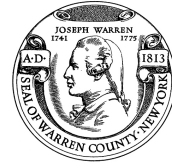


Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2014**



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 Frasier.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Monroe, Girard, McDevitt, Taylor, Brock, Frasier, Simpson, Vanselow, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Seeber, Sokol, Westcott, Thomas, Wood and Geraghty - 18; Supervisors Kenny and Beaty, absent - 2.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2013 Board Meeting and the January 2, 2014 Organization Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Commencing the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty announced the first order of business would be to recognize the graduates of the Warren County Safety Program.

Paul Dusek, County Administrator, stated over the past few years Warren County had added and begun offering a safety program to its employees, administered by Amy Clute, Self-Insurance Administrator, in association with Needham Risk Management, who did a remarkable job of assisting both the towns and the County departments in providing safety training and information. He noted that as an employer, the County had a responsibility to provide safe working conditions, and while the safety of County employees was reason enough to substantiate the safety program, the County also garnered financial savings by ensuring a safe environment. Mr. Dusek pointed out that medical costs, lost work time, and the need to train new employees to cover shifts during extended medical leave absences, all represented costs to the County which could be avoided by implementing programs aimed at training employees in workplace safety. He continued that they also helped employees to work in a manner which enhanced the flow of operations and increased productivity. Mr. Dusek advised that it was very important to acknowledge the accomplishments of the employees graduating from the safety program because regardless of how well planned the program might be, it would be ineffective if cooperative employee participation was absent. He commented that Warren County was fortunate to have dedicated, conscientious employees with strong work ethics, as proven by the success of the safety program.

Mrs. Clute advised she had placed a copy of the "Safety Programs 2014" information packet and schedule on each Supervisors desk; *a copy is also on file with the Clerk of the Board*. She explained that in order to complete the Safety Certificate Program, participants must complete three core credits and three elective credits, for a total of six credits; she added today they would honor nine people who completed the program during the last year, but advised there were more than twenty others who would complete the program, as well, in the near future.

Mrs. Clute and Michael Needham, of Needham Risk Management, proceeded to present a certificate and

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a special hard hat to each of the following program graduates:

- ★ Cherie Ferguson, Town of Johnsbury, graduating with 12 credits;
- ★ Frank Jelley, SUNY Adirondack, graduating with 6.5 credits;
- ★ Charles “Chip” Webster, Town of Warrensburg, graduating with 7 credits;
- ★ Timothy Benway, Warren County DPW, graduating with 6.5 credits;
- ★ Sam Maille, Warren County DPW, graduating with 6 credits;
- ★ Alan Meade, Warren County DPW, graduating with 6 credits; and
- ★ Chad Rounds, Warren County DPW, graduating with 6 credits.

A round of applause was given following each presentation.

Mrs. Clute noted that Frank Leemans and Jessica Barton, both of the Warren County DPW, had also completed the program but were unable to attend; she said both would be recognized with the next group of graduates.

Supervisor Vanselow, *Town of Johnsbury*, recognized Ms. Ferguson’s accomplishment with flowers. Ms. Ferguson thanked Supervisor Vanselow for his support and for allowing her the time to attend the safety program courses. She noted that the safety programs supplemented those already in place at the Town of Johnsbury and brought new light to safety measures they were supposed to be implementing. Ms. Ferguson concluded that the program had been very informative and she reiterated her appreciation for the opportunity to attend, as well as for the recognition of her achievement.

Mr. Jelley also thanked the Mrs. Clute and the Board of Supervisors for their recognition and said SUNY Adirondack was happy to welcome the safety program to their facility; Mrs. Clute noted that SUNY Adirondack hosted many of the safety meetings.

Mr. Webster advised he was attempting to get all of the Town of Warrensburg employees enrolled to complete the safety program; he advised that the Town employees were busy doing a lot of different things, making it difficult to get safety training, and this program represented a good opportunity to do so.

Concluding the presentation, Mrs. Clute thanked everyone who had attended the ceremony and she offered congratulations to each of the graduates.

Chairman Geraghty announced the next agenda item pertained to the annual update from the Warren County Safe & Quality Bicycling Organization’s (*WCS&QBO*) Citizens Advisory Committee. Supervisor Strough, *Town of Queensbury*, introduced Lloyd Mott, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee, noting that several years ago Mr. Mott had come up with a very good idea to start a bicycling organization that would be dedicated to development of safe and quality biking in Warren County. He continued that Mr. Mott had worked very hard, and as a result of his efforts, as well as those of many other WCS&QBO members, they had made some significant accomplishments, one of which was the brochure they had developed. Supervisor Strough stated that the WCS&QBO had created a board that served in an advisory capacity to the Warren County Board of Supervisors and he said Mr. Mott was in attendance to speak on behalf of the Citizens Advisory Committee and provide an overview of the accomplishments made over the past year.

Mr. Mott thanked the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to address them, as well as for their support of WCS&QBO initiatives over the years. He distributed several documents to the Board Members, including a brochure, a “Steps for Safe Bicycling/Off-Road Bicycling Safety Tips” card, a listing of the Citizens Advisory Committee membership, and a listing of WCS&QBO’s 2013 accomplishments;

copies of all of the aforementioned documents are on file with the Clerk of the Board.

