

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2019**



The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York, at 10:06 a.m.

Mr. Ronald F. Conover presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Merlino.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Leggett, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Loeb, Driscoll, Frasier, Simpson, Hogan, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Beaty, Magowan, Sokol, Thomas, Hyde, Geraghty and Conover, 20; absent- 0

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Conover noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of November 1st Special Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Dickinson and carried unanimously. Chairman Conover apprised a motion was required to approve the minutes of the November 15th Board meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Thomas, seconded by Supervisor Dickinson and carried unanimously.

Moving along, Chairman Conover declared the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2020, "A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County", open at 10:08 a.m. and he asked Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, to read the Notice of the Public Hearing aloud, which she proceeded to do. Chairman Conover then called for public comment; there being none he closed the Public Hearing at 10:09 a.m.

Proceeding to the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Conover advised he had attended the Christmas party for the Warren County Economic Development Corporation (*EDC*) at The Park Theater in the City of Glens Falls, on November 21st, during which he delivered his third and final State of the County address. He stated that Supervisor Thomas and the County Administrator had also attended the event and he recommended anyone who had not had a chance to attend to do so in the future. He highlighted a few things that were mentioned during the meeting, the first of which was that the County tax rate was 3.987 per thousand which, he noted, was one of the lowest tax rates in the entire State and also remained unchanged from 2019. He apprised another thing that was mentioned was that the County's current bond rating was AA stable, but this could improve in 2020 to AA+. He stated recently upon the request of the Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, the County had converted some taxable bonds to tax exempt bonds resulting in around \$3 million in savings over the next fifteen years and he thanked Mr. Swan for his guidance in that regard. He informed the County's total indebtedness was around \$40.7 million which was 25% of the Constitutional limit of \$160 million; he added this percentage had decreased from 27% last year. He informed there was a 2.9% increase in sales tax revenue collections as compared to the same time period in 2018 and the County's total equalized full value assessment had increased by \$158 million from last year. He remarked an expanding and improved tax base was always viewed as a positive step forward, with the present amount of assessed value in the County coming in at \$11.4 billion. Chairman Conover apprised he had attended Senator Little's press conference where she announced her retirement; he said he believed all of the Board

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Members would join him in thanking Senator Little for the many years of service she provided to the County, first on the local level and then at the State. He stated he found the Warren County Highway Superintendents year-end luncheon on December 5th to be very informative and he encouraged everyone to attend a future luncheon. He informed on December 16th he had attended the luncheon and year end meeting of the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District during which Supervisor Thomas, who served as the Chairman of their Board of Directors for the past ten years, was honored for his service to them over the past sixteen years and he thanked Supervisor Thomas for this service. Chairman Conover mentioned the Warren County Planning & Community Development Department had provided each Town Supervisor with the poster of their individual Town to allow them to be displayed at their Town Halls. He reminded all Town Supervisors to pick up their tax rolls from Mrs. Allen's office immediately following the conclusion of the meeting. Chairman Conover offered privilege of the floor to Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, to provide an update on the 2019 Storm Recovery.

Mr. Hajos advised he was pleased to announce that the President of the United States had signed off on Governor Cuomo's formal request for aide to assist with the cost of repairs as a result of the Halloween storm. He explained this meant that FEMA (*Federal Emergency Management Agency*) would provide 75% reimbursement for any repairs made as a result of this storm. In regard to the individual assistance to homeowners, he apprised this was still pending review.

Chairman Conover remarked this was excellent news for the towns that had sustained significant damage as a result of the storm. Chairman Conover concluded his report by wishing everyone present, as well as the residents of the County, a joyful and happy holiday and a happy New Year.

Chairman Conover then called for the reports by Committee Chairmen on the past months meetings or activities.

Supervisor Merlino informed the Tourism Committee had met on November 19th, approving proposed Resolution No. 589 which he provided a brief summary of. He stated copies of the Travel Guide for next year had been distributed to the Board members prior to the meeting and he encouraged anyone who would like more to contact the Tourism Department. He mentioned this had been an excellent year for the tourism industry in the County, with Smith Travel reporting that there was an excess of one million rooms reserved this year so far. He advised they had commenced monitoring the rentals in the County managed by Airbnb to ensure they had an accurate listing of all of them for when occupancy tax could be collected from them. In regards to occupancy tax revenue collection, Supervisor Merlino apprised there was an 8% increase (\$311,194) in occupancy tax revenue collections as compared to 2018, which was a record setting year for the County, and sales tax revenue collection was up over one million dollars, as well. He remarked he was looking forward to another healthy year for tourism in the County in 2020.

