

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**ORGANIZATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4, 2018**



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 11:00 a.m.

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

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Leggett.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Bolton	-Ronald F. Conover
Chester	-Craig R. Leggett
City of Glens Falls	
Ward 1	-Absent
Ward 2	-Peter V. McDevitt
Ward 3	-Claudia K. Braymer
Ward 4	-William A. Loeb
Ward 5	-Vacant
Hague	-Edna A. Frasier
Horicon	-Matthew J. Simpson
Johnsburg	-Andrea Hogan
Lake George	-Dennis Dickinson
Lake Luzerne	-Eugene J. Merlino
Queensbury	-John F. Strough
	-Michael Wild
	-Douglas N. Beaty
	-William Magowan
	-Matthew Sokol
Stony Creek	-Frank E. Thomas
Thurman	-Cynthia Hyde
Warrensburg	-Kevin B. Geraghty

Mrs. Allen advised the first order of business would be to administer the Oath of Office for the members of the Board of Supervisors.

Pam Vogel, County Clerk, administered the Oath of Office for the members of the Board of Supervisors, following which a round of applause was given.

Mrs. Allen announced the next order of business would be the selection of a Temporary Chairperson.

Supervisor Merlino nominated Supervisor Dickinson as Temporary Chairman, and Supervisor Wild seconded the nomination.

Supervisor Braymer nominated Supervisor Frasier as Temporary Chairwoman, and Supervisor Loeb seconded the nomination.

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There being no further nominations, Mrs. Allen called for a roll call vote, explaining that each Supervisor should indicate whether they were voting for Supervisor Dickinson or Supervisor Frasier to serve as Temporary Chairman. Following the vote it was determined Supervisor Dickinson would serve as Temporary Chairman, receiving 691 votes (*Supervisors Leggett, Frasier, Simpson, Hogan, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Magowan, Sokol, Thomas, Hyde, Conover and Geraghty*) while Supervisor Frasier received 229 (Supervisors McDevitt, Braymer, Loeb and Beaty); there were 80 votes absent (*Supervisor Diamond and Vacant*).

Mrs. Allen requested that Supervisors Geraghty and Frasier escort Supervisor Dickinson to the Chair.

Temporary Chairman Dickinson called for nominations for the selection of a Permanent Chair.

Supervisor Simpson nominated Supervisor Conover as Permanent Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and Supervisor Magowan seconded the motion. Supervisor Dickinson inquired whether there were any other nominations to come before the Board. Supervisor Sokol moved for the nominations to be closed; Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. Supervisor Braymer interjected that prior to Supervisor Sokol's motion her hand had been raised to nominate someone other than Supervisor Conover as the Permanent Chairman because her desire was for someone to be in the position who would provide leadership and embrace thoughtful and meaningful debate, while also encouraging an independent thought process. She said she was confident that Supervisor McDevitt would lead the County forward with fairness and transparency; she encouraged and requested support of Supervisor McDevitt for Permanent Chairman. She said the members of the Board should no longer take for granted that decisions by a few would be "rubber stamped" by the entire Board, as it was time for them to embrace meaningful debate and discourse, and she believed Supervisor McDevitt could lead them into that era. She added if she was able to obtain a second to her motion to appoint Supervisor McDevitt as Permanent Chairman she asked that they discuss this and that they hear from the nominees before voting on the Chairmanship.

Supervisor Dickinson advised he, as Temporary Chairman had tolerated Supervisor Braymer's diatribe, as this process was required. Supervisor McDevitt objected to the use of the word diatribe when someone wanted to have free expression in this body. Supervisor Dickinson stated Supervisor McDevitt's objection was dually noted. He informed they were present to appoint a Chairman during which they would not expend much time discussing candidates and their qualifications. He inquired whether there was a second to Supervisor Braymer's nomination of Supervisor McDevitt as Permanent Chairman; Supervisor Loeb seconded the nomination.

Temporary Chairman Dickinson called for a roll call vote, explaining that each Supervisor should indicate whether they were voting for Supervisor Conover or Supervisor McDevitt to serve as Permanent Chairman.