Referring to the brochure, Mr. Mott pointed out WCS&QBO's mission statement, which was to promote safe and quality bicycling in Warren County; he added that this brochure had become very helpful when communicating with people and applying for grant funding opportunities. In furthering their safety endeavors and activities, Mr. Mott advised the WCS&QBO had placed public safety announcements and event advertisements in *The Post Star*, *The Chronicle*, and other local publications. He continued that another goal of the WCS&QBO was to improve the quality of bicycling on roads and trails; one successful aspect of these efforts, he said, included the expansion of highway shoulder widths as the roads were resurfaced. Mr. Mott stated that this initiative was very important because narrowing the travel lane to increase the shoulder width did not incur any additional costs to the municipality, but seemed to have a slowing effect on traffic and provided a larger, safer space for walkers/joggers/bicyclers to perform their exercise or transportation.

Mr. Mott reported that the WCS&QBO had begun initiating some theme rides, holding three or four in 2013 which had been very well attended. He cited that one of the theme rides had been held on the Warren County Bikeway to encourage use by younger riders and he said they had been amazed by the number of participants that had never used this facility. Mr. Mott said the WCS&QBO had worked very closely with the Tourism and Planning Departments, as well as the Public Works and Parks, Recreation & Railroads divisions, and appreciated the cooperation they had received. He noted that the Tourism Department had been especially helpful in spreading the word about bicycling in Warren County for residents and visitors, and he said he felt they were gaining more success in this arena as through his personal experiences he had met bicyclers from many different areas of the United States and Canada. Mr. Mott pointed out that these visitors had not come to Warren County just to bicycle, but rather to visit the main attractions of the area which were the lakes and mountains; however, he added, he found it very rewarding that these visitors had chosen to make bicycling a part of their experience in Warren County.

With respect to the membership listing of the Citizens Advisory Committee, Mr. Mott noted there were several towns with vacancies listed and he advised that in order to truly represent Warren County, participation from each town was necessary. He encouraged the supervisors of the towns with vacancies listed to contact him directly at 518-796-2397 to try and achieve full membership for the upcoming spring meeting. Mr. Mott stated that representatives of the WCS&QBO would like to visit each municipality at one of their monthly meetings to discuss their designated connector roads program which promoted safe bicycle travel by indicating where the safest bicycle routes were located. He apprised that upon making these designations, the "Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play" program affiliated with the Glens Falls Hospital would provide free signs to identify these routes which each town could install independently.

Concluding his presentation, Mr. Mott proceeded to briefly review the 2013 Accomplishments and the "Steps for Safe Bicycling/Off-Road Bicycling Safety Tips" documents previously distributed.

Regarding the theme rides, Supervisor Strough noted one had been held during the prior summer aimed at emphasizing the natural beauty of the Schroon River/Lake area which had attracted riders of all ages. He said that other themed rides were being planned, such as one that would highlight the areas historical French & Indian and Revolutionary War events, which they hoped would attract attendance from both visitors and residents. Supervisor Strough advised the WCS&QBO brochure had been distributed in many New York locations, as well as in Washington, D.C. and Canada. He commented that a community effort had been incorporated in the development of the brochure, with the WCS&QBO receiving assistance from the Warren County Tourism Department, the

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Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council, the Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play program, and representatives from several different municipalities and communities. Supervisor Strough said the brochure promoted Warren County, incorporating the County's Tourism Department logo and web address, as well as healthy activities and safety awareness, and had been financed using Occupancy Tax funding and donations from WCS&QBO members. He concluded that if anyone had recommendations for changes to the brochure, the WCS&QBO was open to suggestions.

Chairman Geraghty extended privilege of the floor to Shawn Lamouree, Warren County Undersheriff, who announced it was his pleasure to introduce Peter Kehoe, Executive Director of the New York State Sheriff's Association. Undersheriff Lamouree noted that regretfully, Bud York, Warren County Sheriff, had been unable to attend the meeting because he was attending the funeral of a dear friend.

Mr. Kehoe thanked Chairman Geraghty, Supervisor Wood, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, the members of the Board of Supervisors, and everyone else in attendance, stating it was a pleasure to address them, once again, on behalf of all the Sheriff's of New York State to recognize and honor Sheriff York and the men and women of the Warren County Sheriff's Office on the occasion of re-accreditation of the Sheriff's Corrections' Division. He stated that less than half of the Counties in the State of New York had been able to achieve this accreditation, signifying this was no easy accomplishment. Furthermore, Mr. Kehoe said, Sheriff York and his staff maintained similar accreditations for the Civil, Law Enforcement and Road Patrol Divisions, meaning that the Sheriff's Office had obtained every accreditation available from the New York State Sheriff's Association and the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Council. 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 stated it was particularly important that they took the time to honor those in the corrections field as Corrections Officers were generally the unsung heroes of the law enforcement system. He explained that these Officers spent a large part of their lives locked behind bars with some of the worst people in society in order to keep the general population safe, while keeping the incarcerates safe from one another, all the while remaining mindful that some of the people in their charge were actually innocent, and that both the innocent and the guilty were entitled to humane, respectful treatment while imprisoned. Mr. Kehoe advised it was a tough, unenviable job that these good public servants did and gratitude was owed for their willingness to do the job and do it right; he added it was evident the job was being done right in Warren County by the accreditation being presented.

