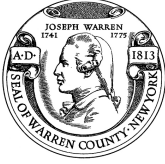
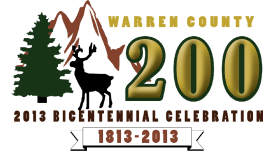


Warren County Board of Supervisors



**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2013**



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. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Monroe.

Roll called, the following members present:

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

Motion was made by Supervisor Montesi and seconded by Supervisor Strainer to approve minutes of June 21, 2013 Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Commencing with the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty declared the Public Hearing on the proposed SUNY Adirondack tentative budget for fiscal year 2013-14 open at 10:02 a.m. and he asked Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board to read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Dr. Kristine Duffy, the new President of SUNY Adirondack, stated it was her pleasure to attend the meeting on behalf of SUNY Adirondack and said she appreciated the support provided to the college by Warren County over the years, which she was hopeful would continue. Dr. Duffy commented that she believed SUNY Adirondack had been a good steward of the funding provided to them and she noted that members of the SUNY Adirondack budget team were in attendance to answer any questions.

As there were no comments from the members of the Board of Supervisors, nor any public comment or questions, Chairman Geraghty closed the Public Hearing at 10:04 a.m.

Chairman Geraghty advised the SUNY Adirondack representatives would need to leave for the Washington County Board of Supervisors Meeting which was being held on the same day, and he suggested that a motion be made to bring proposed Resolution No. 419, *Adopting and Approving SUNY Adirondack College Budget*, to the floor so that it could be voted on while the representatives were present.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to bring proposed Resolution No. 419 to the floor. A roll call vote was taken and Resolution No. 419 was unanimously approved by those Supervisors in attendance.

Continuing to the Report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Geraghty advised he had nothing to report. He extended privilege of the floor to Brian LaFlure, Fire Coordinator/Director of the Office of Emergency Services, who was in attendance to introduce new staff members to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. LaFlure introduced Micki Guy, EMS Coordinator; Tom Ordway, Third Deputy EMS Coordinator; and Chip Mellon, Third Deputy Fire Coordinator. Chairman Geraghty welcomed the new staff members and a round of applause was given.

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Moving on, Chairman Geraghty called for reports by Committee Chairman on the past months meetings or activities and the following were given: Supervisor Monroe, Legislative & Rules and Park Operations & Management; Supervisor Girard, County Facilities; Supervisor Taylor, Economic Growth & Development, Support Services and Personnel; Supervisor Loeb, Social Services; Supervisor Bentley, Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks and Public Works; Supervisor Dickinson, Invasive Species Sub-Committee; Supervisor Strainer, Human Services; Supervisor Sokol, Health Services; Supervisor Wood, Public Safety; and Supervisor Conover, Finance.

Regarding the July 10th meeting of the Legislative & Rules Committee, Mr. Monroe apprised discussion had been held relative to Article 15-A of the New York State Executive Law which pertained to minority or women-owned business enterprise (MWBE). He explained that a Department of State official had advised their Office would withhold 20% of the grant funding awarded if the County failed to achieve the overall goal of 20% MWBE participation, meaning that 10% of the grant funds would need to be expended for work completed by a minority-owned business and another 10% by a women-owned business. The problem with this goal, Mr. Monroe further explained, was that they had not been able to meet similar goals in the past because there were not many minority or women-owned businesses in Warren County to award the contracts to. He continued that this discussion had led the Legislative & Rules Committee to approve proposed Resolution No. 418, *Requesting Modification to Department of State Policy with Regard to Implementation of Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprise Regulations*, seeking a waiver of this goal based on a lack of availability.