During the vote the following comments were made: Supervisor Loeb informed through the Board the citizens of Warren County had a choice which he considered to be special when taking into consideration the state of the world today. He said whomever was appointed would not have been anointed. He remarked he believed Supervisor McDevitt would be an exceptional Permanent Chairman of the Board of Supervisors; however, he noted, should Supervisor Conover prevail he felt it was important to note he had done a great job thus far and he was fully confident he would continue to do so for the citizens of Warren County.

Supervisor Beaty informed the thing he believed to be the most important foundation of the Board was independence and full and open transparency on all information and issues; however, he noted, over

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the past four years he had been repeatedly disappointed in this light. He said as much as he had been supportive of Supervisors Conover and Geraghty, this disappointment has lead him to insist upon a new direction. He mentioned the independence he thought Supervisor McDevitt would provide was the direction he believed to be more appropriate for this Board and he wholeheartedly hoped to see others agree that independence should carry on and that was why he would be voting for Supervisor McDevitt as Permanent Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Following the vote, Supervisor Conover was declared Permanent Chairman by a majority vote, receiving 570 votes (*Supervisors Conover, Leggett, Frasier, Simpson, Dickinson, Merlino, Wild, Magowan, Sokol, Thomas, Hyde and Geraghty*) while Supervisor McDevitt received 350 votes (*Supervisors McDevitt, Braymer, Loeb, Hogan, Strough and Beaty*); 80 absent votes (*Supervisor MacDonald and vacant*).

Supervisor Dickinson stated before he relinquished his duties as Temporary Chairman he would like to say a few words about his friend Supervisor Conover. He apprised the County was very fortunate to have Supervisor Conover serve as the Chairman of the Board because the demands of a Town Supervisor were unending and yet Supervisor Conover managed to find time to do both jobs. He pointed out Supervisor Conover was always readily available for phone calls or to meet in person to discuss ideas or proposals. He mentioned he was well aware of the time required for the position which meant giving up evenings, weekends and holidays thereby resulting in time away from family and friends. Supervisor Dickinson advised Supervisor Conover was the recipient of many citations and accolades including the prestigious James Corbett Award for the work he exerted protecting the waters of Lake George. He continued, Supervisor Conover was the recipient of a 2nd James Corbett Award as the Supervisor for the Town of Bolton for his efforts in securing public access to The Pinnacle located in the Town of Bolton Landing. He added Supervisor Conover was a founding member of the nationally recognized SAVE Group and the recipient of their first public sector low impact development award. He informed last year Supervisor Conover had been the recipient of the Lakes to Locks Passage Partnership Award in recognition of his outstanding Intermunicipal Cooperation and dedication to stewardship of the natural cultural, recreational and historic resources of the Lakes to Locks Passage. He remarked Supervisor Conover worked to make his town and all of Warren County a better place to live, to work and to visit. He stated Supervisor Conover was held in the highest regards to those who worked closely with him. He said he lead from the front, he lead by example and most notably he was well aware of how to partner to get things done. He voiced they were very fortunate to have Supervisor Conover serve a second term as Chairman.

Supervisor Dickinson requested that Supervisors Sokol and Thomas escort Supervisor Conover to the Chair.

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

Chairman Conover 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 4, 2018

“I will begin this message by thanking Kevin Geraghty for serving as our County Administrator.

I have asked Kevin to stay on as our acting County Administrator until a replacement is found and he has agreed to continue in this role (for at least a while longer). Kevin, I just want you to know how extremely thankful we are for your continued service.

“In 2017 we passed another on time budget staying under the State imposed tax cap. Much of the credit goes to Frank Thomas our Budget Officer, our budget team and our Department Heads for their good work. Frank continues to do an exceptional job with the County Budget and we are most appreciative of his continued and excellent service. I have asked Supervisor Frank Thomas to continue as Warren County Budget Officer for 2018.