While most were generally familiar with the concept of accreditation, Mr. Kehoe said some might question its importance and benefits to the citizens of Warren County. In answer, he explained it had many positive effects, such as: improved operations and performance in the facility; increased morale, as employees knew that measured by some objective standard they were doing an excellent job which they would be recognized for; and it tended to reduce the incidences of lawsuits, liability and insurance costs. Most importantly, Mr. Kehoe continued, accreditation improved the service to the public and subsequently the public's confidence in the institution and that was why the Sheriff's Association devoted so much of their time and resources to the various accreditation programs. He apprised that in order to achieve corrections accreditation, the Sheriff's Correction Division had to submit itself to scrutiny by an outside Board of Assessors to ascertain whether it met a stringent set of standards developed by experts in the Corrections field. Mr. Kehoe said the standards included 166 individual components that must be met by the facility to earn accreditation and he stated he was happy to report the Board of Assessors had reviewed the Warren County Corrections operations and asserted that they met or exceeded all of those standards.

Mr. Kehoe commended Warren County on having an extraordinary Sheriff's Office which had long been

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respected across the State, and he said both the Warren County Board of Supervisors, and the residents of Warren County who provided the funding and moral support for law enforcement operations, should be proud of these accomplishments and the outstanding services provided. He congratulated Sheriff York, Undersheriff Lamouree, Michael Gates, Corrections Captain, and all those who worked in the Corrections Division, as well as the entire Sheriff's Office for this achievement. Mr. Kehoe advised the accreditation process had taken a considerable amount of time and he recognized Captain Gates and Sergeant Wayne Farmer for the assistance they had provided, presenting both with a certificate of appreciation. A round of applause was given. Mr. Kehoe then presented Undersheriff Lamouree with a plaque honoring the Sheriff's Correction Division on the achievement of their re-accreditation, following which another round of applause was given. Undersheriff Lamouree said he appreciated Mr. Kehoe's attendance and recognition of the achievements of the Corrections Administrators and what they had been able to accomplish at the Warren County Jail. A final round of applause was given.

Before continuing the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty recognized the presence of Assemblyman Dan Stec, to whom privilege of the floor was offered.

Assemblyman Stec provided a brief update of activity in the New York State Assembly, noting that during the last week their first order of business had been a vote to consolidate and move the Primary Election dates so that there would be one State and Federal election held. He said this was a carbon copy of action taken two years ago when the Assembly had voted in favor, but the Senate had not. Assemblyman Stec stated that the Assembly had passed a bill moving the consolidated primary election to June 24th and he said it was likely discussions would continue at the Senate level, followed by discussions with Governor Cuomo, and he said perhaps a consolidated date in July or August would be secured, potentially saving County taxpayers throughout the State of New York costs in the range of \$30-\$50 million. Assemblyman Stec advised that late in 2013 he and Senator Betty Little had been appointed by Governor Cuomo to the North Country Health Systems Redesign Commission, along with Dr. John Rugge and Dan Burke, both of Warren County; he added they had already held their first meeting and he said he believed this Committee would present an opportunity to better address concerns regarding access to health care in the north country region.

Continuing, Assemblyman Stec congratulated the Board of Supervisors on their invasive species eradication efforts and achieving the necessary approvals to implement the mandatory boat washing and inspection program for Lake George. He said it now seemed that NYSDEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*) was starting to look at invasive species issues on a State-wide level and he felt it noteworthy to mention that Warren County and the various environmental entities, namely the Lake George Association (*LGA*), Lake George Park Commission (*LGPC*) and the Fund for Lake George (*FLG*), had lead the way on this issue for Lake George. He added that while it would be interesting to see how this situation evolved, he felt it likely that improvements on this front would be realized on a State-wide basis. Assemblyman Stec also congratulated Warren County on the grants received in the third round of Regional Economic Development Council awards, stating he believed this was the most they had received in the first three years of the program. He noted that the City of Glens Falls had also received a considerable amount of funding and he said he believed the presence of both Chairman Geraghty and City of Glens Falls Mayor Jack Diamond, at the grant announcement event had been beneficial.

Assemblyman Stec advised both he and Senator Little had also attended a meeting in the Town of Thurman earlier that week to see the demonstration on "white space" internet technology which was attended by many residents. He apprised that Supervisor Wood, *Town of Thurman*, had done a very good job with the impressive presentation, following which the Town Board had voted in favor of advancing the implementation of the new internet technology. Assemblyman Stec stated he believed

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a number of municipalities would be awaiting the reports on the end results of the program to determine how this technology could be applied in other mountainous areas of the northeast. He said he believed there was a lot of wisdom in moving forward with the project and both he and Senator Little were encouraged to see its approval.