Supervisors Strough and Wild indicated they had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Beaty reported on the November 18th and December 5th meetings of the County Facilities Committee where they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 537-541 and 592 and he provided a brief overview of each. He stated he was pleased they were finally able to provide the Office of Emergency Services with the building they had been requesting for several years now to house their emergency vehicles and equipment by selling the property located on Warren Street formerly known as the Ciba Geigy property to Perkins Recycling Corp. for \$450,000. He said the cost of the new building, which would be erected on the Municipal Center campus, was slightly less than \$400,000 resulting in a net gain for the County and he recognized Mr. Hajos and Brian LaFlure, *Director, Office of Emergency*

Services/Fire Coordinator, as well as the others involved in the process.

Supervisor Magowan indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Sokol informed the Finance Committee had met on December 5th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 521-522, 598-613 and 626-627. He apprised proposed Resolution Nos. 600-606 all concerned Capital Projects, and proposed Resolution No. 609 pertained to a proposal which authorized awarding the contract to Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc., as the lowest bidder, to provide property and casualty insurance broker services. He added Amy Clute, *Self-Insurance Administrator*, had voiced her support of moving forward with the County's consultant recommendation of awarding the contract to them. He informed proposed Resolution No. 613, which Supervisor Hogan was passionate about, concerned supporting an increase in the amount of State funding provided to Cornell Cooperative Extension. He apprised the remainder of the resolutions approved by the Finance Committee pertained to basic housekeeping items. Supervisor Sokol offered privilege of the floor to Mr. Swan to provide the monthly update regarding the County's finances.

Mr. Swan remarked that it had been a pleasure working with Chairman Conover over the last few years and he acknowledged him for a job well done; he added he would also like to thank the Supervisors who would not be returning for another term for their service. He informed he had been unable to attend the December 5th Finance Committee meeting where some questions were asked regarding the request to authorize the issuance of serial bonds in the amount of \$1,800,000 to cover the cost of repairs as a result of the Halloween storm. He said one of the reasons he had made this request was because of the bond refinancing that was being organized, as the County was just below what Standard & Poor's Financial Services, LLC felt the County should have as a balance in the Unappropriated Surplus Fund Balance. He apprised because of this he would rather borrow the money to cover the cost of the storm repairs to ensure they received the best possible rates when they refinanced those bonds for the Human Services Building. He stated he had distributed the Underwriter's tabulation sheet regarding the bond refinancing to the Board Members last week; he explained the Underwriters were the ones who sold the bonds and paid off the old bonds and they had indicated they could obtain a rate of 1.74% for the County which would save the County around \$3.7 million over the next fifteen years. He said although it was more expensive to use them than other companies he felt the amount of savings far outweighed the additional cost. He added these were not direct costs to the County because they were rolled into the financing, similar to what occurs when homes were refinanced, with the goal of going out for sale on the bonds during the first week of February.

Supervisor Beaty asked what the net savings to the County would be as a result of refinancing the bonds and Mr. Swan responded it was \$3.7 million. Supervisor Beaty questioned whether the additional costs of the underwriting were figured into that savings. Mr. Swan replied affirmatively, adding all of the additional costs were encompassed within the savings.

Mr. Swan concluded his report by wishing everyone a happy New Year.

Chairman Conover informed it was his privilege, along with Supervisor Geraghty, to honor Supervisor Sokol, who would not be returning to the Board next year. He asked Supervisor Sokol to come forward; he then proceeded to present him with an engraved clock commemorating his thirteen years of dedicated service as a member of the Warren County Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Geraghty apprised it had been a pleasure working with him and he wished him well with his future endeavors. Chairman Conover recognized Supervisor Sokol for doing an outstanding job serving as Vice-Chair of the Board the last three years and he wished him well with his future endeavors. A round of applause followed. Supervisor Sokol apprised it had been an honor and a pleasure to serve as a member of the

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Board and he thanked his immediate and extended family for being so supportive of him, his constituents who had voted for him, the past members of the Board of Supervisors who had assisted him, the County staff he had worked with during his tenure, Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, for all of the improvements he had made which he believed would continue on, Mary Elizabeth Kissane, *County Attorney*, who he felt was doing an exceptional job and Mrs. Allen and her staff for the excellent work they did. He also acknowledged Mr. Swan, Tammie DeLorenzo, *Assistant to the County Administrator*, and Rob Lynch, *Deputy County Treasurer*, for their hard work. He stated the County was in good financial standing and he believed this would continue on into the future. He thanked the Board members, noting he thoroughly enjoyed representing the citizens of the Town of Queensbury. A round of applause followed.

Supervisor Thomas reported on the November 25th meeting of the Budget Committee where they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 523-536 and he provided a brief overview of each. He noted proposed Resolution No. 531 which authorized payment to the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board was a duplicate of proposed Resolution No. 524. Mrs. Allen interjected that proposed Resolution No. 524 had been revised to reflect authorizing payment to the Lake George Park Commission. Supervisor Thomas advised the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District had received grant funding from the Regional Economic Development Council totaling \$140,000 for Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study in the Town of Queensbury, culvert replacements in the Towns of Hague and Queensbury, and culvert repairs in the Towns of Hague, Queensbury and Stony Creek. He added they had also been awarded three grants in 2020 for the Lake Champlain Basin. Supervisor Thomas informed this year Steven Lovering, *Director, Town of Queensbury Parks, Recreation & Railroad Department*, was selected to be honored as the Conservationist of the year at the annual meeting of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Supervisor Hyde indicated she had nothing to report.

