

BOARD MEETING FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020



The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Frank E. Thomas presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Strough.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Leggett, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll, Frasier, Simpson, Hogan, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Magowan, Seeber, Beaty, Shepler, Geraghty and Thomas- 19; Supervisor Dickinson absent- 1.

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Thomas noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2019 Board Meeting and the January 3rd Organization Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Strough and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Dickinson entered the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

Continuing to the presentation of the Employee of the Month award, Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, stated the Board members may recall that the December 2019 award was postponed until today due to Brian LaFlure, *Director, Office of Emergency Services/Fire Coordinator*, being unable to attend the December Board meeting. Mr. LaFlure apprised it was his pleasure to introduce Jennifer Ramsey, *Office Specialist, Office of Emergency Services*, who was responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the Office; he added that he and the his staff were appreciative of all she did. A round of applause was given.

Ms. Ramsey thanked Mr. LaFlure and the Board Members for recognizing her, as she felt it was nice to be appreciated.

Mr. Moore and Chairman Thomas presented Ms. Ramsey with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Board. Another round of applause was given.

Proceeding to the presentation of the January Employee of the Month award, Mr. Moore informed Tammy Breen, *Supervisor, Children Services,* was in attendance to present the award to Stephanie Coulman, *Child Protective Services Caseworker.* Ms. Breen stated Ms. Coulman was a veteran worker within the Child Protective Services Unit of the Department of Social Services, who mentored all new staff members by assisting them with field work and learning the computer systems which were rather complicated. She continued, informing Ms. Coulman also handled some of the more difficult cases, including a recent one involving a child fatality and another case which concerned serious physical abuse. She said Ms. Coulman was the "go to" employee for the Department and they were grateful for her work. A round of applause was given.

Mr. Moore and Chairman Thomas presented Ms. Coulman with a Certificate of Appreciation from the

Board. Another round of applause was given.

Moving along to the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Thomas advised he had been busy working on County issues every day since being appointed as the Chairman two weeks ago, apprising he was becoming accustomed to his new position. He informed he had attended the FEMA (*Federal Emergency Management Agency*) application kick off meeting on January 14th along with several other Supervisors and that same day he met with the Samuel Hall, *Chairman, Washington County Board of Supervisors*, and Chris DeBolt, *Administrator, Washington County*, as well as attending the meeting of the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board. Chairman Thomas apprised on January 15th upon the request of Mr. Moore he had attended a brief Department Head meeting and last evening he and several other Supervisors had attended the retirement party for Bud York, *former Warren County Sheriff*.

Chairman Thomas stated the next item on the Agenda concerned the reports by Committee Chairman on the past months meetings or activities; however, he noted, no Committee meetings had been held.

Supervisor Wild informed a pamphlet had been distributed to the Board Members prior to the meeting regarding a proposed resolution he would like to see moved forward today that concerned the census. He stated Mr. Moore would be elaborating on the proposed Resolution during the report by the County Administrator, but he felt compelled to bring this to their attention beforehand because it was being brought before them with no notice, which he was typically against. He remarked in this case he felt it was imperative for the Board members to consider moving forward with the request in order to start preparing for the census.

Supervisor Hogan informed Cornell Cooperative Extension had held their Organizational Meeting which she felt was very productive; she added she was appreciative of the Supervisors who had attended this meeting. She advised Cornell Cooperative Extension was conducting their VITA (*Volunteer Income Tax Assistance*) Program, which offered free income tax preparation to families and individuals whose annual household income was below \$57,000 from January 28- April 9, 2020. She said last year 664 tax returns were prepared through this program which was a 4% increase over the number prepared in the previous year. She informed the total amount of refunds issued was \$909,000 and families and individuals saved \$215,000 in tax preparation fees. Supervisor Hogan advised Cornell Cooperative Extension also offered programs with Master Gardeners and the Youth Fair Committee, who had selected Homesteading as the theme for this year. She stated on Thursday, January 30th at 6:30 p.m. a 4H Adirondack Guide Orientation meeting would be held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office in Warrensburg.

Continuing to the report by the County Administrator, Mr. Moore recognized the following people for their years of service to the County which he said he was greatly appreciative of

- * Robert Iusi for 30 years of service to the Probation Department;
- * William Maston for 25 years of service to the Department of Public Works; and
- * Mary Kate Livingston for 20 years of service to the Department of Social Services.

