

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY JUNE 15, 2016**



Please note that proposed Resolution No. 193 of 2016 authorized altering the standard Rules of the Board to change the date and time of the June 2016 Board Meeting from Friday, June 17, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. to Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

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 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Brock.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Leggett, Girard, McDevitt, Braymer, Brock, MacDonald, Frasier, Simpson, Vanselow, Strough, Seeber, Beaty, Montesi, Sokol, Thomas, Wood and Geraghty- 18; Supervisors Dickinson Merlino absent-2

Motion was made by Supervisor Wood, seconded by Supervisor Simpson and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2016 Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty declared the Public Hearing on the no cost land use permit with the Research Foundation for the State University of New York to place an advanced severe weather detection system at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport open at 10:01 a.m. and he requested that Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud, which she proceeded to do. Chairman Geraghty then called for any public comment, but there was no one wishing to speak. He advised that they would leave the Public Hearing open while they proceeded with the Agenda review to allow anyone wishing to comment on the matter the opportunity to do so.

Moving on to the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Geraghty advised he had not prepared a report.

Continuing with the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty extended privilege of the floor to Supervisor Seeber, for the presentation of a Certificate of Excellence to Jessica Lylyk, *SUNY (State University of New York) Adirondack graduate*. Supervisor Seeber requested that they delay the presentation of the Certificate of Excellence until the reports by the Committee Chairman were completed to allow time for Miss. Lylyk's family members to arrive.

Before continuing the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty recognized the following people for their years of service to the County which he said was greatly appreciated:

- * Joanne Conley for 35 years of service to the Tourism Department
- * Christopher Hatin for 20 years of service to the Sheriff's Department
- * Albert Mayday for 20 years of service to the Sheriff's Department
- * Pascal Girard for 25 years of service to the Sheriff's Department
- * James Converse for 20 years of service to the Department of Social Services

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Chairman Geraghty announced as acting County Administrator he had attended a number of meetings over the past month. He advised he had been pleasantly surprised about the news concerning the significant amount within the County Fund Balance which would be taken into consideration when work commenced on preparing the County Budget for 2017. He remarked although they had a healthy Fund Balance they needed to be mindful of what they used the funds for to maintain it.

Chairman Geraghty then called for reports from Supervisors on the past months meetings or activities.

Supervisors Brock, MacDonald and Frasier apprised they had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Simpson reported on the June 1st meeting of the Public Works Committee, providing an overview of proposed Resolution Nos. 246 and 270.

Supervisor Vanselow provided a brief summary of the Support Services Committee meeting held on June 1st, which included approving a travel request for the Board of Elections, a request to appropriate funds from the Computer Reserve Fund in the amount of \$38,160,, as well as a request to Amend the Table of Organization and Salary Schedule to reclassify the position within the County Clerk's Office, both of which were referred to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee.

Supervisor Strough stated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Seeber apprised that she was pleased to report she had recently completed the safety training offered to County employees which she encouraged all to participate in. She stated the training had been a great experience for her and attested to the fact that County employees were dedicated to safety. Supervisor Seeber reported that under the direction of Supervisor Vanselow, the County was reviewing social media options. She apprised she was looking forward to working with Supervisor Leggett on developing a policy for the County concerning social media. Supervisor Seeber extended her gratitude for scheduling a Board Meeting in the evening, noting she looked forward to be able to do it again in the future.

Supervisor Beaty advised that the Shared Services Committee had met on June 3rd, where the bulk of the discussion concerned Consolidated Commodity Purchasing and the Intermunicipal Agreement. He apprised a significant amount of savings could be realized both for the County and the Towns if they came together and participated in line by line items that could be purchased in bulk at a lower cost. Supervisor Beaty remarked he would like to echo Supervisor Seeber's appreciation for holding a Board Meeting in the evening to allow individuals who worked during the day to attend. He said his hope was that there would be many more night meetings offered going forward.

Supervisor Montesi informed he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Sokol reported on the June 1st meeting of the Health, Human & Social Services Committee, wherein they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 255-259, which he provided a brief overview of. Supervisor Sokol announced the awards ceremony for the Summer Youth Program administered by Employment & Training was scheduled for Thursday, August 18, 2016 at Crandall Park and he encouraged all those whose schedule permitted them to attend. Supervisor Sokol stated that he, along with Supervisor Braymer, had taken a tour of the new Employment & Training Administration Office located in the Monument Square Building in the City of Glens Falls which he was impressed with.

Supervisor Thomas advised that just prior to tonight's meeting, he requested that Mrs. Allen schedule a Budget Committee meeting immediately following the June 30th meeting of the Finance, Personnel

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& Higher Education Committee. He said the topic of discussion for the meeting would be the Multi-Year Plan which would lead into discussion regarding the increase in the Fund Balance and how it would decrease. He continued, the discussion would also include the possibility of setting up a reserve account to pay the legacy costs associated with Westmount, as well as cutting expenses to pay down the debt service.

Supervisor Wood stated that the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee had met on June 1st, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 252-254 which pertained to typical County matters. Supervisor Wood thanked Supervisor Conover for providing her with a tour of the improvements that were underway in the Town of Bolton which she felt were worthwhile.

Supervisor Conover apprised that the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee had held four meetings this month, the first of which was on June 2nd, where they approved proposed Resolution No. 267, which he provided a brief overview of, and on June 3rd, wherein they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 266 and 261-266 and 268-269. He said the Committee had met on June 7th to conduct interviews for the County Administrator position, and again on June 15th to discuss the County Administrator position.