Mr. Monroe advised the Park Operations & Maintenance Committee had met on July 2nd, wherein discussion was held regarding the County Attorney's modifications to the Park Rules and permitting process which would be jointly implemented with the Village of Lake George. He said they had been advised of delays in the Park construction schedule, caused by a delay in the approval process for the TEP (*Transportation Enhancement Program*) grant which would allow for several events to be held on the property during the month of August, as represented by proposed Resolution No. 415, *Authorizing Use of the Festival Space of the Former Gaslight Village Property for Various Events*. Additionally, he advised the Committee had approved proposed Resolution Nos. 416, *Amending Resolution No. 338 of 2013; to Authorize an Advance Payment to the Lake George Chamber of Commerce and Convention and Visitors Bureau for the Design and Printing of a Marketing Brochure*, and 417, *Authorizing Elan Planning to Submit a CFA Grant Application to Complete Various Components of the Charles R. Wood Park*.

Mr. Girard pointed out that the resolution packet included three resolutions approved by the County Facilities Committee, those being proposed Resolution Nos. 383, *Authorizing Submission of Grant Application to Federal Aviation Administration/New York State Department of Transportation to Purchase Land and Avigation Easements for Approach to Runway 30*; 384, *Authorizing Submission of Grant Application to Federal Aviation Administration/New York State Department of Transportation for the Construction Project to Remove Approximately Seventy Acres of Trees in the Approach to Runway 1, Install Three Obstruction Light Towers and Landscape a Vegetative Buffer along Queensbury Avenue*; and 385, *Authorizing the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works to charge a Preferred Parking Fee during the Adirondack Balloon Festival at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport*. Mr. Girard reported that the night meeting of the County Facilities Committee requested by several members of the public had been held on July 8th; he apprised the meeting had been attended by 15 members of the Board of Supervisors, along with the County Administrator and County Attorney, and there had been 19 speakers from the public.

With regards to the Economic Growth & Development Committee, Mr. Taylor advised a draft resolution had been included in each Supervisors folder entitled "*Adopting Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise - Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement*". He explained that while reviewing the

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current policy, Wayne LaMothe, Director of Planning & Community Development, had noticed discrepancies between the County and State policies which needed to be addressed. Mr. Taylor noted that Paul Dusek, County Administrator, had been involved in this process and could better explain the necessary changes.

Mr. Dusek explained that the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy had been adopted by Warren County in the 1970's under an affirmative action program. He noted that one of the most glaring differences between the County and State policies was the County policies lack of language pertaining to age-based discrimination; he explained that age-based discrimination would be addressed through the revised policy statement, as well as a few other minor areas. Mr. Dusek advised that the State and County policies were very similar, with the exception of the desire of the State to incorporate 20% MWBE participation for grant opportunities. He clarified that this goal did not mean that the County was required to contract with MWBE's, but rather that if the State did not achieve their overall goal, they could choose to seek reimbursement for 20% of the grant funds awarded. Mr. Dusek stated that through the draft resolution and proposed Resolution No. 418, they would be employing a two-pronged approach to request a waiver of the 20% MWBE goal from the State based on a lack of minority and women-owned businesses in Warren County, while revising the County's Equal Employment Opportunity Policy to ensure that every attempt was being made to attract services from businesses of this nature. He concluded that if the draft resolution was not adopted, the Planning & Community Development Department would not be able to sign some very important grant agreements which were of benefit to the communities of Warren County.

Resuming his report, Mr. Taylor advised the Economic Growth & Development Committee had also approved proposed Resolution Nos. 376-379 which were included in the resolution packet. He reported that the Support Services Committee had met on June 27th, approving proposed Resolution No. 397, *Accepting Proposal and Authorizing Agreement with Rose & Kiernan Inc. for Insurance Broker Services which includes Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance and Employers Liability Specific Excess Insurance (WC 12-13)*. As for the July 10th Personnel Committee meeting, Mr. Taylor stated that proposed Resolution Nos. 403-408 had been approved, all of which pertained to filling vacant positions, as well as proposed Resolution No. 409, which sought authorization for a member of the Information Technology staff to enroll in a job-related course.

Mr. Loeb announced that the Social Services Committee had also met on June 27th, and he said although it had been a good meeting, he had nothing specific to report. He commented that while he felt all Warren County employees were doing a good job, the Department of Social Services staff members were faced with especially difficult tasks, which were sometimes met with overwhelming adversity, but they rose to the challenge.