Regarding Governor Cuomo's State of the State Address held during the prior week, Assemblyman Stec advised Governor Cuomo had spoken about tax relief and the tax free zones for new businesses. He said Governor Cuomo had blamed high property tax rates on the number of municipal subdivisions in the State of New York, which he found to be unfair as each did not have a separate administration, and he stated his opinion that the number of mandates passed down by the State which did not allow for input from the local municipalities was equally to blame. With respect to the State mandated tax cap, Assemblyman Stec said it was his understanding that if they were able to remain within the tax cap, an income tax credit would be provided for the increase for two years, based on what the property tax level would be; he added that this would mean that the tax levy would increase, but the taxpayer would see the difference because the State would be subsidizing the increase, leading him to question what the result would be in the third year, when the subsidy ended. Assemblyman Stec noted that the Governor would present the State Budget during the following week at which point they would receive more information. Finally, he advised the Governor's State of the State address had touched upon infrastructure improvements identifying more than 100 bridges to be replaced, 12 of which were located within his Assembly District; he added that although most were in Essex County, there were a couple of bridges in Warren County slated for reconstruction. Assemblyman Stec concluded his update noting that in the coming year he expected the Assembly would continue to discuss tax relief, infrastructure and medicinal marijuana issues.

Mr. Monroe questioned whether any action had been taken with respect to mandate relief and Assemblyman Stec responded that while NYSAC (*New York State Association of Counties*) had identified nine mandates comprising the majority of the mandate costs, it was not likely that these nine items could be eliminated. He added that although many requests for mandate relief had been received, there had been a lack of specific suggestions for mandates that could be eliminated or reduced, leading to frustration at the State level. Assemblyman Stec continued that the Governor's Office would probably be quick to point out that more had been done to address unfunded mandates by the State in recent years than had in the past; however, he stated, the mandates continued to cause problems for the school districts where the non-discretionary spending was increasing faster than the tax caps and other reductions or use of fund balance would allow. He concluded that while many groups were calling for more reductions in the area of State mandates, the State had indicated specific suggestions for mandate relief were needed. Mr. Monroe responded that Warren County had submitted a specific list of items for mandate relief. Mr. Dusek confirmed that the list had been submitted and had included a very specific item pertaining to the Public Defender's Office and Legal Aid which they had considered to be a reasonable reduction. He said they had been very disappointed with the response received from the State indicating that no action would be taken, leading the Warren County Board of Supervisors to feel that since those items suggested had not been addressed, it was difficult to continue down that path and he suggested this message be relayed to Governor Cuomo. Assemblyman Stec said it might be helpful if the list was re-submitted and Supervisor Westcott indicated that he would forward the list directly to Assemblyman Stec. Chairman Geraghty advised another item of concern was the Early Childhood Intervention program which the County was required to pay a considerable amount for, but was allowed any control over, nor provided an opportunity for input.

Mr. Dusek pointed out one other item to consider regarding the tax cap was the concern that the subsidy seemed to encourage municipalities to maintain the percentage increase they had, rather than attempt a lower tax increase, in order to receive an incentive. He stated that in the case of Warren

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County, they were trying to achieve a 0% tax increase for 2015 and in doing so would essentially be penalized. Mr. Dusek suggested it would be better to encourage municipalities to achieve lower tax increase and award the incentives anyway. Assemblyman Stec said he understood this point and agreed, commenting that the program seemed to provide an incentive to achieve mediocrity by settling upon a budget minimally below the tax cap.

Mr. Monroe said he had recently read that the New York State Attorney General had received a large amount of settlement funds and there was now a dispute as to whether those funds should be placed in the State's General Fund or maintained in a select fund controlled by the Attorney General; he said he felt the money should be placed in the General Fund to be controlled by the Governor and he questioned whether Assemblyman Stec might have any insight on this issue. Assemblyman Stec replied that he did not have any information to provide on this matter, but stated his agreement with Mr. Monroe's opinion that the funds should be controlled by the Governor. Mr. McDevitt said he had read this article as well and noted that the Attorney General had legally structured these funds in such a manner that it allowed him control over about \$613 million and he said he felt these monies should be contributed to the General Fund.

Resuming the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty read aloud a listing of the meetings he had attended since the last Board Meeting, a copy of which is on file with the meeting minutes.

Chairman Geraghty then called for the reports by Committee Chairmen on the past months meetings or activities and the following were given: Supervisor Frasier, Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks; Supervisor Dickinson, Criminal Justice and Invasive Species; Supervisor Merlino, Tourism; Supervisor Westcott, Social Services; Supervisor Wood, Public Safety; Supervisor Conover, Finance; Supervisor Girard, County Facilities; Supervisor McDevitt, Mental Health; and Supervisor Taylor, Economic Development.

Mrs. Frasier advised she had attended the meeting of the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks held on the prior day in Washington County which had included a tour of Adirondack Studios in Argyle. She noted that although she had never heard of the company, the tour had been a wonderful experience and she had seen many of the props built for Universal Studios and other movie companies.

Mr. Dickinson stated that a Criminal Justice Committee meeting had not been held during the past month, but noted he had been approached by Kate Hogan, Warren County District Attorney, requesting authorization for Jason Carusone, First Assistant District Attorney, to attend an event in New York City with her, and he asked Ms. Hogan to provide an update on the request.

