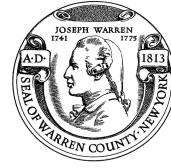


# Warren County Board of Supervisors

**ORGANIZATION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 6, 2015**



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 11:01 a.m.

Board called to order by Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board of Supervisors*.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Wood.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Bolton	-Ronald F. Conover
Chester	-Craig R. Leggett
City of Glens Falls	
Ward 1	-Daniel J. Girard
Ward 2	-Peter V. McDevitt
Ward 3	-Claudia K. Braymer
Ward 4	-James Brock
Ward 5	-Matt MacDonald
Hague	-Edna A. Frasier
Horicon	-Matthew J. Simpson
Johnsburg	-Ron Vanselow
Lake George	-Dennis Dickinson
Lake Luzerne	-Eugene J. Merlino
Queensbury	-John F. Strough
	-Rachel E. Seeber
	-Douglas N. Beaty
	-Ronald Montesi
	-Matthew Sokol
Stony Creek	-Frank E. Thomas
Thurman	-Evelyn Wood
Warrensburg	-Kevin B. Geraghty

Mrs. Allen announced the first order of business would be the selection of a temporary Chairman.

Supervisor Merlino nominated Supervisor Conover as Temporary Chairman, and Supervisor Thomas seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Supervisor Dickinson moved that the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Supervisor Conover as Temporary Chairman; the motion was seconded by Supervisor Simpson and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Allen requested that Supervisors Girard and McDevitt escort Supervisor Conover to the Chair.

Supervisor Conover asked the members of the Board of Supervisors to stand and subscribe to their Oath of Office as administered by Pam Vogel, *Warren County Clerk*.

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At the conclusion of the Oath of Office, a round of applause was given.

Temporary Chairman Conover called for nominations for the selection of a Permanent Chairman.

Supervisor Strough nominated Supervisor Geraghty as Permanent Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and Supervisor Sokol seconded the motion. Supervisor Conover inquired whether there were any other nominations to come before the Board and Supervisor Wood responded that she would like to nominate herself, and Supervisor Vanselow seconded the motion. Supervisor Simpson moved for the nominations to be closed; Supervisor Frasier seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Temporary Chairman Conover called for a roll call vote, explaining that each Supervisor should indicate whether they were voting for Supervisor Geraghty or Supervisor Wood to serve as Permanent Chairman. A Roll Call Vote was taken with Supervisor Geraghty receiving 940 votes (*Supervisor's Leggett, Girard, McDevitt, Braymer, MacDonald, Simpson, Vanselow, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Seeber, Beaty, Montesi, Sokol, Thomas, Geraghty and Conover*) and Supervisor Wood receiving 60 votes (*Supervisors Brock, Frasier and Wood*) (*Absent -0*). Supervisor Geraghty was declared Permanent Chairman by majority vote.

Supervisor McDevitt thanked Supervisor Wood for taking what he felt was a rather courageous position and nominating herself for the Chairman position, as he believed it was imperative that the Board be provided with a choice. He said it supported the fact that they practiced a democracy, and were allowed to choose who they wanted as Chairman and that this was not an automatic selection.

Supervisor Seeber stated it was no secret that over the past year she and Chairman Geraghty had been involved in some heated discussions; however, she noted, she felt for the good of the County and the communities it was suitable not only to have choices but also faith that the Supervisors as elected officials were listening to their constituents. She said this meant they needed to bring a very strong voice to the Board on what they would like to see in their communities. She commented she appreciated Supervisor Wood's courageous move in terms of coming forward and indicating the Board wanted an opportunity for change. She continued, she wanted to state for the record that the Board also valued experience; she noted for the last few years Chairman Geraghty had worked tirelessly and in particular listening to a different perspective over the last six months. She mentioned she believed what the Board would hear from him today would illustrate the change that he had committed to and deserved credit for. She said she was grateful to be able to move forward into the new year with a very different Board and a different mindset.

Supervisor Beaty thanked Supervisor Wood for nominating herself for the Chairmanship; however, he noted, he wished he had been provided with more notice of her interest in the position. He mentioned he had read her email which included some suggestions; he added he believed Supervisor Wood had some keen insight on Committee structures and so forth. He remarked that last year he had voted in opposition of electing Supervisor Geraghty to the Chairman position and would have voted in opposition this year as well, had it not been for the change in leadership he had observed over the last few months which allowed for more transparency than he had observed during his tenure on the Board. He said although he believed more changes were necessary he thought they were on the right track to implement a solid two-way discussion on a number of issues which had not been the case in the past.

