up by various haulers for solid waste removal through town contracts, leaving a number of containers unaccounted for because they were either lost or destroyed. Mr. Tennyson advised there were approximately 16 containers to be removed from the Inventory in order to maintain an accurate listing of the inventory available. In the future, he said, they intended to explore other options in which the hauling company would provide containers because it was virtually impossible to continue maintaining the inventory when the containers were being transferred all over. Mr. Kenny then asked what they intended to do with the remaining container inventory and Mr. Tennyson responded those items would either be auctioned off and any unusable items scrapped.

Regarding proposed Resolution No. 727, Resolution Approving Fees Charged by the Fixed Based Operator at Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport, Mr. Mason advised that although he was a member of the County Facilities Committee and had voted in favor of the resolution at that time, he had recently received some new information that he felt the Committee should review and asked that the resolution be tabled and the item referred back for further discussion.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried by majority vote, with Mr. Thomas voting in opposition, to table proposed Resolution No. 727 and refer the issue back to the County Facilities Committee for further discussion.

Mr. Westcott requested a roll call vote for proposed Resolution No. 726, Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Execute a Letter Making a Formal Offer to Charon Trust; Queensbury 400 Properties, Inc.; and George L. Sicard and Charles O. Sicard, Owners for Purchase by Warren County for Fee Title/Avigation Easement Acquisition of the approach to Runway 30 at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport. He questioned if the properties identified within the resolution were being purchased by the County or if they were standard avigation easements for the operation of the Airport and Ross Dubarry, Airport Manager, responded that this was a combination of property and easement acquisitions. Mr.

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Dubarry explained the landowners had indicated their preference to sub-divide their parcel in a manner which would allow the County to purchase a portion of the property and gain avigation easements over the remaining sections.

Mr. Strainer requested a roll call vote for proposed Resolution No. 763, Appointing Suzanne Wheeler as Commissioner of the Warren County Department of Social Services, and Mr. Thomas requested a roll call vote for proposed Resolution No. 712, Authorizing Acceptance of Settlement for Resident at Westmount Health Facility.

With reference to proposed Resolution No. 726, Mr. Girard pointed out that the land/avigation easements sought related to Runway 30, which was the shorter of the two Airport runways. He apprised that if the easements were not achieved, they would be able to use less than half of that runway in the future, and Mr. Dubarry advised this was a correct assessment. Mr. Westcott commented there were other options available other than purchasing the property and he suggested securing avigation easements over the entire property, rather than purchasing it. Mr. Dubarry interjected that the property owners were not willing to voluntarily offer avigation easements over all of the property and if the County preferred to proceed in this manner they would need to employ a condemnation action to acquire the necessary avigation easements.

Concerning proposed Resolution No. 702, Authorizing Lease Agreement with Adirondack Factory Outlet Center, Inc. Relative to Office Space for a Satellite Tourism Office, Mr. McDevitt asked if there was a way to ensure the costs associated with the satellite office were justified. Mr. Merlino replied affirmatively, noting that they received very few visitors to the Tourism Office located in the Municipal Center and in just the last month or so since they had started offering information at the new satellite location, he estimated that more brochures were distributed than were picked up in a whole year at the Municipal Center Office. He pointed out the initial contract was only for a one-year trial period but said that in the limited time it had been in place, the satellite office had received many more visitors because it presented a more visible location. Mr. McDevitt thanked Mr. Merlino for his comments and said he felt the one-year trial period was fair.

With respect to proposed Resolution No. 712, Authorizing Acceptance of Settlement for Resident at Westmount Health Facility, Mr. Taylor commented that although he would vote in favor of the resolution because he felt it was in the best interest of Warren County, he understood the sentiments of those who chose to vote against it. Mr. Loeb said that he also would vote for the resolution, but agreed with Mr. Taylor's comments, as did Chairman Stec, who also voted in favor of the resolution.

Chairman Stec called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 681 - 791 were approved as presented, with the exception of Resolution No. 727, which was tabled, as previously noted.

Chairman Stec pointed out that in prior years, the Board of Supervisors had adopted a resolution allowing County Offices to close early on December 24th and 31st and he asked if the Board was in favor of doing the same for 2012.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to waive the Rules of the Board requiring a resolution be presented in writing. Mrs. Sady advised this would be Resolution No. 792.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Loeb and carried unanimously to authorize County Offices to close at 3:00 p.m. on December 24th and 31st. Mrs. Sady advised this would be Resolution No. 793.

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Concluding the agenda review, Chairman Stec called for announcements.

Mr. Strainer stated that he was also going to miss working with Chairman Stec and said he had enjoyed having him serve as Chairman of the Board. He commented that he was proud of the way that Chairman Stec had worked and campaigned his way to the State Assembly, as any public official should, and he said he felt Chairman Stec would do an excellent job in his Assembly position.

Chairman Stec announced that Kate Hogan, District Attorney, had left a small gift for each Supervisor outside of the Board Room.

Mr. Geraghty wished everyone a Merry Christmas and said that he and Mr. Thomas had a gift they wished to present to Chairman Stec on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Geraghty said it had been a pleasure to work with Chairman Stec over the past seven years and watch as he learned the art of compromise. Mr. Thomas advised it had been a privilege to serve the Board of Supervisors with Chairman Stec, during which time they had developed a friendship. He thanked Chairman Stec for his service to Warren County and said he would miss his leadership, and laughingly, his brevity. Messrs. Geraghty and Thomas wished Chairman Stec luck in his future endeavors and presented him with a clock engraved with his name and dates of service to Warren County. A round of applause was given.

Mr. Geraghty invited everyone to congregate for cake and coffee in the Supervisor's Kitchen directly following the meeting.

Mr. Loeb wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Stec adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.