Supervisor Geraghty stated that the Personnel & Higher Education Committee had approved proposed Resolution No. 593-597, 625 and 629-630. He highlighted proposed Resolution No. 596 which appointed Liza Ochsendorf as the new Director of the Employment & Training Administration and he asked Ms. Ochsendorf to stand up to allow the Board Members who had not met her to be aware of who she was. Supervisor Geraghty acknowledged Supervisors Sokol, Loeb and Hyde for their dedication to the Board of Supervisors over the last few years. He also recognized Chairman Conover, advising he was well aware that serving as the Chairman was no easy task and he was appreciative of how well Chairman Conover had handled the job. He stated although the Board Members had many spirited conversations during their meetings they all considered one another friends. Supervisor Geraghty requested support of proposed Resolution No. 578 which concerned the sewer extension to connect Countryside Adult Home and Cornell Cooperative Extension to the Town of Warrensburg sewer system. He remarked he was pleased the project was almost fully completed, as the NYS DEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*) had finally approved allowing them to start up the sewer line. He thanked Mr. Hajos and the DPW staff for the work they did on the project.

Supervisor Leggett reported the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee had met on November 19th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 542-548 and he provided a brief summary of each. He acknowledged Chairman Conover for the leadership he had provided to the Board Members, as well as Supervisors Hyde, Loeb and Sokol for their service.

Supervisor Diamond indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor McDevitt informed he had also attended Senator Little's press conference where she

announced her retirement. He remarked he believed Senator Little had served her constituents better than any other Senator in the entire State and she would be missed. He thanked Supervisors Sokol, Hyde and Loeb for their efforts, adding they would be missed, as well. He recognized Chairman Conover for a job well done, apprising he was appreciative of the Chairman's positive attitude and enthusiasm for the job. Supervisor McDevitt mentioned yesterday Governor Cuomo had awarded the City of Glens Falls \$10 million, the Town of Chester \$25,000 and funding for Lake George and Nettle Meadow Farm and Artisan Cheese in the Town of Thurman from the Empire Development Corporation. He concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Supervisor Braymer apprised the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee had met on November 19th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 552 and 553 and she provided a brief overview of each. She stated the Septic Working group had met to discuss the septic inspection law and she encouraged anyone interested in participating to notify her. She mentioned the electric vehicle charging stations had been installed in the car pool parking lot of the Warren County Municipal Center building, apprising only electric vehicles park were allowed to park where these stations were located and signs would be erected shortly stating same. She offered privilege of the floor to Lexie Delurey, *Director, Real Property Tax Services*, to provide an update on some of the County-owned properties.

Ms. Delurey stated she had met with representatives of NYS DEC on December 4th at the Town of Chester property located at 10 Pine Street, apprising NYS DEC had removed two underground storage tanks which were riveted tanks that were no longer manufactured. She said the first tank was a five hundred gallon gas tank and the other was a 1,000 gallon gas tank, adding both tanks were mostly full of gas. She informed the representatives of NYS DEC had chased the lines and found the historical common dispenser island; she said they had used a company to handle the majority of the excavating for them which consisted of excavating the impacted soils at the location down to about three feet below the grade until they got out of the contamination. She said someone notified them that there may be a tank that was used for heating oil on the back of the property; however, she noted, the ground penetrating radar that had already been completed did not locate anything nor did they find anything when they review checked the area again. She informed the tank closure reports should be available in about a month following which the NYS DEC would be able to closeout the spill and the County would receive an invoice from them for the County's portion of the cost which was \$2,500.

Supervisor Braymer thanked Ms. Delurey for the update on the property which had been at a standstill for many years now; she said she was pleased they would be receiving a closure for the parcel She mentioned during her conversation with the representative from the NYS DEC he had indicated that Ms. Delurey had done a superb job due to her knowledge and was easy to work with. In regard to the Mullen's property on Bay Road in the Town of Queensbury, Supervisor Braymer advised that an RFP (*Request for Proposal*) had been sent out requesting bids for the demolition of the building. Ms. Delurey informed the walk through was scheduled for January 7th for anyone interested in bidding on the project and the bid opening would follow on January 16th. Supervisor Braymer mentioned individuals from the private sector had indicated they may be interested in purchasing the property now that the County was moving forward with cleaning up the parcel. She said the County would benefit if the parcel was placed back onto the tax roll. In conclusion she thanked Supervisor Loeb for his years of service during which he provided creative and practical solutions, as well as for working hard for the community.