Mr. Bentley advised the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks had met on the prior morning and had adopted a resolution mirroring proposed Resolution No. 418. He reported that the Public Works Committee had met on July 2nd, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 386-396, all of which pertained to typical housekeeping matters.

Mr. Vanselow stated that while he had nothing to report, he would take the opportunity to note how pleased he had been to receive many offers of support and assistance from Chairman Geraghty, Mrs. Wood and Mr. Merlino, following recent storm damages in the Town of Johnsbury; he added that the County DPW staff had also been very helpful during the repair process. Mr. Vanselow advised that they had gotten the damages under control, but had a lot of work ahead of them to achieve permanent repairs.

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Mr. Dickinson said the Invasive Species Sub-Committee had met on July 11th and he noted this had been an important meeting featuring an update from Dave Wick, Executive Director of the Lake George Park Commission, on the scientific analysis of the fall 2012 - spring 2013 matting treatments performed. He explained that the mats used to suffocate the Asian Clams were put down during the late fall months, when most of the boat traffic on Lake George had ended, remaining in place until they were removed during the months of May and June in 2013; Mr. Dickinson noted it had cost approximately \$100,000 to place the mats and another \$100,000 to remove them. He advised that samples had been taken before, during and after the matting process to determine the levels of dissolved oxygen throughout the treatment process. Mr. Dickinson stated that, as per Mr. Wick's report, the treatments in many areas had achieved a 98% - 100% kill rate for the Asian Clams, while some other areas achieved results in the range of 90% - 95%. He said it appeared that the matting technique used worked very well in classic clam-bed areas consisting of a flat, sandy surface and they would be able to continue using it in these types of areas in the future, knowing that a good success rate would be achieved. On the downside, Mr. Dickinson apprised there were many areas in Lake George where the matting process was not as successful due to the extensive dock structures and rocky areas where it was difficult to place the mats in order to obstruct the oxygen level. In these areas, he said, they intended to attempt a surgical vacuuming process to remove the Asian Clams. Mr. Dickinson noted that an alternate vacuuming procedure had been attempted in the past where water was blown into the clam beds to stir the Asian Clams into the water where they could be vacuumed; however, he said, this process had stirred up too much sand and silt, making it very difficult to see the Clams.

The Lake George Park Commission would be holding a meeting on July 23rd where they were hoping to adopt their final proposal on the environmental impact statement for the boat washing program, Mr. Dickinson advised. He said they were a bit chagrined with the proposal because the most likely proposal for adoption included allowances for after-hours boat launching. Mr. Dickinson stated that many people were concerned with this allowance and advised they were attempting to have this provision removed, but said he was unsure whether they would be successful.

Mr. Montesi stated that he had nothing to report, but wished to comment on the resurfacing issues surrounding the Warren County Airport. He noted that it seemed each month new concerns were being raised relative to Airport projects, but said the one question that had not been asked was how much FAA (*Federal Aviation Administration*) grant funding had been expended by the County for Airport projects over the last ten years since the Airport Master Plan was approved, and whether those funds would have to be repaid if the planned projects were not completed. Mr. Montesi said he had requested this information and Mr. Dusek had responded with an indication that approximately \$795,000 in FAA grant funding had been expended to date. He pointed out that this was a considerable amount of money and the Board needed to have a clear indication as to whether the County would be responsible for repayment of these funds if the runway expansion project was cancelled, before making a decision to proceed in that manner. Therefore, Mr. Montesi continued, he requested that the Board of Supervisors authorize Mr. Dusek to work cooperatively with Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, and Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of Public Works, to investigate the matter and determine whether the County faced such a risk.

It was the consensus of the Members of the Board of Supervisors to follow Mr. Montesi's suggestion and authorize Messrs. Dusek, Auffredou and Tennyson to investigate whether the County was at risk for repayment of FAA grant funds if the runway expansion project was not completed.