Supervisor Leggett stated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Girard apprised that the County Facilities Committee had met on May 23rd, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 247-250, which he provided a summary of. Supervisor Girard announced that the drawings that CPL (*Clark Patterson Lee*) completed for the Court Space Expansion Project were approved by the New York State Office of Court Administration and they would be going out to bid on June 20th.

Supervisor McDevitt reported on the June 1st meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee, wherein they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 243-244 which he provided a brief overview of.

Supervisor Braymer advised that although there was no resolution before them tonight on the subject matter, she had spent a significant amount of time over the last month reviewing the issue of the expansion of Runway 1 at the Airport. She stated due to the many adverse environmental consequences that would result from this project, she felt they should not move forward with it. She pointed out there was no requirement by the FAA (*Federal Aviation Administration*) that they move forward with the Project.

Chairman Geraghty once again called for any comments on the Public Hearing on the no cost land use permit with the Research Foundation for the State University of New York to place an advanced severe weather detection system at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport; there being none, he declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:16 p.m.

Returning to the presentation of the Certificate of Excellence to Miss Lylyk Chairman Geraghty extended privilege of the floor to Supervisor Seeber. Supervisor Seeber introduced Miss Lylyk, a resident of the Town of Chester, who graduated this year and was the second recipient of the Certificate of Excellence for Warren County. She mentioned Miss Lylyk had been formally recognized at the College's Commencement Ceremony on May 19, 2016. Supervisor Seeber remarked that if the Board members looked up the term "resilient" in the dictionary, she felt they should see Miss Lylyk's name, as she had dealt with loss at a very early age and quite often in her life, the first instance of which was the loss of her youngest brother, who she had a very close relationship with. She continued, subsequent to the

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death of Miss Lylyk's youngest brother, her mother and then her father had passed away. She pointed out Miss Lylyk had lost her network of support at a young age, as her family was always very supportive of her. She mentioned present today were what had become Miss Lylyk's family, those who had been very supportive of her throughout the years to ensure she met her educational goals. Supervisor Seeber noted that Miss Lylyk was the first member of her family to obtain a college degree, which she worked very hard for. She remarked that Miss Lylyk had a large "cheering squad" here in Warren County that wanted her to know how proud they were of her for obtaining her degree, as well as every graduate who resided in the County. Supervisor Seeber commented that Miss Lylyk had overcome the many obstacles before her to obtain a degree which was the purpose of the certificate being presented to her tonight. A round of applause was given.

Chairman Geraghty presented Miss. Lylyk with the Certificate of Excellence on behalf of the Warren County Board of Supervisors. A round of applause was given.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Brian Reichenbach, *County Attorney*, to provide the report by the County Attorney. Mr. Reichenbach informed the RFP (*Request for Proposal*) for the engineering services for the Siemens Contract on the Municipal Center Building had been released. He said Julie Butler, *Purchasing Agent*, had responded to the requests for additional information and questions that were received regarding the RFP.

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

Reports from:

1. Report of Criminal and Family Workloads for April 2016 from the Warren County Probation Department.
2. Pro Act Warren County Discount Card Utilization Report for January 2015 - May 2016
3. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation Financial Report Dated April 30, 2016
4. Westmount Health Facility Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report Dated December 31, 2015 as prepared by McCarthy & Conlon, LLP

Minutes from:

1. April 18, 2016 meeting of the Warren And Washington IDA and the April 11, 2016 meeting of the Warren and Washington IDA Executive/Park Committee

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp. April 2016 Surcharge check in the amount of \$5,402.00

Resolution No. 179 of 2016 from the Town of Queensbury, Supporting the Creation of a Citizen Advisory Committee to Study and Recommend System of Governance for Warren County

Letter from Carol Clark, Former Warren County Clerk, dated May 15, 2016 expressing gratitude to Warren County for the health insurance provided to its retirees and for Capital Financial Management Group who administer the plans.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 241-270 were mailed. She informed that proposed Resolution Nos. 271-272 were prepared after mailing and a motion was necessary to bring them to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Vanselow, seconded by Supervisor Simpson and carried unanimously.

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Chairman Geraghty asked Supervisor Simpson to give an explanation regarding a resolution he was seeking to bring to the floor. Supervisor Simpson advised the proposed resolution was in support of Senate Bill Nos. S-8026 and S-8027 which concerned amending Article XIV of the New York State Constitution to establish a land bank in the Forever Wild Forest Preserve which he had been working on through the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages Common Ground Alliance. He stated the Bills had recently passed the Senate, but remained under review by the State Assembly. He explained the purpose of the land bank was to provide for small exchanges of Forest Preserve for environmental infrastructure, utilities, water wells, codifying the right to have public utility infrastructure within road right-of-ways. He mentioned in regard to broadband and some of the regions that were located within the northern Adirondacks, it was prohibitive to get these services to certain areas which would provide for economic development, as well as safety. He encouraged the Board members to vote in support of the proposed resolution.

A motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Wood and carried unanimously to bring the proposed resolution to the floor. Chairman Geraghty announced the proposed resolution presented by Supervisor Simpson would be Resolution No. 273.

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

Supervisor Beaty requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 248.

Supervisor Braymer apprised that proposed Resolution No. 243 concerned the submission of the CFA (*Consolidated Funding Application*) for local waterfront programs and community development programs for miscellaneous projects discussed at the June 1st meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee. She remarked she believed their focus should be on the projects that were already within the First Wilderness Plan such as the creation of a trail for biking and hiking on rather than seeking a grant that would benefit a private entity on the railroad.