Supervisor Loeb remarked he was sad that he would no longer be a member of the Board of Supervisors; however, he noted, he was looking forward to working with the American Red Cross Disaster Services which would require him to work closely with the County's Office of Emergency Services. He advised the Support Services Committee had met on November 18th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 586-

588 which he requested support of. He mentioned not only did the staff of the ten departments that were overseen by the Support Services Committee all do exceptional jobs, but also all County staff did remarkable work for the County taxpayers and residents. He informed he commenced his tenure as a County Supervisor in 2010, serving for four years and then taking a few years off before serving another two years. He advised he was confident in the ability of Daniel Bruno, who would be sworn in as the new Supervisor representing the 4th Ward in the City of Glens Falls in the new year, as he had many years of experience as the chairman of the City of Glens Falls Planning Board and would bring new ideas, as well as a fresh perspective to the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Loeb apprised he would like to make a non-political statement regarding the County finances. He said in 2010 the County was not in good financial standing like it was today with the anticipated balance of the Unappropriated Surplus Fund Balance projected to be around \$22 million which would almost cover the two months of operating expenses for the County the State Comptroller recommended for the balance. He remarked he felt it was pertinent for the Board Members to realize while the County was currently in good financial standing a downturn in the economy was inevitable. He remarked it was imperative that they maintain the healthy, efficient workforce, as well as the services provided when the recession began. He suggested that the Board Members sustain and improve the balance of the Unappropriated Surplus Fund Balance to ensure the County was financially prepared to weather the economic downturn that was foreseen.

Supervisor Driscoll stated he had no Committee report, but he would like to voice his respect for the three outgoing Supervisors, as well as those who would be replacing them on the Board. He concluded by wishing everyone a blessed holiday season.

Supervisor Frasier advised the Health, Human & Social Services Committee had met on November 18th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 554-567 and she provided a brief overview of each. She echoed Supervisor Loeb's comment regarding the County Department Heads; she added she had thoroughly enjoyed working with the Department Heads and she hoped everyone was aware of the exceptional work they did and how fortunate the County was to have on staff. She concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Supervisor Simpson apprised the Public Works Committee had met on November 18th where they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 570-585. He requested support of proposed Resolution No. 578 which was highlighted by Supervisor Geraghty earlier in the meeting and pertained to the sewer extension to connect Countryside Adult Home and Cornell Cooperative Extension to the Town of Warrensburg sewer system. He called attention to proposed Resolution No. 585 which concerned commencing the abandonment proceedings with the STB (*Surface Transportation Board*) for the County-owned Railroad and he asked Mr. Moore to elaborate on that process.

Mr. Moore informed proposed Resolution No. 585 had been amended to clarify a number of points regarding what abandonment was. He explained abandonment was a proceeding governed by the STB that was aimed at determining whether the Federal Government should abandon its freight jurisdiction over this corridor. He apprised abandonment did not mean that the County was physically abandoning its infrastructure nor did it mean they would be hurrying to tear up the tracks. He stated abandonment meant there would first be a federally mandated financial assistance process to determine whether there was viable freight usage for the line and if not then the process was used as a tool to assist the County and its partners to move towards the most viable non-freight use of this corridor. He mentioned the railroad may not end up abandoned by the end of this process with one possible outcome being railbanking the corridor for recreational use thereby leaving the federal freight jurisdiction intact for the future if a need for freight did develop. He advised another outcome could be passenger rail if a viable operation for this purpose surfaced; he added passenger rail could still operate on a federally abandoned railroad. He continued, informing another outcome could be recreation including hiking,

biking, snowmobiles, railbikes and other uses. He apprised it was imperative that they were all aware that initiating abandonment did not decide the fate of this corridor, but rather put the County on a path to make a decision with all of the interested parties involved when the time derived. He stated this was in contrast to the status that the County taxpayers would continue to subsidize this corridor indefinitely with no clear direction established; he added he found this status quo to be unacceptable.

Supervisor Simpson apprised he would like to echo the sentiments that had been expressed by his colleagues regarding the outgoing Supervisors, as well as Chairman Conover; he added it had been an honor and privilege to serve with them. He concluded his report by wishing everyone and their families a Merry Christmas in good health.

Supervisor Hogan stated she was requesting support of proposed Resolution No. 613 which Supervisor Sokol had mentioned during his Committee report which pertained to supporting an increase in the amount of State funding provided to Cornell Cooperative Extension. She advised not only were the programs offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension important, but also a number of them were mandated by the State and the County needed to show them their support because the funding had not been increased in a number of years. She apprised she was also requesting support of proposed Resolution No. 585 which concerned the abandonment proceedings for the County-owned Railroad that Mr. Moore had just outlined. Supervisor Hogan thanked Mr. Hajos, the DPW staff and the Town of Warrensburg for the assistance they provided to Cornell Cooperative Extension connecting the utilities to the new training center.