Mr. Bentley questioned the figure presented, stating he believed that more than \$800,000 had been spent since 2000. Mr. Dusek responded that the County had applied for more FAA grant funding but had only actually expended about \$380,000 so far and had identified another \$423,000 in FAA grant

funding for the purchase of property and avigation easements for the runway expansion project.

Mr. Strainer advised the Human Services Committee had met on June 28th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 410, *Amending Resolution No. 335 of 2013; Authorizing Agreement with Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) for Summer Youth Employment & Training Program*; 411, *Authorizing a Contract with Visiting Nurse Service of New York Choice (VSNY) to Provide Reimbursement for Meals Provided to Elderly Warren County Medicaid Recipients Enrolled in the VSNY Managed Long-Term Care Program (MLTCP)*; and a Certificate of Appointment naming a new member of the Saratoga-Warren-Washington Counties Workforce Investment Board.

Mr. Mason said he had nothing to report but stated that he was looking forward to reviewing the information Mr. Montesi had requested.

Mr. Westcott noted the attendance of Travis Whitehead, Town of Queensbury resident, who was present to provide some information he had developed regarding the costs associated with the co-generation facility in place at the Westmount Health Facility, following his independent review of the savings reported by Siemens Building Technologies over the past year. He noted that Mr. Whitehead held an electrical engineering degree from RPI (*Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*) and had an impressive career working as a consultant for various clients, holding certifications in three different states. Mr. Westcott advised Mr. Whitehead would provide some information he had developed which he felt was important for the members of the Board of Supervisors to note in the process of considering the possible sale of the Westmount Health Facility and the accompanying co-generation facility. He continued that Messrs. Dusek and Auffredou were working very hard to get all of the facts and figures in place for the review of the Supervisors before voting on the proposed sale and he thanked everyone involved in that process for their hard work and dedication. With respect to the Airport runway expansion project, Mr. Westcott stated his opinion that based on future anticipated expenditures, he felt it was better to forego the monies that had already been spent on the project and discontinue it now, rather than continue to spend money on an unnecessary initiative.

The Health Services Committee had met on June 28th, Mr. Sokol reported, and had approved several requests to fill, delete and reclassify positions, all of which were later approved by the Personnel Committee and were included in the resolution packet. He commented that the staff of both the Public Health/Patient Services Department and the Westmount Health Facility were doing a fantastic job; he added that many positions at the Westmount Health Facility were being vacated by people seeking more job security, which created obstacles for the remaining staff. Mr. Sokol advised they had recently hired a new "screener" whose job was to identify hospital patients with the potential to become Westmount patients in order to increase the census at the Facility.

Mr. Thomas stated that the Budget Committee would meet on August 2nd where the latest budget planning tool would be presented, which Mr. Dusek and JoAnn McKinstry, Assistant to the County Administrator, had been working diligently to develop.

Mrs. Wood advised the Public Safety Committee had met briefly on July 1st, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 400, *Authorizing Warren County Office of Emergency Services to Submit a Grant Application to the New York State Office of Homeland Security for Funding for the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) for the Office of Emergency Services*, and 401, *Approving the Tri-County Animal Rescue Team (CART) Plan*. She added that during this meeting, Karen Putney, Administrator of Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement, had announced her impending retirement. Mrs. Wood said the Committee had extended Mrs. Putney their best wishes in her retirement and had authorized the

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commencement of advertising to fill the position. She then apprised the Board Members of an occurrence during the recent period of excessive hot weather where Lexie Delurey, Director of Real Property Tax Services, had noticed a gentleman wandering around the parking lot in a disoriented state searching for his vehicle. Mrs. Wood advised Mrs. Delurey had brought the gentleman back into the Municipal Center where he could cool down for a bit before helping him to find his vehicle and seeing him safely on his way. She said she appreciated Mrs. Delurey's efforts and felt the other members of the Board of Supervisors should be made aware of them, as well. Chairman Geraghty also thanked Mrs. Delurey for taking the time to assist a County citizen.