Supervisor Seeber stated that she had spent a significant amount of time with the Planning & Community Development Department reviewing the specific details regarding this proposal. She applauded the efforts of Wayne LaMothe, *Director, Planning & Community Development*, as he continued to seek out grants for the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor on behalf of the County while being short staffed in the office. She stated she was assured by Mr. LaMothe that if his Department was re-established, they would be able to take the time to seek out grant funding not only for the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor but also those that would benefit the City of Glens Falls, as well as the Town of Queensbury.

Supervisor Beaty advised that proposed Resolution No. 248 concerned the submission of a grant application to the FAA for Runway 30 at the Airport in the amount of \$700,000. He remarked he was vehemently opposed to the proposed resolution, as the funds would be used to purchase about 52 acres of land located in Washington County which he felt was unnecessary. He mentioned the County had not explored another option proposed which cost significantly less and that was why he strongly opposed it.

Supervisor Montesi asked whether the \$700,000 grant Supervisor Beaty referred to was funded by the Federal Government through the fees paid by individuals who booked flights on airplanes or by the County taxpayers. He pointed out 95% of the total cost was funded by fees charged to individuals who booked flights. Supervisor Beaty apprised that 90% of the total cost was funded by the FAA through the fee charged to individuals who flew on airplanes while the other 10% was split evenly between the

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NYSDOT (*New York State Department of Transportation*) and the taxpayers of Warren County. Supervisor Beaty pointed out that he felt the Project was solely funded by the taxpayers, as the money from the NYSDOT was obtained through taxes and the grant from the FAA was funded through fees charged to individuals who flew on airplanes. Supervisor Montesi remarked Supervisor Beaty had indicated that the County was expending \$700,000. Supervisor Beaty interjected he had not stated that but rather that “we as a County” were authorizing a resolution for a grant application in the amount of \$700,000. Supervisor Montesi pointed out 95% of the funding would originate from grant funding. He commented that he felt the information was being twisted around. He continued, in regards to the emails he had received this week from Supervisor Beaty, Mark Westcott and Travis Whitehead, *both residents of the Town of Queensbury*, concerning the Airport, the Co-Gen, etc., he felt they should get hobbies, as they had too much free time on their hands.

In light of her previous comments, Supervisor Braymer clarified she was supportive of the Airport in general and formally stated her support of proposed Resolution No. 248. She mentioned her concerns with the extension of Runway 1 were primarily related to environmental issues; however, she noted, they also related to the amount of funds being expended by the County for the Project which was around \$500,000. She pointed out the County’s share of the expense in proposed Resolution No. 248 was \$35,000. She added she would also be supporting proposed Resolution No. 249; however, she reiterated, she was vehemently opposed to the expansion of Runway 1.

Supervisor Seeber remarked that if Supervisor Montesi would like to include her name on the list of individuals who needed to “get a hobby” he should feel free to do so. She stated her concern revolved around the fact that up until recently she had been under the impression that the purpose of the expansion was for economic growth; however, she noted, it was brought to her attention at the May 23rd meeting of the County Facilities Committee that the purpose of the expansion was in fact for existing aircraft use. She commented that she applauded individuals who took their time to research matters, noting she was pleased with the emails and she encouraged that discussion. Supervisor Seeber announced she would be voting in opposition not only of proposed Resolution No. 248, but also the Runway Extension. She indicated she was supportive of the Airport, as she believed it was vital to the community but she thought they should treat individuals respectfully and she would ask the same.

Chairman Geraghty recognized Mr. Westcott, who informed that he was the author of the emails Supervisor Montesi had mentioned. He explained it took an abundant amount of time and effort to write those emails with all the information contained within them sourced. He said his door was always open to anyone who questioned them; he remarked he was willing to meet with Supervisor Montesi if he felt had the facts wrong, adding if he was proven to be wrong he would print a retraction; however, he said, he was convinced this was not the case.

In regards to proposed Resolution No. 248, Mr. Westcott apprised he believed it was an issue of being good stewards with the taxpayers money. He pointed out he was a frequent flyer who had paid a significant amount of taxes over the years. He mentioned those taxes were earned by taxpayers through their hard work. He said there was no mistake that every dollar expended by the FAA was taxpayer money which the Board had the responsibility of being good stewards of regardless of whether it was the 90% Federal, 5% State or 5% Local Share. Mr. Westcott asked how much the total cost was when it was combined and Supervisor Beaty responded that it equated to about \$1.5 million. Mr. Westcott apprised there was another option referred to as a displaced threshold which meant they would paint a line on the runway. He said this would shorten the runway and would impact some flights but he was unsure of how many because there was no such data available. He remarked since no data was available he did not feel they were justified in moving forward with supporting the decision to expend \$1.5 million. He remarked if they were to move forward with the expenditure they would be doing so

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using anecdotal reasoning, as he reiterated there was no data to support the number of flights that would be impacted.

John Bulova, *Town of Queensbury resident*, advised he was present today to determine whether the information provided in the local paper was accurate. He commented that Supervisor Montesi's remarks proved to him that the Board was in fact dysfunctional, as he was embarrassed to have him say to the "watch dogs" of this community that they needed to get a hobby. He mentioned that comment was disingenuous at best and insulting for sure. He pointed out Supervisor Montesi had been a member of the Board for multiple years during which a number of serious mistakes were made with an abundant amount of money being wasted. He stated he felt Supervisor Montesi owed Mr. Whitehead, as well as the other individuals an apology. He questioned whether the information Mr. Westcott was distributing to them was correct or not, as no one requested that the Board state why they felt the information provided in the emails from Mr. Westcott was incorrect. He concluded his comments by stating the Supervisors who did not have a report ready for this evening should be embarrassed, as they were well aware of the fact that the meeting was scheduled for this evening and yet they still could not get their reports done until Friday. He remarked he felt that was an embarrassment and the local paper was correct in stating that the Board needed to look very hard at itself to determine whether they were doing the job they were elected to do.