Supervisor Dickinson reported on the November 19th meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, where Robert Blais, *Mayor, Village of Lake George*, had presented a request for \$100,000 in occupancy tax funding per year for the next five years to assist with paying for the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant. He stated Jeff Mead, *Representing the Cool Insuring Arena*, had provided an update on the fourth quarter events at the Cool Insuring Arena; he added the Adirondack Civic Center Coalition was making great strides by continuing to grow their agenda which was beneficial to the County since the Arena was an asset for them. He said the meeting concluded with Kristen Hanifan, *Special Events & Convention Sales Director, Lake George Chamber of Commerce and CVB*, reviewing the CVB 4th Quarter Report 2019. He added no resolutions were requested at the meeting.

Continuing to the report by the County Administrator, Mr. Moore apprised they would hold off on the presentation of the Employee of the Month Award for December to Jennifer Ramsey, *Office Specialist, Office of Emergency Services*, until next month when Mr. LaFlure was able to attend and take part in the presentation.

Mr. Moore recognized Wayne LaMothe for 35 years of service to the Planning Department.

Mr. Moore remarked he would be remiss not to thank Supervisor Sokol, At-Large Supervisor for the Town of Queensbury, Supervisor Hyde, who represented the Town of Thurman and Supervisor Loeb, who represented the 4th Ward in the City of Glens Falls, for their service to the County which would be ending at the close of the year. He stated all three of them had treated him fairly, which he was appreciative of; however, he noted, more important than that was that they were supportive of the County Department Heads, as well as their staff and he wished them well with their future endeavors. He added he would also like to recognize Sheriff York, whom he had worked closely with almost everyday, including weekends during which they had shared a significant number of laughs and he would be greatly missed. He thanked Sheriff York for all he had accomplished over his long career in

law enforcement.

Mr. Moore advised this was also the last Board Meeting that Chairman Conover would preside over, and he wanted to thank him for his hard work and support. He mentioned everyone had unique strengths, but he had never worked with a local elected official who focused on the long-term as well as Chairman Conover did. He stated Chairman Conover had an uncommon vision and great intellect and he was looking forward to continuing to work with him as a Town Supervisor. He concluded by congratulating Chairman Conover on a job well done.

Mr. Moore stated there were 111 resolutions going before the Board of Supervisors for approval due to the fact that the next Committee meeting schedule would not allow for resolutions to go before the Board again until the February 21, 2020 Board Meeting resulting in a rush at the end of the year to take care of any action required. He said because of this there were more resolutions that were amended, as well as ones that were prepared after the mailing. He informed he would like to highlight the more substantive of the eight resolutions that were amended.

In regard to proposed Resolution No. 585, *Authorizing the Commencement of Abandonment Proceedings with the Service Transportation Board (STB) for the County Owned Railroad Tracks*, Mr. Moore apprised the first draft of the resolution was included in the mailing because he did not make the deadline for revisions. He said the amended resolution clarified a number of points regarding what abandonment was.

Mr. Moore stated an amendment was approved for proposed Resolution No. 593, *Amending Table of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2020*, at this morning's meeting of the Personnel & Higher Education Committee to make a technical correction and to include an adjustment to the Undersheriff's 2020 salary which was reduced from \$107,941 to \$35,000 at the request of the Sheriff-elect. He continued, apprising also at this Committee meeting a temporary clerical position for the County Attorney's Office was approved in order to cover for an employee who was out on medical leave; he added this position had no impact on the departmental budget.

Mr. Moore apprised the first of the six resolutions which were added after the mailing was proposed Resolution No. 630, *Approving a Final Payroll Disbursement in the Veterans' Services Department*, which pertained to the final payroll disbursement for the Veterans' Office Peer to Peer Coordinator, who had resigned effective today. He stated proposed Resolution No. 629, *Authorizing the Terms of the Warren County Correctional Supervisors Association Memorandum of Agreement and Authorizing the Chairman of the Board to Sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement that Incorporates the Terms of the Memorandum of Agreement*, approved a new collective bargaining agreement with the two Correction Lieutenants. He explained the agreement was similar to the one that was approved in October for the PSBA (*Police Supervisors Benevolent Association*) and he thanked Lieutenants Dan Clifford and Wayne Farmer for working with him on this agreement. He remarked both of these individuals were good men who did a great job and he was appreciative of their commitment to the County.

In regard to proposed Resolution No. 626, *Authorizing Renewal of Warren County's Property and Casualty Insurance for 2020 and Authorizing Payments for Same*, Mr. Moore informed this had been approved by the Finance Committee, but was not ready for mailing and concerned authorizing payment for the County's 2020 property and casualty insurance program. He stated they were all aware an RFP was released for these services for the first time in almost twenty years which he was pleased to note resulted in significant savings for the County. He said the County's new insurance broker, Arthur J. Gallagher, and primary carrier, Zurich Insurance, had saved the County around \$120,000 as compared to this year's expense, which was rather significant (*representing 12% off of the bill*). He mentioned a

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significant amount of work was put into the RFP, but he felt it was worthwhile and he thanked Ms. Clute and Frank Calo, *OneGroup Center*, for their assistance with the process.