With respect to the last meeting of the Finance Committee, held on July 10th, Mr. Conover reported that proposed Resolution Nos. 369 - 375 had been approved, all of which pertained to typical County business. He noted that the County's financial position continued to improve, but advised there had been a decline in sales tax revenue for the month of June. Mr. Conover said the County Treasurer was researching the matter to determine what had caused the decrease. Chairman Geraghty noted that many surrounding Counties had reported similar decreases.

Resuming the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty called for the report by the County Administrator. Referring to the complimentary remarks made by Mrs. Wood and Mr. Sokol with respect to staff, Mr. Dusek agreed that there were many staff members who were doing an outstanding job for the County and he noted they had been very fortunate with the management selections made at the Westmount Health Facility as things were working out very well there. With respect to Mrs. Putney's impending retirement, Mr. Dusek advised it would be very difficult to replace Mrs. Putney as she had brought the Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement Department to a new level in terms of the enforcement work. He continued that Building Code enforcement was a tough job that Mrs. Putney had performed in a very professional manner while bringing information to the citizens of Warren County; he added that this level of professionalism was another quality being sought in management staff which he felt was being achieved. Mr. Dusek commented that, ultimately, the County staff was in place to serve the taxpayers of Warren County and he said that Mrs. Delurey's actions came as no surprise to him as she was a prime example of the type of people the County had in its employ, which made him very proud.

Mr. Dusek apprised that a brief executive session would be required to discuss negotiations relating to the possible sale of the Westmount Health Facility. He explained that discussion in executive session would be necessary because public discussion could affect the value of what could be achieved for the Facility. In response to concerns raised by both Members of the Board of Supervisors and the public, Mr. Dusek advised a management plan was being developed to list all of the cost information relating to the Westmount Health Facility, including those concerning Medicaid reimbursements, so that when it came time to vote on the prospective sale of the Facility the Supervisors would have all of this pertinent information available to them. He added that the listing would be provided in a comprehensive manner that would be responsive to all of the questions posed.

Moving on to the report by the County Attorney, Mr. Auffredou stated that when considering the sale of the Westmount Health Facility, the co-generation facility should be considered as an integral component. He said that because he wanted the members of the Board of Supervisors to have all of the information available to make the best decision on behalf of the County and due to the complicated nature of the co-generation facility which included many complex formulas, data and contractual provisions, he suggested the retention of an impartial professional consultant to provide himself, the negotiating team, and ultimately the Board of Supervisors, with the information necessary to move forward with making a decision on the sale of the Facility. He said he believed a great benefit would be gained from obtaining an impartial, independent review of the co-generation data available so that they would know exactly what would be conveyed through a sale of the Facility. Mr. Auffredou stated

that the professional services sought would be indispensable at this point and would help to address concerns raised with respect to the data reported and the possibility of overstated savings, as well as to help make recommendations as to any additional actions that should be taken. He further stated that neither he, nor his staff, were qualified to perform this review and they needed a qualified, impartial person to do it; he added that although this would incur a cost, he felt it would be worth the investment. Mr. Auffredou estimated an initial cost of \$7,500 for this professional review and he said he was seeking a resolution authorizing him to seek out these services.

Mr. Dusek pointed out that they did need to retain the services as soon as possible as the information gathered would be paramount to the negotiating process for the proposed sale of the Westmount Health Facility. He commented that they would be seeking the services of a professional who specialized in co-generation operations.

Mr. Mason stated his support for Mr. Auffredou's request and he noted that the firm hired should not be in the business of reclaiming equipment or some similar enterprise that might tilt their decision in one way or the other. Mr. Auffredou said Mr. Mason had brought up a good point and he said he would make sure the professional chosen would be impartial on all accounts; he added that the independence and integrity were very important in this process.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to waive the Rules of the Board requiring that a resolution be presented in writing. Mrs. Sady advised this would be Resolution No. 420.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to authorize the County Attorney to retain the services of an expert consultant to review the co-generation facility at the Westmount Health Facility with the associated costs to be paid from the contingent fund. Mrs. Sady advised this would be Resolution No. 421.