Ms. Hogan advised her request sought permission for Mr. Carusone to attend the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York's (DAASNY) 2014 Winter Conference in New York City on January 24, 2014. She noted that Mr. Carusone had served the District Attorney's Office for more than 15 years and would be a recipient of the Robert M. Morgenthau Award at the DAASNY Winter Conference, which she said was an incredibly impressive accomplishment. Ms. Hogan apprised that in 2009 the DAASNY created the Morgenthau Award in honor of Robert M. Morgenthau who served as the District Attorney in Manhattan, NY for several decades, transforming that office into a model for other offices across the Nation to follow; she added that this award was created to honor professional accomplishments, as well as to represent integrity, honesty and a commitment to justice. Ms. Hogan advised the New York State Unified Court System separated the State of New York into four Judicial Departments, each representing multiple Judicial Districts. She further advised that Warren County was a part of Judicial Department 3 which included Judicial Districts 3, 4 and 6; Ms. Hogan added Judicial Department 3 was by far the

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most populous region in terms of the counties represented, including Albany, Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Cortland, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Madison, Montgomery, Otsego, Rensselaer, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Schuyler, Sullivan, Tioga, Tompkins, Ulster, Warren and Washington Counties, constituting the most competition for the award. She emphasized that of all the counties listed, Mr. Carusone had been chosen to receive this award based on his professional accomplishments, integrity, honesty and commitment to justice. In closing, Ms. Hogan thanked the Board for the opportunity to present this request. There were no objections from the Board Members to the travel request; *a copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention form is on file with the Clerk of the Board.* Chairman Geraghty asked Ms. Hogan to extend congratulations on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to Mr. Carusone on his achievement.

Continuing his report, Mr. Dickinson advised a meeting of the Invasive Species Sub-Committee had been held on January 10th, during which a referral to the Finance Committee was approved seeking authorization for an advance of \$200,000 in County dollars to assist with the commencement of the boat washing program in anticipation of awarded grant funding. He added that this referral had led to the Finance Committee's approval of proposed Resolution No. 47, *Authorizing Advance of Funds to Capital Project No. H347.9550 280 Invasive Species Boat Washing Stations from Unappropriated Surplus Funds Contingent upon the Warren County Attorney's Receipt and Approval of Satisfactory Correspondence from the State of New York*, which was included in the agenda packet. Mr. Dickinson advised a grant application had been submitted by the Lake George Watershed Coalition seeking funding for invasive species eradication and control in Lake George and they were subsequently awarded \$482,050. He recalled that they had been very fortunate to gain approval on the mandatory boat inspections program at the close of 2013 and he said they hoped the program would expand throughout Warren County and eventually across the State of New York. Mr. Dickinson said a lot of progress had been made in advancing this program, due primarily to the cooperative, consolidated efforts of the Warren County Board of Supervisors, the LGA and the LGPC, allowing them to make tremendous progress with this very difficult invasive species problem. He noted that the LGPC was trying to get the boat washing program in place for the upcoming spring season and required funding to do so. Mr. Dickinson advised the \$200,000 advance requested would be used to purchase five additional boat washing stations and fund expenses related to the implementation of the program. He further advised that the grant received required matching funds, but apprised they were fortunate the nearly \$600,000 contributed by the County, the Village of Lake George, the individual towns and the environmental groups would qualify to exceed the required match. Mr. Dickinson concluded that they were very excited about the program and pleased they had been able to advance it so quickly, and he said he hoped everyone would support the proposed resolution.

Mr. Monroe pointed out the proposed resolution indicated it was contingent upon satisfactory correspondence from the State of New York indicating this pre-contract advance would be eligible for grant reimbursement and he questioned whether such correspondence had been received. Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, advised he had received a letter from the Secretary of State which provided satisfactory confirmation that the advance would be eligible for grant reimbursement and he said he had shared this letter with Chairman Geraghty, as well as the Warren County Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer, all of whom had also given their approvals.

Resuming the reports by Committee Chairman, Mr. Merlino advised the Tourism Committee had not met since the last Board Meeting, but he provided an outline of ongoing operations for winter promotions, indicating that posters had been placed in New York City for the snowmobiling campaign. He added that Tourism staff were attending consumer and travel shows and the first ads for the coming spring/summer season would be placed in March and April. Mr. Merlino concluded that the Tourism Department had received a New York State matching fund grant of \$79,394.

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Ms. Seeber thanked everyone for their warm welcome over the past weeks and she said she had learned a lot in a short amount of time. Ms. Seeber noted she had met with representatives from several different departments to learn more about the programs offered, one of which was the Safety Program which she intended to take part in and hoped to graduate from in the coming months.

Mr. Westcott advised that in preparation for his newly appointed Chairmanship of the Social Services Committee he had met with Suzanne Wheeler, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, to discuss how the meetings would proceed. He noted that he and Ms. Wheeler intended to meet a week in advance of the Committee meeting to review the tentative agenda; he added that he would be working with Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, to ensure that the agenda was distributed in advance of the meeting for the benefit of Committee members, as well as those members of the public interested in preparing for the meeting. Mr. Westcott stated that they planned to hold the Social Services regularly on either the Thursday or Friday immediately following the Board Meeting. He concluded that he looked forward to the responsibility of working with the Board and Committee Members throughout the coming year.