Mr. Moore apprised that he believed everyone was aware the Bail and Discovery Reform Laws went into effect on January 1st and it was his intention to keep the Board Members informed of the real world effects of this legislation by providing regular updates at the Board Meetings, as well as Criminal Justice Committee meetings. He stated as of today there were eighty-two inmates in the Warren County Jail which was down from the low one hundreds held there most of previous year until it started to go below one hundred toward the end of the year. He added the lowest number of inmates they had in the County Jail was seventy, but that figure had increased slightly today; he added the County Jail had the

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capacity to hold 186 inmates. He mentioned since January 1st eight individuals, who he would refrain from naming, had been released from the County Jail due to the new State Law. He outlined the crimes these individuals had been charged with as follows: third degree criminal possession of a controlled substance; fifth degree criminal possession of a controlled substance; seventh degree criminal possession of a controlled substance; driving while ability impaired by drugs; making terroristic threats; fourth degree grand larceny; driving while intoxicated; and first degree burglary. He advised anyone who would like additional details regarding any of these crimes should contact him following the meeting. He stated he had additional details regarding the crimes he thought would standout the most, the first of which was making terroristic threats where an individual made a threat on November 4, 2019 to "shoot up" the County Human Services Building. He apprised the perpetrator was located immediately, interviewed and made admissions relating to their statements following which the Sheriff's Department applied for a warrant and this individual was arrested and sent to the County Jail on December 11th, but was subsequently released on January 1st. He mentioned the County had a restraining order in place to protect the employees and Building Security was provided with a picture of this individual in the event that they did return to the building. With regard to the burglary in the first degree, Mr. Moore advised this pertained to a twenty-one year old male who broke into a home and assaulted the resident of the home, who sustained significant injuries; however, he noted, this perpetrator was released on January 1st.

Mr. Moore advised Resolution Nos. 12, 14, 15 and 17 had been amended after mailing and Resolution Nos. 22-23 were prepared after mailing. He stated the one additional proposed Resolution that Supervisor Wild mentioned concerned the census. He said this year would be the first time the census would be fully online resulting in some changes in the recommendations as to how the Federal Government would conduct the census. He mentioned the Census Bureau had conducted a number of trainings across the United States with the Planning & Community Development Department being the focal point of that training. He informed the Federal Government identified populations that were traditionally undercounted including rural population, the elderly, minorities, renters, low income individuals and young children and recommended better ways for the County to notify them the census was taking place this year and to encourage their participation. He apprised one of the methods they recommended for this was to establish a local Committee to develop a strategy with this County's Committee consisting of members from a number of local organizations including Public Health, Office for the Aging, Warren County Head Start, North Country Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, the NAACP, the Association for the Blind, etc. He informed in conjunction with the Planning & Community Development Department this group had developed a strategy and outreach program which cost \$99,798 and corresponded with a State grant that the County was eligible for. He explained the State developed an amount that each County would be eligible for through the Empire State Development Economic Development grant program with Warren County being qualified for \$99,800. He advised it was imperative for the County to get started on this program now rather than waiting until the February 21st Board Meeting because the count started April 1st and the Federal Government was mailing out notices in early March. He said authorization was required in order to hire vendors and move forward with the required action. He continued, apprising he had been waiting to receive an assurance from the State that the County would receive the funding because the nature of the request today was dependent upon how much information the State provided to them. He said if they had an award letter in hand today the request would pertain to amending the County Budget for the full amount of \$99,800, as well as to authorize the full contract so the work could begin; however, he noted, since they had yet to receive an assurance from the State the request before them today was to authorize a contract with the Southern Adirondack Library System to administer Phase One of the County's U.S. Census Outreach Program in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 which was subject to potential reimbursement by New York State. He informed the Deputy Treasurer had determined authorization was required for a transfer of funds in the amount of \$25,000 from the Contingent

Account to cover the cost of the expense with the intention that those funds would be allocated back into the Contingent Account when they received the assurance from the State in order to move forward with amending the County Budget for the full amount. He stated during his detailed discussion with the Deputy Director of State Operations, who worked directly with the Governor and was overseeing the funding mechanism, he indicated he could there was no guarantee that the County would be reimbursed for the entirety of this program because the earliest release date for the template developed by the State which the County would fill out for this funding was January 23rd. He informed once this template was released the County would populate it with the information regarding this program, its budget and how it would be managed following which the State would complete a review to determine which costs they approved and denied. He advised he had spoken with State representatives about contracting with the Southern Adirondack Library System to manage this effort and they indicated to him there would be a second process for groups that fulfill the roll to qualify themselves with the State, but they were not ready to release what needed to be done in terms of getting these organizations qualified; he added they did indicate it appeared as if the Southern Adirondack Library System would be an agency would be qualified, but there was no guarantee of that.