“Also, I have asked Supervisor Matt Sokol to continue to Chair the Warren County Finance Committee and to continue in his responsibilities as Deputy Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors.

“Today in Warren County we find ourselves with a stable if not slightly improving financial condition. Our bond rating continues to hold at AA+ Stable. We are in the enviable position of having an adequate unassigned fund balance of almost 17.3 million dollars. A reasonably healthy fund balance makes it possible to avoid short term borrowing for cash flow purposes and just as important annual appropriations from this fund balance helps us stay below the State imposed property tax cap.

“As our Treasurer Mike Swan correctly reminds us the fund balance is not inexhaustible, nor was it created overnight. It is the result of the fine work of our employees, department heads, one-time revenue and an overall conservative approach to expenditures and revenue projections by this Board.

“This year we will complete a \$16 million court expansion project. I am happy to report that the project is 3 months ahead of schedule and slightly under budget. The move of family court to their new facilities is scheduled to take place in early March of this year. My compliments to former Supervisor and Facilities Chair Dan Girard as well as Supervisor Ron Montesi, the Facilities Committee and our DPW staff for their very good efforts on this important project.

“Much thanks also to Mike Swan, Warren County Treasurer, for his efforts in timing and securing excellent financing for these projects thereby lowering the budget impact for The Court and the NSTEM Project.

“The NSTEM Project at SUNY Adirondack is another major project that was completed ahead of schedule and under budget which opened in 2017. I would also like to congratulate President Duffy and her project team for the successful delivery of this important project at SUNY Adirondack. It is a wonderful new addition to our college.

“In 2017 the Warren County Sales tax revenue was up approximately 2%. As you might expect, this year over year increase had a positive impact on both last year and this year’s County Budget.

“If the economy continues to improve in 2018 and we see additional growth in sales tax revenue we can expect our five-year projections to also improve. That said, I do not believe our present expense to revenue picture is sustainable and the five-year projections while showing some improvement continue to bear this out. As we did in 2017 we will need to find additional efficiencies and savings in 2018 if we are to continue to stay below the tax cap.

“As you all know, we have authorized advertising for a request for qualifications and proposals for contracting services and work at the County Airport. Our goal has been to explore whether continued privatization of FBO functions and even expansion of services is the best way to proceed.

“While we have achieved savings at Floyd Bennett Airport by centralizing some Airport and DPW operations, there is much more to be done. To me the question is simple, those operations we can do more efficiently by contracting with the private sector we will certainly consider. Those functions we can do at less cost with our own staff must also be considered.

“To help lead us to the best place possible I have asked Supervisor Jack Diamond to Chair our Facilities Committee. Jack comes to us with a wealth of experience and knowhow and I am confident he will provide the strong leadership we need to Chair of Facilities. I continue to believe that by working together we can build upon the success we have had at the airport while achieving increased efficiencies and savings.

“In 2017 we settled with Siemens and secured outstanding state Medicaid reimbursements owed to Warren County for reimbursement for the cogen facility. Most of the Medicaid funds are part revenue to a reserve fund established by the Board to pay legacy costs associated with Westmount and as such securing these funds was important to our operating budget.

“In 2018 I am hopeful that we will settle the remaining universal settlement associated with this facility. This settlement will provide the remaining revenue owed to Warren County by the State of New York and are also a part of this reserve fund.

“In 2017 we completed an employee evaluation program. Overall, I think it was a useful process both for us and our employees and I expect this program will continue and even improve in 2018. In 2018 we have important appointments to make not the least of which includes a County Administrator and Social Services Commissioner. I have asked Supervisor Geraghty to Chair the Personnel and SUNY ACC Committee. Having been budget officer for many years along with his intimate understanding of our union contracts and county personnel Kevin is well suited to Chair this important committee.

“Last year we negotiated and settled with three union contracts. For 2018 we will be negotiating two more. No small or simple matter. I would like to thank Kevin Geraghty and our negotiation team for their excellent work in 2017 and I have every confidence the same will be in 2018.