Mrs. Wood mentioned that the next meeting of the Public Safety Committee would be held on January 24th at the Warren County Sheriff's Office and would include a tour of the jail facility. She invited anyone interested in touring the jail to join the meeting as reports would be given in the coming months regarding staffing at the jail and this experience might prove helpful in the ensuing discussions.

Mr. Conover reported that the Finance Committee had met on January 10th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 29 and 33-47, most of which pertained to typical County business. He pointed out proposed Resolution Nos. 46, *Establishing Capital Project No. H347.9550 280 Invasive Species Boat Washing Stations; Authorizing Transfer of Funds and Amending Warren County Budget for 2014*, and 47, *Authorizing Advance of Funds to Capital Project No. H347.9550 280 Invasive Species Boat Washing Stations from Unappropriated Surplus Funds Contingent upon the Warren County Attorney's Receipt and Approval of Satisfactory Correspondence from the State of New York*, noting that both were the result of a referral from the Invasive Species Sub-Committee, as eluded to by Mr. Dickinson during his report.

Mr. Monroe said he did not have any committee related reports to provide, but wanted to comment on the topic of biomass heating which was an initiative supported by the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, as well as the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages, the Adirondack Landowners Association and the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks. He said they had learned municipalities, schools and businesses could save about 40% to 50% on their heating costs by switching to a biomass based heating system which basically included clean wood gasification that differed from a wood stove. Mr. Monroe said he was pleased to hear that Governor Cuomo supported this type of renewable heat for New York and planned to offer a competitive grant program outside of the CFA (*Consolidated Funding Application*) process. He opined this option offered a lot of potential to the economy through the possibility of being able to lure a pellet manufacturing company to the area. Mr. Monroe stated that he intended to introduce this topic at the next Legislative & Rules Committee meeting in hopes that a resolution of support for this initiative would be approved as Governor Cuomo would likely receive negative feedback from some environmental groups who were not in favor of tree cutting or new sources of energy other than solar or wind power in the Adirondack region.

Mr. Girard reported that a meeting had been held with the judges of the Warren County Court System to discuss the space needs and he advised the County Facilities Committee's first tactical operation for 2014 would be to collectively tour the current Court space to gain a better understanding of their

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expansion needs. He advised that when the tour was scheduled, all members of the Board of Supervisors would be notified and requested to attend in order to better inform themselves in preparation for the discussions and decisions that would likely follow in the coming year.

Mr. McDevitt advised a meeting of the Mental Health Committee had been held during the prior week where two matters were discussed, the first being the State of the State Address made by Vermont State Governor Peter Shumlin which had been devoted primarily to identify what he described as a “full blown heroin addiction” in the State of Vermont. He said that during his address, Governor Shumlin had encouraged all Vermont residents to keep an open mind about treatment and support for heroin addiction and noted that 80% of the people imprisoned in the State of Vermont were serving sentences for drug addiction-related offenses. Mr. McDevitt noted that the corridor running from the I-87 Northway to State Route 149 and State Route 4 into the State of Vermont had become a common corridor for the purchase of heroin, priced at a much lower rate than one could find it in New York City. He further noted that although Warren County was located in the midst of this corridor, the local law enforcement did a very good job of watching for and deterring this type of activity. The second issue discussed, Mr. McDevitt stated, pertained to medical marijuana which was an issue he felt they all needed to think about. He advised of a recent personal experience where he had recently chatted with a 74-year old woman dying of cancer and he said he had come to the conclusion that medical marijuana made sense and he stated his opinion that they were smart enough to control the substance and ensure it was used appropriately.

Mr. Taylor advised he had no Committee business to report upon but wanted to take a moment to provide an update on economic development. He stated that over the years, they had talked about how the economic development groups should cooperate and they were finally making attempts to further this goal. One way to measure the success of these efforts, Mr. Taylor said, was to provide a recap of the accomplishments made in 2013 by the WWIDA (*Warren-Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency*). He prefaced his report with a notation that the WWIDA was a tool for economic development, rather than a marketing group, that relied on organizations like the EDC (*Economic Development Corporation*) and other groups to send referrals to them. Mr. Taylor then proceeded to list the following comparisons:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Project costs	\$1.3 million	\$21.7 million
Number of jobs created	15	266
IDA fees	\$10,000	\$124,000
Income from sale of lots	\$0	\$37,000
Application fees	\$1,000	\$5,000

Mr. Taylor concluded that the cooperative efforts between the agencies was working, as evidenced by the results he had provided.