Chairman Thomas stated relative to authorizing a contract with the Southern Adirondack Library System to administer Phase One of the County's U.S. Census Outreach Program in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 and authorizing a transfer of funds for same from the Contingent Account to pay for the expense, a motion and a second to Waive the Rules of the Board was required in order to bring this matter to the floor.

A motion was made by Supervisor Braymer and seconded by Supervisor Dickinson to Waive the Rules of the Board requiring that a Resolution be presented in writing regarding authorizing a contract with Southern Adirondack Library System as outlined above.

Supervisor Braymer advised she had attended a conference where one of the discussions concerned the issues with the U.S. Census and how to make it operational. She said she was pleased the County would be contracting with the Southern Adirondack Library System because one of the suggestions at the conference was to involve as many community organizations as possible in the process and she believed this would be an excellent way to collaborate with all of these different organizations and she applauded the Planning & Community Development Department for getting this underway. She said although she was unable to attend the Census 2020 Complete Count meeting on Monday she had attended the prior meeting and she believed they were moving forward appropriately. She remarked she was comfortable with Waiving the Rules of the Board to ensure this program moved forward.

Chairman Thomas called the question and the motion to Waive the Rules of the Board as outlined above was carried unanimously.

Chairman Thomas called for a motion to authorize the contract with the Southern Adirondack Library System to administer Phase One of the County's U.S. Census Outreach Program in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 and authorizing a transfer of funds for same from the Contingent Account to pay for the expense. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Braymer and seconded by Supervisor Simpson.

Supervisor Wild stated the County stood to lose 1% of its population count resulting in an annual loss in Federal funding of \$2 million. He remarked because of this he felt it was imperative for the Board to move forward with the proposed Resolution.

Chairman Thomas called the question and the motion to authorize the contract with the Southern

Adirondack Library System as outlined above was carried unanimously.

Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, noted the resolution Waiving of the Rules of the Board would now be referred to as Resolution No. 24 and the one authorizing the contract with Southern Adirondack Library System would be Resolution No. 25; she added proposed Resolution No. 25 would be subject to a roll call vote because it included a transfer of funds.

Returning to the Report by the County Administrator, Mr. Moore apprised he had held an orientation with the three newly elected Supervisors on December 20th which he felt went well. He stated on January 6th he toured the Employment & Training Administration Office following which he introduced himself to the staff and discussed with the new Director how her first month in the position had gone and what her plans were going forward. He stated on January 8th he and the Director of the Employment & Training Administration had met with the Vice President of SUNY Adirondack and their Workforce Development staff to get a better idea of what they were doing and determine how they could collaborate with the County to get better results. He said on the following day he met with representatives of Ad Workshop to discuss the tourism advertisement program they were envisioning for this year; he added this information would also be presented to the Tourism Committee. He advised that same day he had attended a meeting at the Cool Insuring Arena pertaining to an organizational meeting for the Special Olympics which would be held in the City of Glens Falls on October 23-24, 2020. He said this was an exciting event with a number of individuals from the community working together to make this a successful event for the region, as well as the Special Olympics. He informed on January 24th, as Chairman Thomas had eluded to, they held a meeting with their counterparts in Washington County to discuss how the two Counties could collaborate better on a number of iniatives including economic development, the Veterans' Peer to Peer Program, State advocacy efforts on the State Budget and other legislative efforts. SUNY Adirondack, as well as mental health. He remarked this was an outstanding meeting and he was excited about what the two Counties could work on together.

Supervisor Seeber apprised she was unsure whether this was appropriate in terms of responding to his report; however, she said, she was wondering if they would be addressing the NACo (*National Association of Counties*) Conference that she believed was going to be included on today's agenda, but there was no mention of it. She asked whether they would have the opportunity to participate in the NACo Legislative Conference next month. Mr. Moore responded that it was not his decision. Chairman Thomas apprised this was an appropriate question that should be addressed. Supervisor Seeber stated it did not have to be addressed right now, but she just wanted to bring it to the Board's attention before the end of the meeting given that it was time sensitive matter. Chairman Thomas informed it would be discussed following the discussion on resolutions.

Supervisor Seeber informed she would like to discuss three resolutions from the NYSAC *(New York State Association of Counties)* Standing Committee on Pubic Safety at the appropriate time.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mary Elizabeth Kissane, *County Attorney*, to provide a report from the County Attorney. Ms. Kissane advised that she had nothing to report on, but she wanted to ensure that they were all aware the County Attorney's agenda for the first Committee meeting of the year would be rather lengthy.