Chairman Geraghty then called for the reading of communications, which Mrs. Sady read aloud, as follows:

Minutes from:

Warren/Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency, Civic Development Corporation and Executive/Park Committees.

Capital District Off-Track Betting, June 2013 Surcharge in the amount of \$6,829;

Brian Granger, resident of the Town of Queensbury, regarding the t-shirts on display in the Village of Lake George.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Sady advised proposed Resolution Nos. 370 - 481 were mailed; she advised that proposed Resolution No. 372 had been corrected after mailing and a motion was necessary to approve the resolution, as revised. Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve revisions to proposed Resolution No. 372.

Mrs. Sady noted that the resolutions relating to the filling of vacant positions were Nos. 404 - 408 and she said that unless a roll call vote was requested, all would be approved in the collective vote; she advised a motion was necessary to bring proposed Resolution No. 369 to the floor. Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to bring Resolution No. 369 to the floor.

With reference to the floor resolution included in the Supervisors folders entitled "*Adopting Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise - Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement*", Mrs. Sady advised that if the Board was interested in approving the resolution, a motion would be necessary to bring it to the floor.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to bring the aforementioned resolution to the floor. Mrs. Sady advised this would be Resolution No. 422.

Chairman Geraghty called for discussion on resolutions. Mr. Westcott requested roll call votes for proposed Resolution Nos. 383, *Authorizing Submission of Grant Application to Federal Aviation Administration/New York State Department of Transportation to Purchase Land and Avigation Easements for Approach to Runway 30*, and 384, *Authorizing Submission of Grant Application to Federal Aviation Administration/New York State Department of Transportation for the Construction Project to Remove Approximately Seventy Acres of Trees in the Approach to Runway 1, Install Three Obstruction Light Towers and Landscape a Vegetative Buffer along Queensbury Avenue*. Mr. Westcott stated that he also had a question about proposed Resolution No. 374, *Authorizing Submission of Grant Application to New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services to Hire a Project Manager to Manage Grant Applications and Assist with Secretarial Duties in the Public Defender's Office*; he pointed out that the grant application would be for \$160,218 and he said that while he supported the initiative, he did not understand why they would require so much funding for a secretarial position. Mr. Dusek responded that the grant application was set up for a three-year term and the funds would not be used solely to support the secretarial position, but to fund other expenses, as well. He assured Mr. Westcott that as with every other position, they would seek out the best qualified candidate but would hire within an appropriate wage range to be identified by a salary study.

As there was no further discussion, Chairman Geraghty called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 369-422 were approved as presented; a Certificate of Appointment naming a new member of the Saratoga-Warren-Washington Counties Workforce Investment Board was submitted.

Resuming the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty called for announcements.

Mr. Kenny suggested that as soon as a consultant was selected and had the opportunity to review the information available, a meeting be scheduled with Mr. Westcott, Mr. Whitehead and a representative from Siemens Building Technologies to discuss any questions on the co-generation facility.

Mr. Dickinson announced that on the following morning at 10:00 a.m. at the Rotary Corner, the Town of Lake George would be holding a ceremony in recognition of the County flag the Board of Supervisors had gifted to the Town of Lake George at the June 21st Board meeting; he added that all were welcome to attend. On a personal note, Mr. Dickinson advised that he had worked for many years with Mrs. Putney through his private surveying company and attested that she was an excellent County employee. He said he was sorry to see her leave, but commented that he appreciated her past efforts and wished her the best of luck in her retirement.

Mr. Kenny stated that he had recently seen an advertisement posted in *The Post Star* seeking bids for closure of the Thurman and Hadley railroad station platforms and he questioned whether those bids had been awarded. Mr. Kenny also questioned whether a study had been performed to determine the number of people that used the Thurman platform before funds were expended to close it in. Kevin Hajos, Deputy Superintendent of Public Works, responded that the bids had been awarded on the prior day for the lumber, HVAC, plumbing and electrical facilities for enclosing both platforms and he noted

that no studies had been performed; he added that the cost associated with the work was approximately \$58,000 for both locations.