Mark Kosakowki, *Town of Queensbury resident*, advised he was rather new to New York State, as he had only lived here for four years; therefore, he said, he was still learning about the workings of the County Government here. He said he was present to speak about the Airport. He noted that he found Supervisor Montesi's comments to be offensive and arrogant. He stated the citizens of the County all paid Federal, State and local taxes regardless of whether they flew on an airplane or not. He pointed out it had yet to be determined or proven that any type of runway expansion was required at the Airport and he asked the full Board to consider that. He remarked as far as he could tell the expansion was not needed, as the Airport had the capability of landing military aircrafts there from aircraft shows he had attended; therefore, he said, he could not conceive the need to extend the runway at this time.

Dr. Paul Alagnya, *Town of Queensbury resident*, apprised he was present to speak to the Airport. Chairman Geraghty inquired whether Dr. Alagnya was commenting on a specific resolution they would be voting on tonight and Dr. Alagnya responded in the affirmative, noting his comments concerned the Runway Expansion Project. Chairman Geraghty asked him whether his comments were specific to Runway 30 and Dr. Alagnya replied that his comments concerned the expansion of the Runway. Chairman Geraghty apprised that they would not be voting on the expansion of the Runway this evening. Mr. Westcott interjected that the resolution before them this evening concerned removing obstructions for Runway 30. Dr. Alagnya informed he lived on the north end of the Runway and he distributed copies of photographs of some of the jets that landed at the Airport last August; *copies of which are on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting*. He said these jets flew over his house and were rather large; he added had heard that ones even larger planes than the ones he spoke off flew in and out of the Airport.

Supervisor Braymer informed as people may have gathered she was an "environmental nerd"; therefore, she stated, in regards to proposed Resolution No. 273, she felt strongly that they should not be breaching the Constitutional protection of the Forest Preserve which was why she would be voting in opposition. She mentioned she was not in favor of the idea of a land bank and she was not aware of enough specific details regarding this action. She stated if anyone was able to provide her with the number of acres they were able to swap out, it could potentially change her stance on the matter.

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Supervisor Thomas apprised although he was not aware of the number of acres they were allowed to swap out, he believed the theory of a land bank was appropriate otherwise municipalities may not be able to do minor things on Forest Preserve without going through a process requiring approval at two consecutive legislative sessions. Supervisor Braymer remarked while she understood it places a significant burden on municipalities, her concern related to the fact that it would permit a number of different types of projects to impact the Forest Preserve. Supervisor Thomas pointed out it had taken Raquette Lake, New York a number of years to obtain permission to drill a well for their community. He stated he did not feel this was unfavorable, as the State received land in exchange.

Chairman Geraghty advised the original plan called for 800 acres of which 650 were located in the Adirondacks and 150 in the Catskills. He mentioned this had since been scaled back to 150 acres, 100 of which would be located in the Adirondacks and the remaining 50 acres in the Catskills; however, he noted, there were on-going discussions concerning this before the State Legislature.

Supervisor Simpson advised that the Senate Bill specified a total of 750 acres between the Adirondacks and the Catskills, 500 of which were located in the Adirondacks and 250 in the Catskills. He stated the matter was currently being considered before the State Assembly. He informed the State Mater Plan included the desire for a Constitutional Amendment providing this land bank; therefore, he said, this was not a new matter before them. He pointed out there would be no negative impact to the Forest Preserve or the Catskills, as it provided for a switch. Supervisor Braymer inquired whether Supervisor Simpson was aware of how many acres per project would be permitted and Supervisor Simpson responded he was unsure but believed it to be very minimal. Chairman Geraghty interjected that he thought it was around 20 acres or less; Supervisor Simpson advised he believed it was even less than that. He pointed out the purpose was not for the development of houses but rather for infrastructure and environmental infrastructure such as water, broadband and telecommunications. Chairman Geraghty apprised the State Legislature was still working on the Bill and he was unsure whether or not it would be adopted.

Chairman Geraghty questioned whether Supervisor Braymer would like a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 273 and she replied in the affirmative.

Supervisor Brock apprised he was not requesting a roll call but would like to correct the misinterpretation Mr. Bulova had regarding the fact that some of the Board members were not prepared to provide reports. He clarified to Mr. Bulova that the Supervisors who stated they had nothing to report on actually had nothing to report on and that did not mean they were unprepared for the meeting today.

Supervisor Girard inquired whether the action put forth in proposed Resolution No. 273 would assist the County with placing towers to aid them with their communication difficulties and Chairman Geraghty replied he was unaware of anything specific. He mentioned it would assist them with the bridge located in the Town of Horicon where twenty feet of State land was required in order to complete construction of the bridge. Supervisor Simpson elaborated that the hold-up with the project on the Middleton Bridge in the Town of Horicon related to the fact that the proposed new site of the bridge required the use of twenty feet of land that was considered to be Forest Preserve. He stated the proposed Senate Bills would correct some of the issues that they had with this project. He said there were two different agencies within the State that classified the land referred to differently and the County had been working to rectify this for some time but had yet to get a determination from the State. He said this particular project was one of many that were located throughout the Adirondacks.