“In 2017 we moved to self-insurance for our health coverage. This decision resulted in the avoidance of a large double digit increase possibly as much as 13%. As our health insurance costs are well above 10 million dollars this cost avoidance was a significant benefit to our budget and I might add our employees who share in this cost.

“Our hope is that this experience with self-insurance will continue in 2018 going into 2019 and that we can keep future rate growth in health insurance costs at a more manageable level.

“Beginning in 2018 we must address the provision of EMS services especially in our more rural areas. The existing response systems are being stressed and our EMS experts have advised us that the situation will only get worse. We know based on our meetings and conversations that this is also the case in other neighboring counties as well. It is vitally important that we act this year to insure adequate, sustainable emergency response systems for our residents and visitors. I have asked Supervisors Simpson, Leggett, Geraghty, Dickinson, Hogan, Wild and Sheriff York along with Brian LaFlure to spearhead this vitally important initiative. Legislation presently being advanced by Senator Little that would authorize County’s to establish EMS Districts on a County or Part County basis is a great step in the right direction. I would hope that in the coming months this Board will endorse this proposed legislation and actively lobby for its adoption. I have requested that Brian Laflure assemble the relevant material for your review and eventual consideration. At the same time, we will explore how the State’ Shared Services initiative can aid us in helping to pay for this initiative. I do not believe there is a more important decision in 2018 than establishing a County or Part County platform for the long-term delivery of these essential services.

“This past year we privately bid some of our highway work which allowed us to do more roads. As we did in 2017, we will continue to solicit private paving bids for our County Roads in 2018. This year we hope to improve on our bid process by getting off to an earlier start. I would like to personally thank DPW Chairman Matt Simpson and the DPW Committee for shepherding this initiative in 2017 and I have no doubt it will be equally successful in 2018 and help us deliver more road improvement projects.

“I think it is fair to say that there is growing sentiment that the railroad corridor could provide larger economic benefit to the region as a recreational corridor than as exclusively a rail line. Continuing and growing concerns regarding rail storage facilities in the Adirondacks adds to this overall concern and further underscores the need for a plan of action. As you all know the State of New York has joined with Warren and Essex Counties in opposition to rail storage facilities in the Adirondacks and I think the prudent thing at this stage is to begin to investigate whether

a recreational trail should be created, by whom, at what costs, for which users and how to pay for its creation and maintenance. I am therefore requesting Matt Simpson and our DPW committee begin discussions with our corridor partners including the State of New York as to the best path forward. Initially I would like to see a grant application be submitted to the State of New York the purpose of which will be to help fund a comprehensive review and to begin answering these and other questions and issues regarding the best long-term plan of uses for this major public asset. We need to do this in the best way possible so that we arrive at the best place possible.

“In 2018 we will need to develop a shared services plan for submittal to New York State. Our efforts thus far under our existing plan has resulted in significant savings. The 2018 plan will look to build upon this success and I believe that if we all continue to work together we can do even more to expand on these savings.

“In 2018 we will be expanding our partnership with the private sector through the Regional Chamber Convention and Visitor Bureau to improve our Overall Tourism Program. We have an exceptional Tourism Program and I am excited by the opportunity to develop more events and to work closely with our business community to better package our region.

“While occupancy tax revenues were up in 2017 we must continue to keep a very watchful eye on occupancy tax spending. I know Supervisors Dickinson and Merlino are very watchful of this program and I would like to publicly thank them for their good work as Chairs of the Tourism and Occupancy Tax Committees. I have asked that they continue to Chair these important committees in 2018.

“We are fortunate to have great employees that day in and out do an exceptional job many times under difficult, even harsh conditions. Our employees have been very supportive of our acting County Administrator and our Committee Chairs and I have every confidence that this cooperation, support and dedicated service will continue. They are an exceptional group of dedicated individuals and we are most appreciative of their work on behalf of the residents of Warren County. They are the unsung heroes that make it all work. They are the people that keep us safe, respond to emergencies, assist the less fortunate, help our neighbors stay in their homes, plow and maintain our roads and bridges, maintain our municipal buildings and grounds and serve our residents in so many more vital and important ways. On behalf of the Warren County Board of Supervisors I would like to take this opportunity to thank our county employees for their service and to wish all our employees a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

“I have had the great privilege these past eight years of being Bolton’s representative to the Warren County Board of Supervisors, four as Deputy Chairman and for the past year as Chairman of the Board.