Chairman Geraghty reiterated Mrs. Wood’s notation about the tour of the jail facility, emphasizing how it important it was for the members of the Board of Supervisors to see and understand how the jail was set up when considering the reports that would be presented by Sheriff York indicating the need for additional Corrections staffing. Additionally, Chairman Geraghty commented that he also felt it was important for the Board Members to participate in the tour of the Court areas so that they would have first hand knowledge of the space needs. He stated that both of these issues were of high importance and he hoped that they would be addressed sooner, rather than later. With regard to the sales tax results, Chairman Geraghty announced Warren County had suffered a 26% decrease in sales tax revenue for the month of December 2013. He said these results had been discussed briefly at the previous days Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks Committee meeting and it appeared Warren

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County was one of the three or four in the Adirondack region that had incurred such decreases and he said these results were somewhat disconcerting. Chairman Geraghty advised some members of the Board had contacted the Treasurer's Office trying to determine whether this was a type of "true-up" in the sales tax numbers and he questioned whether Warren County had met their sales tax revenue goals for the 2013 Budget; speaking as Budget Officer, Mr. Thomas replied they were very close to meeting the estimated sales tax revenue figures included in the 2013 Budget. Chairman Geraghty recalled the anticipated sales tax revenues estimated in the 2014 Budget had been increased and while they hoped the revenues would rebound in January, he encouraged everyone to monitor the sales tax revenue reports closely.

Chairman Geraghty announced the next agenda item pertained to the report by the County Administrator. Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Dusek who commented that although there had been a dip in sales tax revenues for the month of December, the projections used were based on a conservative model and he was comfortable that, barring any unforeseen difficulties in 2014, they would be on schedule to meet the 2014 sales tax revenue projections. He continued that in view of this trend, he believed the realized 2014 sales tax revenues would be very close to the amounts projected and unless a considerable improvement in the economy occurred, there would not be a surplus of funds collected. Mr. Dusek assured the Board Members that Warren County was financially sound and he did not anticipate any problems meeting the projected revenues.

Mr. Dusek formally introduced Gretchen Steffan, County Human Resources Director, who had been appointed at the January 3, 2014 Organization Meeting. A round of applause was given. Mr. Dusek reported that Ms. Steffan had already delved into the Human Resources operations for Warren County, forwarding emails to the members of the Personnel Committee outlining the approach she intended to use. He attested to Ms. Steffan's good natured attitude, noting that she was currently being housed in a very cramped space with old furniture while the current office structure was being re-worked so that the Human Resources and Civil Service staff would be located together and he said he hoped this work would be completed by the end of the month.

As part of his duties as County Administrator, Mr. Dusek advised he had embarked upon another review of the County's status in terms of management. He noted that during his prior three years in this position, his main focus had been on the County's finances and developing the multi-year budgeting plan, and while they had touched upon operations in terms of cutting costs and consolidating positions, those actions had still been financially oriented. Mr. Dusek stated that while there was still work to be done in relation to the checks and balances relating to the County's financial picture, the basic guidelines were in place and it was now time to concentrate on operations management, resource development, design and improvement of overall effect and efficiency. He said he had informally started this process with the Department Head staff about a month ago, starting what he had identified as an Operations Efficiency program. Mr. Dusek explained there would be a County-wide focus on operations in 2014, working towards standardizing and centralizing management rules and policies; he added that the development of the Human Resources division would play a big part in this process and a lot of work would need to be done to build a solid foundation in that regard. Mr. Dusek continued that they would also be reviewing, consolidating and codifying all of the County's rules and policies which would be disseminated to the members of the Board of Supervisors and other County Officials in order to help everyone become aware of what rules and regulations were in place, as well as to ensure compliance. Another initiative to be undertaken in 2014, he stated, was a review of the County's webpage development and public outreach program to improve access for the citizens of Warren County. Mr. Dusek reminded the Board members that the former Director of the Information Technology Department had retired, and in the coming weeks they would begin interviewing candidates in hopes of filling the vacant position. He noted that he anticipated a study, and possibly a

reorganization of the Information Technology Department, would be undertaken.

Lastly, Mr. Dusek stated that they would be reviewing particular operations in the various County divisions and departments, analyzing the work being done and the results achieved in order to compare them to private sector operations and gain efficiencies wherever they were able to do so. He said this was especially important as part of the County's goal to achieve a 0% property tax increase for the 2015 Budget. In embarking upon this process, Mr. Dusek stated that he believed they could also improve upon the customer service aspect of the County's operations, which was important for residents and would be the overriding objective and goal, bringing the County to a new level in 2014.

Mr. Dusek concluded that he would keep the Board Members apprised of the status of these activities throughout the year.

Chairman Geraghty called for the report by the County Attorney, and Mr. Auffredou advised he had nothing to report.

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

Monthly Report from:

1. Probation

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp., October 31 and November 30, 2013 Financial Reports;

New York State Sheriffs Assoc., letter outlining two projects currently being undertaken by the Association - inmate telephone system services and a bail by credit card program;

New York State Dept. Of Civil Service, correspondence reporting 2014 NYSHIP rates.

Mrs. Sady also read aloud a letter from Mr. Auffredou noting his appointment of Amy C. Bartlett as First Assistant County Attorney and Patricia C. Nenner as Second Assistant County Attorney to serve in his vacancy, absence or inability.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Sady announced proposed Resolution Nos. 30-48 were mailed, subsequent to which proposed Resolution No. 47 was corrected, and she advised a motion was necessary to approve Resolution No. 47 in its revised form.