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In regards to proposed Resolution No. 248, Supervisor MacDonald advised that although he believed the work at the Airport could have a positive impact on the community, his concern was there were a number of on-going Projects at the County that were meaningful and had no funding sources available such as the NSTEM (*Nursing, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*) Project at SUNY Adirondack. He said he could not support any additional projects including the one at the Airport until they located funding sources for the current ones.

Supervisor Thomas asked Mr. Reichenbach whether it was necessary for the Board to introduce a resolution enabling the Chairman to continue to act as the County Administrator until such time that the vacancy was filled and Mr. Reichenbach replied that he had planned on putting together a resolution to ratify the Chairman's actions for this purpose to be presented at the July Board Meeting. He continued, should the Board decide to take action today they could do so making a motion to waive the Rules of the Board that a resolution be presented in writing and introducing the resolution from the floor.

A motion was made by Supervisor Thomas, seconded by Supervisor Braymer and carried unanimously to waive the Rules of the Board as outlined above.

Supervisor Girard asked Chairman Geraghty whether he would like to be compensated for the additional job duties he had taken on, noting the salary of the former County Administrator had been rather significant. Chairman Geraghty apprised as he had previously stated to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee, he would continue to act in that capacity through the budget process or until the vacancy was filled. He remarked he was not requesting additional compensation but he would not turn it down should it be offered to him.

Supervisor Seeber formally recognized Chairman Geraghty for doing such a phenomenal job as the acting County Administrator over the last few weeks. She pointed out a number of significant improvements had been made such as meeting with the Department Heads, increasing communication and transparency and responding to Board members inquiries even when he disagreed with their viewpoints. She mentioned she believed this was the roll of the Chairman and they should look explore whether the County Administrator position was needed or whether other options existed that would work better for the County. She added the Board members were appreciative of all of Chairman Geraghty's efforts.

Mrs. Allen stated the resolution waiving the Rules of the Board would be Proposed Resolution No. 274; however, she noted, a motion and a second were necessary to appoint Chairman Geraghty as acting County Administrator If that was the desire of the Board. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Thomas, seconded by Supervisor Sokol and carried unanimously; this would be proposed Resolution No. 275.

Chairman Geraghty called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 241-275 were approved as presented.

Chairman Geraghty thanked the public for attending the meeting this evening and he called for any public comment.

John Alexander, *Town of Warrensburg resident*, advised that he was a private pilot who was based out of the Airport and flew old "war bird" planes, honoring Veterans' by donating his time and aircraft to many regional remembrances and celebrations. He pointed out he, along with his partner, would be unable to offer their services without being able to house their aircrafts at the Airport which was a vital

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asset to not only Warren County but also the surrounding Counties which included Washington, Saratoga, Essex and Hamilton. He voiced his support for the runway expansion, noting not only was it beneficial for safety reasons but also for economic ones, as well. In regards to the concerns involving the marl fen located at the Airport, Mr. Alexander apprised he viewed the marl fen to be nothing more than a mosquito breeding ground.

Dr. Alagnya apprised that he lived on the north approach to the Airport. He referred to the photos he had distributed of the large jets at the Airport which were taken last summer and voiced his opinion that not only was the runway extension not necessary for safety reasons but it would also damage the marl fen and the health of the residents of Warren County as supported by studies he had read. In regards to the economic benefits some felt the expansion would bring, Dr. Alagnya advised there was no data supporting such claims.

Dave Alexander, *Town of Warrensburg resident*, stated that he leased a hangar at the Airport. He informed that he spent an abundant amount of time at the Airport during which he had observed about a half dozen departures at night of the larger aircrafts who used the bulk of the length of the runway. He voiced his support of the runway extension for safety reasons. He pointed out they could move the antenna in order to ensure the marl fen was not disturbed by the extension.

Craig Sweet Sr., *Town of Queensbury resident*, advised he lived at the south end of the Airport, and he stated the number of flights into and out of the Airport was minimal at best. He voiced his opposition to the runway extension, noting that it would be a waste of the taxpayers money to pay for an extension in order to accommodate a handful of pilots. He said the Board needed to take into consideration not only the environmental concerns but also the fact that the deficit needed to be paid off before a profit could be made. He pointed out the Saratoga County Airport was of similar size to this one and was able to be profitable.

Maureen Lynch, *Town of Queensbury resident*, informed she lived directly across from the Airport, and said she was also a pilot. She voiced her opposition to the runway extension not only for environmental reasons but also due to the fact that the Airport's classification had been downgraded at least twice over the years by the FAA due to a decline in the number of departures there which meant the necessary standards of operation were lowered. She added she was strongly opposed to the County appointing themselves as a Lead Agency for SEQRA.

George Winters, *Town of Queensbury resident*, indicated he could not understand why the County would sell Westmount Health Facility and not consider what would occur with the Co-Gen there which the County continued to pay for. Chairman Geraghty interjected that although it was true the County continued to pay for the Co-Gen, reimbursement was received from the new owners of Westmount for the use of it. In regards to whether the County should remain a Board of Supervisors or change to another form of County Government, Mr. Winters voiced his support of the Board remaining in place, as he felt having representatives from each town as sitting members was appropriate. He voiced his distaste regarding the \$47,000 bonus paid to the former County Administrator when he retired, as this was more money than many people made all year. Chairman Geraghty interjected that it was not a bonus but rather pay for the vacation and sick time accrued by him that was not used and which Mr. Dusek was entitled to be compensated for. He noted changes had been made so that employees who were hired after 2012 would not be compensated in the same manner. Mr. Winters thanked the Board for having a night meeting and asked them to continue to do so in the future.