Mr. Dusek said that this process had started a few years ago, using money from a grant program to enclose the platforms. He said the matter had been discussed at the Public Works Committee before it was decided that the funds should be used in this manner.

Mr. Kenny suggested cancelling the bid award until a study was performed for the Thurman Station location because he did not believe anyone was using the station. Speaking as Supervisor for the Town of Thurman, Mrs. Wood invited Mr. Kenny to visit the Thurman Station so that he could see first hand that the Station was being used. Mr. Kenny stated that he had visited the Station on more than one occasion and said he had not seen anyone using it; Mrs. Wood countered that she frequently saw riders getting on and off the train in Thurman and she noted that one Town of Thurman resident used the train as a means to commute to his place of employment in New York City.

Mr. Monroe recalled that when the Thurman Station was built all of the underground infrastructures had been included and the project currently being undertaken was only to enclose the platform and connect it to the facilities already in place. He continued that all over the Adirondack region infrastructures were being closed down and he felt it would be huge mistake not to make improvements to the railroad and accompanying structures for future use. Mr. Monroe concluded that he was very much in favor of this project.

Mr. Bentley commented that the platform enclosures would have been completed already if it had not been for the minority/women-owned business goals implemented by the Department of State, which had caused a need for the project to be re-bid. He stated that this issue had been fully discussed by the Public Works Committee and approved by the Board of Supervisors through a prior resolution.

Mr. Strainer congratulated Mr. LaFlure on the Fire Training Center which he had fought many years to get in place. He noted that the Training Center was being used by both public and private entities which he felt was a great success.

Mr. Westcott advised of a "bravo" printed in a recent edition of *The Post Star* regarding the positive report the State of New York had given Warren County in light of its improving finances; he congratulated Chairman Geraghty, who had formerly served as Budget Officer, Mr. Dusek, Mr. Swan and the rest of the Board Members for the outstanding job they had done in making these achievements. Mr. Westcott also noted the County's improving bond rating, stating that both of these factors were good indicators that the County was being well run. He concluded that he hoped as they began the 2014 Budget process, they could achieve even more savings and build further upon the work that had already been done.

Mr. Girard reminded the Board Members that at the June 21st Board Meeting, the winners of the Tar Wars Poster Contest the poster contest were recognized and he noted that the poster submitted by his grandson had won the top prize locally, winning a trip to Washington, DC to compete on a National level where he had finished in 10th place. He commented that they had seen many things during their tour of Washington, DC, but one of the most memorable had been their trip to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where a wounded soldier had also been in attendance who had lost his legs and some of his fingers in service to our Country. He apprised that his 10-year old grandson had questioned what had happened to the soldier, and in response, Mr. Girard said he had explained the soldier had been wounded in a bombing incident and he encouraged his grandson to shake the soldiers hand and thank him for his sacrifice, which his grandson had done, as well as himself, his wife and his daughter. Mr.

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Girard stated that of all the handshakes his grandson would receive in his lifetime, he would never forget that one and he said he appreciated the opportunity to be there for it.

Concluding the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty offered privilege of the floor to any members of the public wishing to address the Board.

Mr. Whitehead opined that the retention of professional services relating to a review of the co-generation facility at the Westmount Health Facility was an excellent idea and he offered his assistance with the review, stating that he would like the opportunity to provide his findings. He said he had performed a critical review of all of the information available and felt that the facts were very clear; Mr. Whitehead apprised that he had developed a reporting of the Westmount operating costs both with and without the co-generation facility, a copy of which he provided for the record. Mr. Whitehead noted that Saratoga County had faced a similar situation with the co-generation facility at their Maplewood Manor nursing facility and following a thorough review, the recommendation had been to shut down the co-generation facility and reconnect to National Grid for energy services. He said he would recommend a similar thorough review and studies be performed for the co-generation facility at Westmount because there were many conflicting reports, some indicating that the County was actually losing money through use of the facility. Mr. Whitehead advised he would provide copies of his report to anyone interested in reviewing it and was available to answer any questions the Board of Supervisors might have.