“As Chairman, it is my job to help set the agenda, steward the process, ensure that it is open and

fair and that those wishing to speak are heard. This is the essence of our democratic system of government and you can be assured that I will continue to perform these duties to the very best of my ability, so help me God.

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald F. Conover, Chairman
Warren County Board of Supervisors”

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

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp. November 2017 surcharge check in the amount of \$3,792.

Warren and Washington Counties IDA and CDC 2018 Final Budgets.

Letter from Matt MacDonald, City of Glens Falls Ward #5 Supervisor, announcing his resignation from the Board of Supervisors effective January 1, 2018.

Letter from Jason Carusone, District Attorney, announcing that in the event he is unable to perform the duties of his position Matthew D. Burin, Warren County First Assistant District Attorney, is designated to exercise the duties of the Warren County District Attorney

Letter from Jason Carusone, District Attorney, advising that all seven of his Department's Assistant District Attorney positions have been filled and providing the names of each.

Letter from the Adirondack Park Agency, advising that the APA has conditionally approved of a project described as a two-lot subdivision of 40 acres involving wetlands, located in a rural use area near Valley Road in the Town of Thurman for which Permit 2017-0198 has been issued.

Letter from the Warren and Washington Counties IDA, announcing the resignation of Harold Taylor effective February 26, 2018.

Email from Laura Kohls, requesting that she and fellow business owners be added to the agenda of the February 2018 Board Meeting to discuss items related to tourism in Warren County.

Email from Travis Whitehead, stating that the County has failed to ensure that Iowa Pacific is meeting the terms of their contract with the County and noticing that he holds the Board of Supervisors, and in particular the Chairman of the Board, County Attorney and Chair of the Railroad Committee, responsible as counter-party to the contract.

Prior to the reading of resolutions Chairman Conover advised Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, would like

the opportunity to address the Supervisors. Mr. Swan welcomed the new Supervisors and encouraged them to contact him with any questions or concerns they may have regarding County finances. He mentioned over the past six months the County's Information Technology Department had been attempting to install an update to the accounting software package which would allow them to print the W2's and 1099's. He said they were notified by the software contractor last week in order for these to be printed by the end of the month a service agreement was required which would cost and additional \$6,000 that he did not have available within his Budget. He requested that the Board approve the service agreement with Tyler Technologies for server migration services related to system upgrades required by their software vendor and that the necessary funds be transferred from the Contingent Account into his Budget to pay for the agreement.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Conover called for the reading of resolutions. Mrs. Allen announced that a motion was needed to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 1-22 to the floor. The motion was made Supervisor Dickinson, seconded by Supervisor Loeb and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Beaty requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 18, *Reappointing Warren County Attorney*.

Mrs. Allen advised that a motion was required to waive the Rules of Board requiring that a resolution be presented in writing to entertain the resolution that Mr. Swan requested for a new service agreement and a transfer from the Contingent Account in the amount of \$6,000. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Geraghty, seconded by Supervisor Thomas and carried unanimously. Mrs. Allen announced this would be proposed Resolution No. 23. Mrs. Allen apprised a motion was required to bring to the floor a resolution authorizing a service agreement and the Contingent Account transfer in the amount of \$6,000; the necessary motion was made by Supervisor Dickinson, seconded by Supervisor Simpson and carried unanimously. Mrs. Allen informed this would be proposed Resolution No. 24, and she noted a roll call vote would be required because the resolution included a transfer from the Contingent Account.

Chairman Conover called for discussion and public comment on the proposed resolutions.

Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, stated he appreciated that the Chairman would like to see the business conducted was open and fair. He said he was questioning proposed Resolution Nos. 18, *Reappointing Warren County Attorney*, and 22, *Authorizing Payment to the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District for 2018 in the Amount of \$330,732*. He opined that the appointment of the Warren County Attorney was anything but open and fair discussion. He apprised he reviewed the minutes again and determined following the executive session not even the name of the individual was mentioned, as they were referred to as "the selected candidate". He added the public was not made aware of who the individual being appointed to the position was until the time of the vote which he found to be very disconcerting. Mr. Whitehead advised what was more concerning to him at this time was the expenditure of money from the "rainy day fund" in order to make ends meet and that the future budget depicted a continuing decline of this fund. He informed he had heard the County Treasurer state that in a few years he would have to borrow money short-term in order to make payroll

which they should all find to be disconcerting. Mr. Whitehead apprised the purpose of proposed Resolution No. 22 was to allocate over \$300,000 to the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District; however, he noted, this had not gone through the Committee process, but rather was brought forward by Chairman Conover much like the majority of the resolutions before them today. He remarked he felt it was necessary to discuss where the money was going and how it was going to be expended since there was a significant amount of money involved. He mentioned they could do better in regards to being open and fair and he hoped there would be some improvements over the course of the year.

Supervisor Braymer advised she would like to make a comment on proposed Resolution No. 18, *Reappointing Warren County Attorney*, stating that she believed Mary Elizabeth Kissane, *County Attorney*, was doing a good job; however, she noted, she concurred with Mr. Whitehead that the process to fill the position was not open which was why she would be voting in opposition.

Supervisor Beaty informed he too would like to comment on proposed Resolution No. 18, *Reappointing Warren County Attorney*. He reminded them he had previously stated that he believed this was the most important position in the County which was why he felt it was negligent on their part to only have conducted twenty minute interviews with no second interviews or reference checks. He said although Ms. Kissane may be the best suited candidate for the position, he would never make such an important decision without conducting longer interviews and bringing back the top candidates for second interviews on top of having background checks performed and he cited his experience conducting hundreds of interviews himself. He apprised he was appalled that the Board felt this was a smart decision. He advised he hoped Ms. Kissane was the best candidate for the position; however, he said, he would be unable to make such a determination in a twenty minute timeframe and he questioned how any of them could have done so. He concluded by stating decisions such as this which were hasty, not well thought out and made without due diligence caused future issues such as the ones they had with Siemens or with the sale of the former Westmount Health Facility to someone who should never have been considered. He advised he fought against the idea that the Board could make an appropriate decision based on twenty minute interviews for the top position within the County. In addition, he pointed out that the Board ignored data supporting the fact that Centers was a terrible company to sell the former Westmount Health Facility to and entrust to take care of the seniors; he pointed out the facility's rating had been reduced from four stars to one and yet according to Centers, being only one star was good. He voiced that he found this to be appalling and he questioned when the Board would start making decisions using common sense rather than "going along to go along". He questioned when this day would occur because it obviously was not going to be today.

Supervisor McDevitt thanked Chairman Conover for recognizing Supervisor Braymer, who was an attorney, and not describing her comments as a diatribe which he found to be very offensive.

In regards to proposed Resolution No. 18, Supervisor Wild admitted he found some of the comments made to be troubling. He continued, since he was new to the Board he could not understand why they were moving forward with this particular proposed Resolution today which was why he would abstain from voting on it.

Supervisor Leggett stated he would like to clarify this matter for the record to ensure the public was not misinformed by the comments from the At-Large Supervisor from the Town of Queensbury that there were only twenty minutes involved in the selection of the County Attorney. He pointed out Ms. Kissane had worked for the County during which time she demonstrated her experience, integrity, as well as the knowledge and ability to do the work. He added there was more than twenty minutes involved with the decision.