Mr. Moore advised proposed Resolution No. 627, *Resolution Authorizing the Reconstruction and/or Resurfacing of Portions of Various County Roads Including Gutters, Drainage, Landscaping and Drainage at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$1,800,000 and Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,800,000 Serial Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof and also Authorizing the County Treasurer to Make Temporary Advances of Legally Available Funds Therefor*, which concerned authorizing the issuance of up to \$1.8 million in serial bonds to pay for storm-related repairs to County roads had also been approved by the Finance Committee, but was not ready in time for the mailing. He said as was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting the actual cost of these repairs may not be \$1.8 million, nor did the resolution mean the County Treasurer would immediately borrow all of this money. He apprised this merely meant the County Treasurer had the authority to take what action was required. He stated as indicated earlier by Mr. Hajos the County would be receiving money from FEMA for 75% of these costs; however, he noted, since this was handled on a reimbursement basis the County must front the cash and borrowing the funds would allow them to so do.

Mr. Moore indicated proposed Resolution No. 628, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Waste Management of New York, LLC for Solid Waste and Recycling Disposal Services for the Town of Lake Luzerne (WC 82-19)*, was the result of a competitive bid process, but the results were not available in time for the Public Works Committee meeting.

In regard to the proposed Floor Resolution No. 1, *Amending Resolution No. 94 of 2018, which Authorized the Chairman of the Board to Execute Correspondence Approving Just Compensation Amounts and Authorizing Negotiations with Property Owners for Land Acquisitions Related to the Palisades Road (CR 26) over Brant Lake Inlet Bridge Replacement, to Change the Just Compensation Amount*, Mr. Moore apprised this pertained to a 2018 resolution involving a litigated matter that the County Attorney would address in her report.

Mr. Moore read aloud a listing of the meetings he attended since the November 15th Board Meeting, a copy of which is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ms. Kissane to provide a report from the County Attorney. Ms. Kissane advised as Mr. Moore had indicated the proposed Floor Resolution No. 1, *Amending Resolution No. 94 of 2018, which Authorized the Chairman of the Board to Execute Correspondence Approving Just Compensation Amounts and Authorizing Negotiations with Property Owners for Land Acquisitions Related to the Palisades Road (CR 26) over Brant Lake Inlet Bridge Replacement, to Change the Just Compensation Amount*, concerned a land acquisition in the Town of Horicon. She explained when this project had first begun the owners of the land surrounding the road were unclear; however, she noted, in the two years since commencing this project the engineering staff for the DPW, as well as the outside consultants worked tirelessly to identify all of the parties who had an ownership interest. She said because of this an amendment to Resolution No. 94 of 2018, which allocated the just compensation among those owners, was required to add the new owners to the tax parcel and to allocate their share of the just compensation differently than what was allocated in 2018. Ms. Kissane advised she would also like to take a moment to thank the Board Members who were leaving at the end of year, as she was appreciative of their hard work for the County, as well as their unending supporting for the County employees. She remarked it was a pleasure to work with them and she wished them the best of luck with their future endeavors. Ms. Kissane also acknowledged Chairman Conover for the excellent leadership he had provided over the past three years; she added Chairman Conover was leaving big shoes to fill in terms of his service, as well as his support for the employees. She concluded her report

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by wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday.

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

Reports from:

1. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission - Base Flow Deviation Reports, Articles 402 and 405.
2. Warren County Probation Department - September and October 2019 Reports of Family Workloads.
3. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation Financial Reports dated August 31, 2019 and September 30, 2019.

Letters/emails from:

1. Whitehall Central School District - asking the Warren County Board of Supervisors to consider donating the railroad caboose currently located at the Thurman Train Station to the Whitehall Central School District.
2. Sheriff Bud York - letter of resignation from the Warren County Traffic Safety Board effective December 31, 2019.

Other:

1. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation October payment in the amount of \$2,821.
2. Essex County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 314 of 2019 - Placing all entities with property or ownership interest in the Sanford Lake Branch of the North Creek Railroad or Tahawus Line on notice of unpaid real property taxes due to the County of Essex.
3. Warren-Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency 2020 Budget.
4. Town of Stony Creek Resolution No. 126 of 2019, opposing NY Assembly Act 8123 which seeks to restrict subdivisions of land into large residential lots or rural sprawl.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 521-625 were mailed; she informed that proposed Resolution Nos. 521, 524, 578, 585, 593, 614, 615 and 622 were amended after mailing and a motion was needed to approve these revisions. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Sokol, seconded by Supervisor Magowan and carried unanimously. She apprised proposed Resolution Nos. 626-630 were produced after the resolutions were mailed, and a motion was necessary to bring them to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Magowan, seconded by Supervisor Dickinson and carried unanimously. Mrs. Allen stated a motion was necessary to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 1, which was outlined by Ms. Kissane, to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Wild, seconded by Supervisor Simpson and carried unanimously. Mrs. Allen informed the proposed Floor Resolution No. 1 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 631.