Supervisor Merlino entered the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Chairman Geraghty thanked Mr. Whitehead for his efforts in preparing the report, as well as for his offer to participate in future reviews; he noted that discussions regarding the co-generation facility would continue in the future.

Mr. McDevitt thanked Mr. Whitehead, as well, noting that he had talked with Mr. Whitehead earlier in the week about this matter. He noted that he had repeatedly been outspoken with his concerns regarding the Siemens Reports and the lack of savings to Warren County and felt it was very important that the reporting process be accountable and transparent. Mr. McDevitt advised that a meeting had been held with National Grid representatives with regard to efficiencies in County Buildings, one positive byproduct of which had been recommendations for changes at the DPW Garage to attain increased energy savings. He said he had been impressed with the perspectives provided by National Grid through their review, which had been provided at no cost to the taxpayers of Warren County.

Mr. Dusek noted that he had also participated in the National Grid Review and advised that, unfortunately, National Grid had not provided any suggestions for increased efficiencies at Westmount Health Facility, and in fact had made positive comments about the Siemens approach, although they had not specifically recommended the co-generation project. He continued that the County had faced difficulties over the years in trying to attain understandable information on the facility. Mr. Dusek commented that because there were so many other aspects of the proposed sale of the Westmount Health Facility to consider, he felt use of an expert consultant to review the information would be invaluable.

Don Krebs, member of the UNYTA (*Upstate New York Taxpayers Advocates*), cautioned the Board of Supervisors that when they made a decision to spend FAA grant funding, the FAA could force the County to maintain operations at the Airport for at least 20 years, and if there were concerns with the amount of money already being spent they should consider the fact that future expenditures could be significantly more. Mr. Krebs also commented that he was very happy to see the efforts being

undertaken to preserve Lake George, advising that many people did not understand the value of the waterbody to the region. He stated that there were some obvious pollution issues which were not being addressed, such as those presented by drywells that emptied directly into Lake George and runoff from roads that were purposely tipped to drain into the Lake, affecting its phosphorous levels. Mr. Krebs noted that the value of many homes on Lake George ranged from \$725,000 to \$5 million and he said that if something was not done about the pollution occurring, causing Lake George to lose its pure waters, those property values were likely to drop significantly, severely affecting the County's tax base. He encouraged additional review of Lake George and support for programs aimed at avoiding negative affects to the lake as it was the economic jewel of the area.

Mr. Thomas pointed out that the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District had been installing stormwater chambers and addressing runoff issues for as long as he had served on their Board of Directors and he noted that \$2-\$3 million had been spent in the Lake George and Bolton areas to address stormwater issues. Chairman Geraghty acknowledged that Mr. Krebs had introduced a valid point and he encouraged the Supervisors of the towns surrounding Lake George to determine if there were areas requiring attention.

George Winters, Town of Queensbury resident, stated that he had attended the night meeting held to discuss Airport issues. He opined that decisions made for the Airport, as well as those made in the past concerning the Trash Plant, Civic Center and the Human Services Building, did not seem to be made with the common taxpayer in mind. Mr. Winters advised that many average citizens were already struggling to avoid property foreclosures and he questioned how 75 acres of trees could be cut down in the Town of Queensbury. In closing, he asked how much thought was being put into these decisions before they were made and stated that he did not think they were right for the taxpayers and citizens of Warren County.

As there were no other members of the public wishing to speak, Chairman Geraghty reminded the Board Members that an executive session would be necessary to discuss negotiations relative to the proposed sale of the Westmount Health Facility.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Loeb and carried unanimously to declare an executive session pursuant to Section 105(h) of the Public Officer's Law.

An executive session was held from 11:14 a.m. until 11:52 a.m.

Upon reconvening, Chairman Geraghty announced that no action had been taken during the executive session.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Mr. Loeb and seconded by Mr. Bentley, Chairman Geraghty adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.