Kathy Munslow, *property owner in Lake George*, asked what the 5% Local Share for the runway extension amounted to and Supervisor Beaty responded the minimum amount was about \$500,000

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which did not include legacy costs. Ms. Munslow inquired whether there was any proposed increase in revenue to justify investing such a significant amount of money for that project and Chairman Geraghty replied they hoped to garner additional revenue from the expansion through fuel sales. Ms. Munslow apprised she interpreted this as there was not a known and proven data based reason to anticipate a return on the investment. She apprised the long-term costs needed to be considered such as who would be responsible for paying for the runway if it needed to be replaced, as well as the maintenance and insurance costs which she felt would increase substantially. She commented it was for these reasons that she was opposed to the expansion.

Stuart Field, *Town of Queensbury resident*, read aloud a prepared statement which voiced his opposition to the runway extension due to environmental concerns regarding the marl fen, the additional expenses to the Airport Budget relating to the runway extension and the lack of a compelling economic or social need for it.

Mr. Whitehead stated that he would be unable to convince the Board within the three minutes permitted to him whether it was right or wrong to move forward with the runway extension or whether there were safety concerns associated with it, as this was not a sufficient amount of time to be able to do so. He asked the Supervisors to take the time to read the countless emails he had distributed to them regarding the extension and why he was opposed to it. He apprised he would be willing to meet with anyone who had any questions regarding the information included within those emails. In regards to the data he compiled that was distributed to the Board by Mr. Westcott, Mr. Whitehead remarked he would welcome someone proving whether the data was correct or not, as he believed the public deserved to know this. He pointed out the information he compiled regarding the Co-Gen was proven to be factual by the independent engineering firm hired by the County which concerned the fact that the County had lost a significant amount of money there. He referred to the fact that the Board had not voted on the years 7-11 Savings Reports provided by Siemens. He restated his opinion that the County should hire an engineer to determine whether the information he provided was factual or not. He said upon his review of the energy bills for the Municipal Center Building it became apparent the County only received 25% of the savings that Siemens was claiming and he questioned why the County did not have one of its own staff engineers review them to confirm or dispute this rather than hiring a consultant to do so.

Doug Irish, *Town of Queensbury resident*, thanked the Board for scheduling the meeting in the evening, as he believed it allowed residents the opportunity to attend. He voiced his opposition to the runway expansion, noting he felt it was time for Board to move away from spending people's money because they thought it was "free", as all the funds used by the government were taxpayer funds. He added he was disappointed that the Board was ignoring the public's desires and moving forward with their own desire for the runway to be expanded when there was no demonstrated need for it. He referred to a number of other projects that had been approved in the past which should not have been. In regards to the County being lead agency for the SEQRA, Mr. Irish pointed out the Town of Queensbury opposed such, as they felt it would be more appropriate for the NYSDEC to take on that roll for this Project.

Gary Loghrey, *Town of Queensbury resident*, first expressed his gratitude to the Board for scheduling the meeting in the evening and then voiced his objection to the runway extension for the lack of data available to support the fact that it was needed for safety reasons. He pointed out he had over thirty years of experience as a pilot, during which time he had housed his airplane at the Airport until he was forced to move it to the Saratoga Airport because the FBO felt piston aviation did not expend enough money. He challenged the Board to research how much maintenance business was lost to the Saratoga Airport, as the maintenance hangar at the Airport was highly underutilized due to the fact that it was not properly staffed. He referred to the fact that the County had listened to the objections of the public

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about twenty-two years ago and shot down the consultants recommendation that all the trees on the Airport property and within the vicinity of it be cut down for safety reasons alluding to the fact that these trees had never caused issues with any departures or landings at the Airport since then. He encouraged them to contact him with any operational questions they may have that would assist them with making a decision on the Project.

Peter Brothers, *Town of Queensbury resident*, thanked the Board for scheduling the meeting during the evening to allow individuals such as himself the opportunity to attend. He voiced his opposition to the runway expansion, noting there was no demonstrated need for it, as only a handful of individuals would benefit from it. In regards to the comments made by Supervisor Montesi earlier in the meeting, Mr. Brothers advised he felt that it was deplorable and unprofessional.

Bill Moon, *Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Southern Adirondacks*, advised his Organization served Warren, Washington and northern Saratoga Counties; he noted the bulk of the 250 children they provided services to were located within Warren County. He thanked Supervisor MacDonald for providing a letter of support for a large national grant they applied for which had not been awarded as of yet. He expressed his gratitude to the Board for affording not-for-profits within the region the opportunity to get to know their organizations and the needs of such, as well as assisting them with brainstorming to come up with innovative ways to raise funds.

Supervisor Braymer stated that given all of the public comments this evening regarding the runway extension and in particular those of Mr. Irish regarding the fact that the Board ignored the public concerns, she made a motion to waive the Rules of the Board that a resolution be presented in writing and bring to the floor a resolution to cease processing the application for the Runway 1 Expansion Project. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Beaty and carried by majority vote with a vote of 792 in favor (*Supervisors Brock, MacDonald, Frasier, Simpson, Vanselow, Strough, Seeber, Beaty, Montesi, Sokol, Leggett, McDevitt, Braymer and Geraghty*) and 104 against (*Supervisors Thomas, Wood, Conover and Girard*) (*Absent- Supervisors Dickinson and Merlino- 104*).