Supervisor Conover informed today the Board had elected as their Chairman an individual with an experienced proven track record to lead the Warren County Board of Supervisors in 2016. He continued, Supervisor Geraghty had demonstrated with proven results the ability to initiate and guide this Board through large, complicated, and at times contentious, projects and issues. He said as they were all aware the job of Chairman was not always glamorous or easy and involved a huge commitment of time,

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energy and hard work. He stated it was also a job that required a sense of fairness and patience, not to mention the complete understanding of County Government and its finances. He apprised above all it required the ability to bring people together to develop a consensus and accomplish their constituents business. He indicated he was pleased to hear what he had today and he knew his colleagues were, as well. He remarked Supervisor Geraghty possessed all of these qualities and abilities; he added he was extremely proud to be making this introduction on his behalf. He advised over the past six years he had the good fortune of working with three different County Chairmen; Frederick Monroe, Daniel Stec and Kevin Geraghty, all of whom were wonderful, giving individuals that wanted only the best for Warren County and its taxpayers. He stated he knew that each of those men would count among their highest honors that of being elected Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors. He said the Board was fortunate that Supervisor Geraghty was willing to continue to serve as Chairman for another year and today he was aware that he spoke for the full Board when he congratulated him on behalf of the Board extended very best wishes in 2016.

Supervisor Conover requested that Supervisors Thomas and Merlino escort Supervisor Geraghty to the Chair.

With his wife, Kathy, by his side, Chairman Geraghty subscribed to the Constitutional Oath, as administered by Mrs. Vogel, following which a round of applause was given.

Chairman Geraghty thanked the members of the Board of Supervisors for selecting him as Chairman of the Board and he welcomed everyone in attendance. He then presented the following remarks:

“STATE OF THE COUNTY  
JANUARY 6, 2016

“Members of the Board of Supervisors; County officers and staff; honored guests and visitors:

“It is an honor and privilege to be elected to continue as Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors.

“It’s pretty oblivious that we have not always been in complete agreement as a Board this past year. I can also say that I believe each and every member of the Board takes their responsibility seriously.

“We continue to keep any tax increase well under the 2% tax cap enacted by the State. For the past three years increases were:

2014 - 1.57%  
2015 - 1.51%  
2016 - 1.35%

“We continue to have a stable financial outlook for the future of Warren County; we finalized the sale of the Westmount Nursing Home which will provide fiscal relief to our County Budget; the final sale amount of the nursing home was \$2,425,535.14; we continue taping Committee Meetings for the public viewing; our Board of Supervisors Meetings are being shown on TV-8; I would like to thank our sponsor; the Festival Space is up and running; we continue to make progress in the battle against Invasive Species; work has started on the renovation of the Court Facilities; we will have a second Family Court Judge starting this year.

“With all that said and taking a moment to recognize and enjoy our accomplishments we know that our work has really only begun. We will have to find a funding source to make sure that the Suny Adirondack Project is successful; we continue to monitor the Court Expansion Project to make sure it comes in under budget and on-time; we will have to find a funding source to upgrade our communications system; we can not continue to put our police officers and first responders at risk with a sub-standard radio system; we will need to continue to work as one unit on shared services for the upcoming future. We should start to see dividends this year.

“I will continue to encourage healthy debates and assure that everyone is heard and has the appropriate information in a timelier fashion to make informed decisions.

“I have listened to you, and reduced the number of Committees and pledge to try to facilitate Committee Meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, if that is the pleasure of the Board. I am open to any more changes that you should want to make. I also agree to schedule a night meeting each quarter to allow residents who work during the day to attend our meeting.

“I ask that you be open to attending two or three workshop sessions to make sure were are staying on track with the projects listed. We need to set goals for the County and this can be done if work together.

“I will ask a representative of NYSAC (New York State Association of Counties) to attend an upcoming Board of Supervisor’s meeting to discuss the different forms of government currently in use in New York State with your permission.

“I would like to welcome the new Board Members Craig Leggett-Chestertown, Claudia Braymer-Ward 3, City of Glens Falls, Matt MacDonald-Ward 5, City of Glens Falls and Ron Montesi-At Large Supervisor, Town of Queensbury. You all bring your own sense of experience to the Board and can only make us stronger and function better.

“I believe this Board and the employees of the County, who are second to none, are up for the challenges that 2016 might bring.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin B. Geraghty, Chairman  
Warren County Board of Supervisors”

Chairman Geraghty advised he kept his remarks brief due to other business they needed to address at today’s meeting. He informed he was appreciative of the Board’s support this year, as he was aware of how some matters had been contentious. He continued, he meant what he stated during his remarks that the Board would work together and set some goals and have workshop sessions that were outside of the normal Committee meetings to monitor and review the County’s Projects to ensure they remained on track, as he believed this could be very productive. He mentioned he hoped the Board would permit him to invite NYSAC to attend a Board Meeting to discuss the different forms of government throughout the State, as he felt this was a rather important matter that needed to be discussed further.