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

Supervisor Loeb apprised he had two requests for roll call votes, the first of which was on proposed Resolution No. 585, *Authorizing the Commencement of Abandonment Proceedings with the Service Transportation Board (STB) for the County Owned Railroad Tracks*. He apprised because this was authorizing a process that would take a significant amount of time to come to a conclusion he felt there should be a record of how each Board Member had voted.

Supervisor Loeb stated he was also requesting a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 592,

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Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Bishop Beaudry Construction, LLC to Purchase and Install a Pre-Engineered Metal Building for Office of Emergency Services/Department of Public Works (WC 75-19), because as had been previously stated the building was way overdue and he believed it should be on the record that the Board Members were in favor of moving forward with the building.

Supervisor Strough requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 622, *Authorizing Payments to SUNY Adirondack.*

Supervisor Thomas requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 584, *Declaring the Boston and Maine Caboose Located at the Thurman Station as Surplus Property.* He said a significant amount of improvements had been made to the caboose by the former railroad operator and he believed there was potential for it to be used regardless of whether the rail line was used for a railroad or as a trail.

Supervisor Sokol asked whether proposed Resolution No. 631, *Amending Resolution No. 94 of 2018, which Authorized the Chairman of the Board to Execute Correspondence Approving Just Compensation Amounts and Authorizing Negotiations with Property Owners for Land Acquisitions Related to the Palisades Road (CR 26) over Brant Lake Inlet Bridge Replacement, to Change the Just Compensation Amount,* would require a roll call vote and Ms. Kissane replied in the negative.

Supervisor Dickinson asked what the purpose was for making the Boston and Maine Caboose located at the Thurman Station surplus property. Mr. Moore responded declaring it surplus property was the first step required in order for it to be sold. Supervisor Merlino remarked he felt one of the towns along the railroad corridor should be given the option to purchase it prior to selling it to an outside source; he added he believed the caboose should remain within the County.

Chairman Conover apprised since declaring the caboose surplus property was not a time sensitive matter, he felt they should consider tabling proposed Resolution No. 584. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Hogan and carried unanimously to table proposed Resolution No. 584, *Declaring the Boston and Maine Caboose Located at the Thurman Station as Surplus Property,* and send it back to Committee.

In regard to proposed Resolution No. 606, *Establishing Capital Project No. H397, OES Garage; Authorizing Transfer of Funds; and Amending Warren County Budget for 2019,* Supervisor Wild stated he would like to recognize the County staff that provided him with support when he was enlisted to try and get this accomplished which included Mr. Hajos, Frank Morehouse, *Superintendent of Buildings,* Ms. Kissane and Mr. Moore. He said each of them had done an exceptional job providing him with support. He added the new owner had contacted him to express his appreciation of the County taking care of the trash remaining on the property when he took possession of the parcel.

Supervisor Braymer expressed concerns regarding the lack of information provided to the Board Members regarding proposed Resolution No. 631, *Amending Resolution No. 94 of 2018, which Authorized the Chairman of the Board to Execute Correspondence Approving Just Compensation Amounts and Authorizing Negotiations with Property Owners for Land Acquisitions Related to the Palisades Road (CR 26) over Brant Lake Inlet Bridge Replacement, to Change the Just Compensation Amount,* and she asked if Mr. Hajos could provide additional details on what was occurring there.

Mr. Hajos advised the property owners involved with this particular land acquisition had changed, with one parcel having several owners and the original just compensation did not have all of these parcel owners listed. He said the amendment would ensure these individuals were included in the just compensation so they were paid for their portion of the parcel. He stated this concerned the Federal

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Aid Project for the Palisades Road (CR 26) over Brant Lake Inlet Bridge Replacement where the Federal Government would reimburse the County for 90% of the cost and the State provided for 5% reimbursement and this resolution would allow the County to pay the land owners so the final design documents could be closed out and move forward with construction. Supervisor Braymer asked whether the purpose was not to add any new parcels that would be taken for the Project, but rather to ensure the proper owners and compensation amounts were listed and Mr. Hajos replied affirmatively.

Supervisor Leggett informed Supervisor Hogan had held a public meeting last week that Mr. Moore and Supervisors Wild and Simpson had attended concerning the abandonment proceeding which was very informative. He thanked Supervisor Hogan for opening up the discussion to the public and those immediately impacted by any action that occurred involving the County Railroad. He remarked it appeared the public was comforted by the explanation provided by Mr. Moore concerning the abandonment proceeding, as well as the questions he answered regarding same.