A motion was then made by Supervisor Braymer and seconded by Supervisor Beaty to introduce a resolution to cease processing the application for the Runway 1 Expansion Project.

Supervisor Strough pointed out that the positive economic impacts of the runway expansion needed to be considered including the promotional efforts of the many economical analyses and promotional efforts by the City of Glens Falls which noted the business center of the City was located within three miles of the Airport. He pointed out C1-30's, which were large cargo aircrafts, could not fly into or out of the Airport with full loads due to the lack of runway space available. He added that the newer business jets, which was the fastest growing segment of the aviation industry, were unable to depart with heavy loads, as well. He mentioned the cost to each taxpayer in Warren County for the runway expansion was about \$6.12 which was equal to the purchase of a submarine sandwich at Subway Restaurants and would open economic doors for the County. He continued, by voting in opposition of the expansion they were essentially closing the County off to those economic opportunities. He referenced the abundant amount of acreage surrounding the Airport that was available for development, noting the Warren County Economic Development Corporation's desire to promote the new and improved Airport as a business center which Saratoga County would love to have. He read aloud a list of Airports located in Counties throughout the State that were expanding their runways from 5,000 to 6,000 feet. He referred to the 2010 Technical Report wherein responses to a survey from business revealed that the total impact of the Airport was \$8.3 million, supporting fifty-three jobs. Supervisor Strough read aloud some statements made by area pilots and business owners within the aviation industry, all of which were in support of the extension and provided examples as to why it was

needed. He reiterated that he felt they were justified in extending the runway another 1,000 feet, noting the impact on the taxpayers would be minimal. He commented that it was doubtful the FAA would provide them with another chance to receive grant funds to pay for the bulk of the expansion if they were to vote it down today.

Supervisor Beaty stated that while he was appreciative of the input provided by Supervisor Strough he felt it was necessary to get the facts straight. He pointed out it was brought to their attention at the May 23rd meeting of the County Facilities Committee that the FAA would not provide grant funding for the extension in the hopes of increasing traffic at the Airport, and that the sole purpose of the extension was to accommodate the existing aircrafts there. He informed the existing aircraft at the Airport had an average of under five hundred miles of flight. In regards to the statements made regarding the Airport being an economic driver, Supervisor Beaty indicated that he had just dispelled this theory because they could not use the anticipated increase in aircrafts there as a viable reason for the expansion. He reminded the Board of how Phil Morse, who Supervisor Beaty referred to as “the leading businessman in the region”, sent a letter to them three years ago which opined that it would be foolish for them to move forward with the expansion, as it would have no bearing on the economy of the region. Supervisor Beaty apprised that the amount of revenue the County received from fuel sales at the Airport equated to \$14,000 in 2014. He continued, he felt they were foolish if they really believed that amount would triple if they were to move forward with the expansion, as the County’s share was only 0.075 per gallon of fuel sold which he felt was an embarrassment. He commented the two or three jets owners who were in favor of the expansion wanted it because their jets had to stop in Canada when they were en-route to Ireland or Greenland because they could not depart from the Airport with a full load of gas. He said he found this to be insulting to the 66,000 residents of the County. He added he did not want to be known for being wasteful of the taxpayer dollars and requested that the other Board members step up to the plate for once and do the right thing.

Supervisor Wood reminded the Board the last time the contract for the FBO was up for renewal she had brought a motion to the floor at the County Facilities Committee meeting that they go back out and seek higher fuel profits through a new RFP but the motion failed due to the lack of support from the Committee members, including Mr. Westcott who was a member of the Committee at that time. She suggested before complaining, individuals should speak to Mr. Westcott and the other members of the Committee at that time who voted down her motion that quite possibly could have resulted in the County obtaining a larger sum from fuel sales at the Airport. She apprised the County could have decided to keep the fuel sales in-house which would have resulted in 100% of the profit remaining within the County.

In regards to SUNY Adirondack, Supervisor MacDonald advised that for every dollar the County spent there, it resulted in a \$2.60 return. He stated the College had an \$18 million economic impact on the region as stated in a study that was conducted in 2011. He mentioned what he was considering was where the Airport’s place was in “the big picture”, as the County was currently searching for a source of funding to pay for the NSTEM Project which had the potential to ensure the younger generation remained in the County by affording them the opportunity stay local and close to their families. He used himself as an example; he noted this was the determining factor for why he attended college there. He apprised although there was some information available stating the benefits of the runway expansion to the City of Glens Falls, he could attest to the fact that the tax rate in the City was already significant; therefore, he said, the residents would not be in favor of anything that would cause the rates to increase even more. He commented he could not support any projects that did not have sources of funding identified other than increasing the taxes. He opined the responsible thing for them to do was to hold off on making any decisions until they determined how they were going to fund the project.

Supervisor Braymer informed of the environmental impacts the runway extension would have which included the removal of over twenty-three acres of forest, ten acres of terrain alteration which she characterized as blasting away the hillside, as well as the draining or filling of over twenty acres of wetlands. She voiced her concern that there would be additional wetland impacts outside of those twenty acres. She stated she felt moving forward with the runway expansion based upon the wishes expressed by a few pilots was not a sufficient basis for the Board to justify moving forward with this. In response to Supervisor Strough's comments regarding how Saratoga County wished they had a longer runway, Supervisor Braymer pointed out that they had voted down an expansion due mostly in part to the objections of the residents who resided within the vicinity of their Airport. She noted although Saratoga County's runway was shorter than the Airport here, their aircraft traffic there was greater. She added she believed the funding from the FAA would still be available in the future should they change their mind and decide to move forward; therefore, she stated, pressing pause was the appropriate action for them to take. She advised she concurred with Supervisor MacDonald that there were far better projects the County could fund that would benefit all residents within the County. She noted this was not one of those, as only a handful of individuals would reap the benefits from it.