In response to Mr. Whitehead's concerns, Supervisor Loeb requested an explanation regarding proposed Resolution No. 22, *Authorizing Payment to the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District for 2018 in the Amount of \$330,732*. Chairman Conover apprised the amount referenced in the resolution was included in the 2018 County Budget which was adopted last November by the Board. He said the funding included the anticipated contracted amount in 2018 which would be paid to the Treasurer of the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District. He added this was an action they took every year since it was part of the annual County Budget, but this did not mean it was not open for discussion.

Supervisor Thomas announced he was the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District. He explained the money referenced in proposed Resolution No. 22 was part of their Organization's annual budget and assisted them with paying their employees salaries. He added their Organization also acquired about \$150,000 in grant funding each year which applied to each Town in this County, as well as the City of Glens Falls. He said the purpose of the proposed Resolution was to authorize payment of the money which was approved in the County's 2018 Budget, half of which was paid in the beginning of the year and the remainder would be paid in July.

Supervisor Beaty inquired whether the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District followed the purchasing guidelines which were established by the State which the County adhered to and Supervisor Thomas replied they had a procurement policy in place. Supervisor Beaty advised he was unsure they followed the same guidelines that the County did, but he would look into this. He said it was his understanding that they were required to adhere to the same County purchasing guidelines. Supervisor Thomas interjected that he was unsure Supervisor Beaty was 100% accurate on that, as the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District was established by statute and there were laws from the State for each district since each County had one. He informed they followed the procurement policy they were required to have; however, he said, he was unsure whether this followed Warren County's purchasing guidelines.

Supervisor Beaty inquired whether he would continue on as the Chair of the Shared Services Committee and Chairman Conover replied in the affirmative. Supervisor Beaty informed he would have Julie Butler, *Purchasing Agent*, provide an opinion regarding whether the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District was required to follow the purchasing policies of the County at a Shared Services Committee meeting. Supervisor Thomas interjected their Organization worked with Mrs. Butler whenever they made purchases.

Supervisor Simpson stated as a Town that had a working relationship with the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District he could attest to the fact that numerous RFP's (*Request for Proposals*) had

been put out on behalf of services that they had rendered under the cooperative agreement with the County, all of which were open and reviewed by the County Attorney.

Supervisor Braymer thanked Chairman Conover for reappointing her to the Board of Directors of Warren-Hamilton Counties Action Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc, as she thoroughly enjoyed being a member of their Board. She announced HEAP (*Home Energy Assistance Program*) benefits were available through the Community Action Center in Glens Falls, as well as the Warren County Department of Social Services for those in need. She said individuals in need of assistance could contact the Temporary Assistance Department or the Sheriff's Office during the off hours.

Chairman Conover called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 1-24 were approved as presented.

Chairman Conover announced that the listing of Standing Committees for 2018 had been established and copies of which could be picked up in Mrs. Allen's Office.

A motion was made by Supervisor Simpson and seconded by Mr. Dickinson to adjourn the meeting.

Supervisor Beaty interjected prior to adjourning privilege of the floor was required and Supervisor Braymer added announcements were also required.

Chairman Conover called for public comments from anyone wishing to address the Board on any matter.

Mr. Whitehead stated he was not surprised by the results of the vote today, but said he found the process to be interesting. He commented the term "sausage making" referenced in *The Post Star* over the past few months was not what occurred today, as it appeared there were a number of individual discussions going on. He continued, what was promised to who such as certain Chairmanships, support for pet projects, whether there would be Civic Center funding, Airport and whether it was important to them, etc. was not known. He remarked this was not open and fair discussion, stating there were certain individuals who did not receive phone calls today that were disenfranchised, as well as their constituents when this occurred. He apprised he would like to see more discussion in session and less of the "sausage making".

Chairman Conover called for announcements.

Supervisor Braymer thanked the County Department Heads for doing an exceptional job working with the Acting County Administrator. She requested that the Board move forward as diligently and quickly as possible to hire a permanent full-time County Administrator.

Supervisor Loeb announced he was pleased to have returned as a member of the Board and he congratulated Chairman Conover on his re-election as Chairman.

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ORGANIZATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4, 2018*

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Simpson and seconded by Supervisor Dickinson, Chairman Conover adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.