Supervisor Braymer stated she was also pleased that Supervisor Hogan had organized the meeting regarding the abandonment for the residents who would be impacted and she extended an apology for not being able to attend due to another commitment. She apprised everyone was well aware she had been advocating for the railroad corridor to be converted to a rail trail, as she believed it would be beneficial for the County residents in terms of their quality of life, as well as attract outdoor recreation tourism since there was significant opportunity for trail side businesses such as bed and breakfast facilities, food and beverage, retail for outdoor gear, etc. She added since everyone was aware that tourism was one of the largest economic drivers for the County she felt they could all be supportive of this. She stated she was appreciative that Mr. Moore included language in proposed Resolution No. 585, *Authorizing the Commencement of Abandonment Proceedings with the Service Transportation Board (STB) for the County Owned Railroad Tracks*, which indicated the railroad tracks did not have to be torn up as soon as possible, as she did not believe this was necessary because of the opportunity for rail biking or passenger rail that existed there. She suggested they take their time with the planning process to determine what the best use was, as well as what segments of the corridor they could do certain things with. She stated she believed this was the first step toward their long-term planning for the economic potential that existed in the corridor and the small towns located along the railroad.

Supervisor Magowan advised he had read an article featured in *The Post Star* regarding the North Creek Depot Museum and the number of visitors that went there which he found to be very informative. He thanked Mr. Moore for clarifying that the purpose of the abandonment proceeding was not for the County to tear up the tracks, but rather to open up the corridor for other options. He thanked the outgoing Supervisors for their service to the County, apprising he had thoroughly enjoyed working with them He also recognized Chairman Conover for providing great leadership to the Board Members over the last three years so they could become a stronger Board. He concluded by wishing everyone happy holidays.

Supervisor Braymer stated although she was aware that Mr. Hajos was working on this, she would like to bring forward again that the Solid Waste Management Plan for the County needed to be updated to ensure the residents were educated on how to properly dispose of the items to reduce the number of items that were taken to the incinerator.

Chairman Conover exited the meeting at 11:22 a.m. to take a phone call and Vice-Chairman Sokol assumed the Chair.

Supervisor Wild asked whether it would be possible to group together some of the roll call votes and

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Vice-Chairman Sokol replied affirmatively. Vice-Chairman Sokol advised that proposed Resolution Nos. 521 and 522 would be voted on together, as well as proposed Resolution Nos. 598-607.

There being no further discussion, Vice-Chairman Sokol called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 521-631 were approved as presented, with the exception of Resolution No. 584 which was tabled.

Chairman Conover reentered the meeting during the roll call votes, but did not return to the Chair.

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

Supervisor Beaty apprised he would like to provide a brief update regarding the vehicle charging stations that were recently installed on the Warren County Municipal Center campus, informing that one person had used them for twenty-six minutes thus far. He advised currently there was no cost to use them, but next week a fee would be instituted. He said there were five units, each containing two bays. He thanked the outgoing Supervisors for their service, adding the Board had been able to accomplish a significant amount of work during their tenures. He added although they did not always agree, he felt that was what made up good government because when everyone agreed the end result was watered down. He recognized Chairman Conover for the exceptional job he had done over the past three years keeping the Board Members in line and accomplishing many things.

Supervisor Thomas stated he was going to miss sitting next to Supervisor Sokol, the unique perspectives that Supervisor Loeb brought to just about every issue and the updates Supervisor Hyde provided to him on his great niece and nephew. He concluded by thanking Chairman Conover for giving him the opportunity to serve as the Budget Officer.

Supervisor Diamond advised since the intent of this Board was to appoint a new Chairman at the Organization Meeting scheduled for January 3rd and there were a few Supervisors that were interested in the position he would like them to answer the following three questions to assist him with making an informed decision on who he would support for the position: he would like them to outline their goals and how they planned on achieving them; how much time would they had to devote to the Chairman position because Chairman Conover spent a significant amount of his time working on County business; and because the assembly of their team was relative he would like to know in advance of voting on the Chairman position who they would be selecting as their Vice-Chair, as well as the Budget Officer. Supervisor Sokol asked if Supervisor Diamond would like the answers emailed to him before the meeting. Supervisor Diamond responded that they could share their responses with him during the Organization Meeting.

Supervisor Leggett remarked that Sheriff York, whose term was ending at the end of the year, had served the County well during his tenure and should be recognized for taking steps to make significant improvements to the Sheriff's Office and the County Jail. He stated Sheriff York had served the County well and he wanted to extend appreciation to him for all he had done.

Vice-Chairman Sokol called for announcements, but none were made.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Beaty and seconded by Supervisor Dickinson, Vice-Chairman Sokol adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:36 a.m.