Supervisor Leggett remarked he was intrigued by the different testimonies from pilots who were familiar with the Airport. He commented as a new Supervisor he was unsure of the runway expansion project, as there were a number of different statistics being cited; however, he noted, he had not seen anything that supported the statement of need to commence with in order to justify expending taxpayer funds on it. He informed he was not comfortable moving forward with the runway expansion due to the lack of demonstrated need, a comparison between what would occur if they were to move forward or not, what the economic impact would be, what the environmental and social impacts would be, etc. He asked Supervisor Braymer to clarify her motion. Supervisor Braymer stated that the County was currently expending funds to pay their consultants to the Airport to move forward with the application process which involved going through a MIPPA review with the FAA, as well as commencing the SEQRA process with the State for their environmental review. She stated her motion was to cease moving forward with the Runway Expansion Project at this time. Supervisor Leggett questioned what the next step would be if the motion was carried and Supervisor Braymer replied that no action would be taken on the Runway Expansion Project unless a motion was made to re-start the process. She pointed out one of her reasons for putting forth the motion related to the fact that the FAA had yet to respond to the County's environmental assessment.

Supervisor Seeber noted the Master Plan for the Airport was developed in 2000 and the County commenced implementing it in 2003, and yet no construction work as it related to the extension had begun. She commented although the local share of \$34,000 had already been expended, she did not feel they had invested so much into the project that they could not justify taking a step back at this time to reevaluate things. She voiced the importance of having accurate information before them. She said she was appreciative of all of the feedback provided to the Board this evening regarding the runway expansion. She pointed out the difference between Saratoga and Warren Counties was that Saratoga County listened to the concerns of the residents who resided within the vicinity of the Airport and used it. She said the majority of the public present tonight resided in the Town of Queensbury; therefore, she stated, she was unclear how a Supervisor from the Town of Queensbury could not listen to their constituents and take a step back on the Project. She said there were two separate schools of thought on the Board, those that felt they were elected to represent the interests of the residents who voted for them in the Town of Queensbury and those who felt they were elected to represent all of Warren County effectively whether or not you were elected by the residents of the Town of Queensbury. She indicated she was supportive of many issues that impacted the other Towns and communities, so much so that she made sure she listened to those concerns; therefore, she stated, in this case the residents of the Town of Queensbury were concerned about this expansion and she suggested they take a step

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back for now and bring it back in the future if a compelling argument to do so was present. She reiterated her confusion as to how a Supervisor from the Town of Queensbury could listen to the concerns of their residents and still be in favor of this project.

Chairman Geraghty called for a roll call vote on the aforementioned resolution; the motion failed due to a lack of simple majority vote with a vote of 356 in favor (*Supervisors MacDonald, Vanselow, Seeber, Beaty, Leggett and Braymer*) and 510 against (*Supervisors Frasier, Simpson, Strough, Montesi, Sokol, Thomas, Wood, Conover, Girard, McDevitt and Geraghty (Abstain- Supervisor Brock-30) (Absent-Supervisors Dickinson and Merlino- 104)*).

Supervisor Girard advised he was the Chairman of the County Facilities Committee which was charged with overseeing the activities of the Airport. He said work commenced on a Master Plan for the Airport in 2002 and it was officially adopted in 2009, including the runway expansion. He said at that time the President of the Economic Development Corporation had indicated to the County the runway expansion was one of the engines that could be used to assist the County with expanding the economy in the region. He continued, since that time this had been reinforced by the fact that firms had completed studies in surrounding Counties to track business and jobs etc. He continued, the consultants who completed the studies for these areas advised them that an Airport was necessary. He mentioned over the years the Board had consistently voted in support of the runway expansion. He informed over the years he had attended a number of meetings and public hearings concerning the Airport, all during which he would listen to the public's thoughts on the expansion. He said when he inquired whether the Board felt the County was wasting its time and money on the Project, it resulted in a vote of 18 Supervisors in favor of moving forward and two who were opposed despite the abundant amount of research completed on the matter by Messrs. Whitehead, Westcott and Supervisor Beaty. He stated that today's vote attested to the fact that the Board was in favor of moving forward with the expansion which he felt would be beneficial to the County and was paramount for safety reasons. He added he believed the Airport was an asset to the County and they should keep investing in it. Supervisor Girard mentioned he found it to be interesting that Supervisory Braymer whose background was working as an environmental lawyer and had only been a sitting Board member for a few months was attempting to halt what a number of Supervisors over the years had supported right up to this date. He stated he applauded this effort, as he felt it was beneficial for him in determining how to move forward. He noted he found the dialogue and discussion today concerning the matter to be healthy.

Mr. Westcott requested to address the Board on the record regarding Supervisor Wood's comments pertaining to the FBO contract for the Airport, advising he would never have voted in favor of that contract. Chairman Geraghty apprised that he was closing off the public comment portion of the meeting, as he felt a sufficient amount of time had been provided for this purpose. Mr. Westcott interjected that Supervisor Wood had accused him of something that was inaccurate and Chairman Geraghty responded that they could check the record.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Frasier and seconded by Supervisor Wood, Chairman Geraghty adjourned the Board Meeting at 9:04 p.m.