Supervisor Strough apprised that he valued Chairman Geraghty’s leadership, noting he had guided the County on an even keel despite the occasional “rough weather”. He stated he felt Chairman Geraghty

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was deserving of the special gift he had for him. He explained it was an object that would well portray Chairman Geraghty, as well as the founding fathers of the Country. He presented Chairman Geraghty with a modernized quill pen following which a round of applause was given.

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

1. A letter from Pam Vogel, Warren County Clerk, announcing appointment of Sueanne A. Linehan as Deputy Clerk effective January 1, 2016.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty announced an executive session was necessary to discuss the employment history of particular individuals.

Motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Dickinson and carried unanimously to enter into executive session pursuant to Section 105(f) of the Public Officer's Law.

Executive session was held from 11:19 a.m. until 12:04 p.m.

Supervisor Vanselow left the meeting during the executive session.

Upon reconvening, Chairman Geraghty announced no action was taken during the executive session.

Next, Chairman Geraghty called for the reading of resolutions. Mrs. Allen announced that a motion was needed to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 1-21 to the floor. The motion was made Supervisor Dickinson, seconded by Supervisor Frasier and carried unanimously.

Chairman Geraghty called for any discussion on resolutions or requests for roll call votes.

Supervisor Wood advised if there was going to be a resolution concerning the County Attorney position she would like to request a roll vote on it. Chairman Geraghty apprised the resolution was currently being formatted and would be available in writing shortly.

Chairman Geraghty announced that the listing of Standing Committees for 2016 had been established and copies were distributed to the Board Members by Mrs. Allen. He encouraged anyone with concerns and/or suggestions for changes to contact him. He mentioned he had consolidated a number of the Committees. Supervisor Seeber inquired whether there were extra copies of the Standing Committee List for the public and Chairman Geraghty replied affirmatively.

Chairman Geraghty apprised lunch would be served in the Committee Room immediately following the meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding whether the Board should hold off on taking action on the County Attorney position today since the individual would not be able to start for a few weeks, following which it was determined the matter would be addressed today.

Supervisor Seeber questioned why the Performance Evaluation Committee was listed as a Special Committee and not a Standing Committee and Chairman Geraghty replied that the Committee had been established last year as a Special Committee; however, he said, it could be changed to a Standing Committee. Supervisor Seeber remarked she felt it warranted the same value as the other Committees given how they would be discussing the performance of the County's Department Heads in these

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meetings. Supervisor Braymer requested that going forward the Committee remain a Standing Committee. Supervisor Seeber queried what type of action was required in order to make the change and Chairman Geraghty responded the Rules of the Board would need to be amended to add the Performance Evaluation Committee to the listing of Standing Committees for 2016. He mentioned the matter would be taken up at the January 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, as they also needed to discuss whether they wanted to amend the Board meeting Schedules for 2016 to include night meetings. Supervisor Seeber informed since she would be unable to attend the January 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting she wanted to go on the record today stating she supported making that change to include the Performance Evaluation Committee in the list of Standing Committees for 2016.

Supervisor Dickinson advised he was pleased that a number of the Committees had been consolidated; he noted due to this change the number of Committees he was a member of had been cut in half.

Rather than continue to await a written resolution, Chairman Geraghty called for a motion to waive the Rules of The Board concerning the requirement that a resolution be presented in writing regarding the appointment of the County Attorney following which motion was made by Supervisor Sokol, seconded by Supervisor Simpson and carried unanimously. *(The waiving the Rules of the Board is represented by Resolution No. 22 of 2016).*

Supervisor Dickinson proposed a Resolution appointing Brian Reichenbach as County Attorney at a salary to be determined by the Board for a two- year term and Supervisor Seeber seconded the motion. Supervisor Braymer requested that the motion be amended to include a review of Mr. Reichenbach following three months of employment. Supervisors Dickinson and Seeber agreed to amend their motion as suggested.

Supervisor Montesi inquired what the salary for the position would be and Supervisor Seeber replied the salary they had discussed was \$116,000. Supervisor Girard requested that the motion be amended to include the salary. Supervisors Dickinson and Seeber agreed to amend their motion as suggested.

Mrs. Allen announced that the proposed Resolution would be No. 23 of 2016. A roll call vote was taken as requested by Supervisor Wood following which the resolution was adopted by a majority vote of 667 in favor *(Supervisors Conover, Girard, Braymer, Brock, MacDonald, Frasier, Simpson, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Seeber, Sokol, Thomas and Geraghty)* and 297 opposed *(Supervisors Leggett, McDevitt, Beaty, Montesi and Wood)* *(Absent: Supervisor Vanselow-36)*.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Strough and seconded by Supervisor Montesi, Chairman Geraghty adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board