Mr. Thomas stated he was somewhat confused by proposed Resolution Nos. 46, *Establishing Capital Project No. H347.9550 280 Invasive Species Boat Washing Stations; Authorizing Transfer of Funds and Amending Warren County Budget for 2014*, and 47, *Authorizing Advance of Funds to Capital Project No. H347.9550 280 Invasive Species Boat Washing Stations from Unappropriated Surplus Funds Contingent upon the Warren County Attorney's Receipt and Approval of Satisfactory Correspondence from the State of New York*, and he questioned whether both resolutions referred to the same \$200,000 in funding, to which Mrs. Sady replied affirmatively. Mr. Auffredou clarified that proposed Resolution No. 46 established the Capital Project where the funding would be applied, while proposed Resolution No. 47 authorized the advance of \$200,000 to the aforementioned Capital Project.

Mr. Westcott requested confirmation his understanding was correct in that the \$200,000 to be advanced against the grant funding would ultimately be reimbursed to the County and placed back in the County's Unappropriated Surplus Fund, and Mr. Dickinson advised this was correct. Additionally,

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Mr. Westcott recalled \$300,000 had been allocated in the 2014 Budget to assist with invasive species eradication, \$150,000 of which had already been contributed towards the efforts in Lake George, and he questioned whether plans for use of the remaining \$150,000 were still under development, to which Mr. Dickinson replied affirmatively. Mr. Auffredou confirmed that a prior resolution (*Resolution No. 640 of 2013*) approved an intermunicipal agreement with the Village of Lake George and allocated \$150,000 for invasive species work in Lake George; he added that the resolution also indicated that the disbursement of the remaining \$150,000 would be the subject of a separate, subsequent resolution.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to approve the amendments to proposed Resolution No. 47.

Mrs. Sady advised a motion was needed to bring proposed Resolution No. 29 to the floor; the requested motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously.

Chairman Geraghty asked if there were any requests for roll call votes. Mr. Monroe requested a roll call vote be taken for proposed Resolution No. 34, *Authorizing Agreement with Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board for Funding of Operating Costs*, indicating that he planned to abstain.

There being no further discussion on resolutions or roll call votes, Chairman Geraghty called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 29-48 were approved, as presented.

Chairman Geraghty resumed the agenda review, calling for announcements.

Mr. Dickinson advised the Lake George Winter Carnival would begin on January 24th and he noted that the Carnival Committee did a great job of finding alternate sites for the Winter Carnival to be held in the event that the ice on Lake George was insufficient. He added many alternate events had been planned and the Carnival would be held whether or not it was held on the ice. Mr. Dickinson apprised that anyone wishing to obtain more information on Winter Carnival events should contact the Lake George Chamber of Commerce or any of the Carnival Committee members.

Mr. Conover said he had recently discussed with Chairman Geraghty and Mr. Merlino, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, the amounts of the snow and ice contracts with the Towns and he said he believed the formula used needed to be revisited in light of reductions made in prior years, the increasing cost of road salt and the decision of many communities to move to more environmentally friendly salt products. He said he felt it was very important for these discussions to be held and welcomed the opinions of any Supervisors with ideas for changes to the formula, whether they were members of the Public Works Committee or not.

Mr. Thomas announced that the Warren County Council of Chambers would be holding a dinner meeting on January 23rd at the Olde Post Grill in Lake George, where the guest speaker would be Ed Bartholomew, Director of the Warren County Economic Development Corporation. He advised that all members of the Board of Supervisors were willing to attend and he said they could contact either Michael Consuelo, Executive Director of the Lake George Chamber of Commerce & CVB, or the Stony Creek Town Hall to make reservations.

Mr. Simpson advised that on February 8th at Jimbo's on Brant Lake the annual Winter Carnival for the Town of Horicon would be held, beginning at 11:00 a.m. He said the Carnival would include music and all-day fun and activities including, snowshoe races, softball played on snowshoes and outhouse races.

Concluding the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty offered privilege of the floor to any members of the

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public wishing to address the Board of Supervisors.

Travis Whitehead, Town of Queensbury Resident, acknowledged and applauded that the agenda for the current Board Meeting had been posted on the County website in advance of the meeting, as well as the proposed resolutions in draft format; he added that the minutes had been promptly posted on the website following both the Invasive Species Sub-Committee and Finance Committee meetings, as well. Mr. Whitehead commented it was quite informing to be able to see the viewpoints of the various Committee members and made it easier to understand the resolutions presented and the discussion held and he thanked the Board for making this information available.

Mr. Whitehead then proceeded to read aloud in its entirety a petition signed by himself and Gif Harvey, Town of Queensbury Resident, requesting that *"...at a future meeting so described by County Executive Dusek at the 12/20/2013 BOS meeting where he spoke of plain English explanations from the contracted Engineer to the BOS, that the petitioners be given equal standing to present as that afforded to the Engineer(s) hired by the County or representing the provider of the co-gen plant."* The signed petition is on file with the Clerk of the Board. Mr. Whitehead concluded that both he and Mr. Harvey had reviewed the history of the co-generation facility at the Westmount Health Facility and would like the opportunity to speak on the matter and assist to provide a better understanding of the associated economics.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Mr. Monroe and seconded by Mr. Conover, Chairman Geraghty adjourned the meeting at 11:43 a.m.