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

Reports from:

1. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp - Financial Report dated October 31, 2019;

2. Warren County Probation Department - Monthly Report of Criminal and Family Workloads for November 2019

Other:

- 1. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation November payment in the amount of \$3,273;
- 2. Essex County Resolution No. 382 of 2019, Resolution in the Matter of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) Decision New York State Department of Environmental Conservation - Adverse Abandonment - Saratoga and North Creek Railway Commonly known as the Sanford Lake Branch or the Tahawus Line Between North Creek and the Former Tahawus Mine, in the Town of Newcomb, New York and Request for Abeyance;
- 3. Town of Queensbury Resolution No. 59 of 2020, Resolution Setting Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law to Extend Temporary Moratorium on Installation of Ground-Mounted Solar Energy Systems.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 9-21 were mailed: she informed that proposed Resolution Nos. 12, 14, 15 and 17 were amended after mailing and a motion was needed to approve these revisions. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Dickinson, seconded by Supervisor Magowan and carried unanimously. She apprised proposed Resolution Nos. 22-23 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 Merlino and seconded by Supervisor Driscoll. Supervisor Seeber called for a point of order, inquiring whether they would have an opportunity to request a roll call vote. Chairman Thomas responded that once proposed Resolution Nos. 22-23 were brought to the floor he would be calling for any requests for roll call votes. Supervisor Seeber apologized, as she misunderstood and thought they had already done so. She requested for clarification as to whether a second was required on roll call requests because after the discussion held at the January 3rd Organization Board Meeting she thought Mr. Moore was going to clarify whether the second was required this month. Mr. Moore asked for an explanation as to the question and Supervisor Seeber replied that at the January 3rd Organization Board Meeting there had been a discussion pertaining to whether a second was required on a request for a roll call vote following which the decision was made that it was. Mr. Moore apologized, as he had indicated at the meeting that the second was required; however, he noted, following the conclusion of the meeting he had reviewed the Rules of the Board and determined that a second was not required in that situation. He advised Supervisor Braymer had seconded the request for a roll call vote at that meeting and he expressed regret for not being more familiar with the Rules of the Board. Supervisor Thomas interjected that he would also like to apologize for the misunderstanding. Supervisor Seeber stated she only asked the question to ensure going forward that she understood whether a second had to be requested on a roll call vote. Chairman Thomas called the question and the motion to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 22-23 to the floor was carried unanimously.

Chairman Thomas 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. 22, *Appointing Members to the Warren-Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency and Civic Development Corporation.* He would be voting in opposition of proposed Resolution No. 22 because Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident,* had not been reappointed as a member of the Warren-Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency and Civic Development Corporation. He opined Mr. Whitehead was one of the most effective members of that organization and not reappointing him was a significant disservice to the taxpayers and residents of the County. He added he felt Supervisors Leggett, Simpson, Bruno and Wild, who were being appointed to the organization, were all qualified and would do a stellar

job.

Prior to voting on Resolutions, Chairman Thomas advised it was necessary to discuss the NACo Legislative Conference and how the Board would like to proceed with this matter. Supervisor Simpson stated as a Board Member who had attended a past NACo Conference he would encourage the Board to support authorizing Supervisors to attend this Conference due to the fact that it was a great experience which furthered his knowledge of County business. He apprised he would not be attending the Conference this year due to having other commitments; however, he noted, he was fully supportive of other Supervisors having the opportunity to attend to allow them to work with County representatives from every State.

Supervisor Seeber stated she felt every opportunity the Supervisors had to attend training was valuable, especially in the case of At-Large Town Supervisors and City of Glens Falls, who did not have as many opportunities to attend training as the Town Supervisors, but almost half of the Board, and should be permitted and budgeting appropriately for. She advised she was fully supportive of having Supervisors attend the NACo Conference. She added due to the time sensitivity of this matter it was her understanding that this would have to be discussed today.

Chairman Thomas suggested the County send four representatives to the NACo Conference; however, he noted, this was a decision for the Board to make.

Supervisors Beaty and Seeber voiced their interest in attending the NACo Conference. Supervisor Wild asked when the Conference was being held and Chairman Thomas responded he thought the Conference was being held in February, but he was unsure of the exact dates. Supervisor Leggett asked which Supervisors had attended the Conference last year and Chairman Thomas replied Supervisors Loeb, Braymer, Simpson, Geraghty and Merlino were the ones who attended last year. Supervisor Geraghty interjected that the event he attended with Supervisors Simpson, Loeb and Merlino last year in Washington D.C. was not the NACo Conference. Supervisor Braymer stated that she and Supervisor Simpson were the only ones who attended the NACo Legislative Conference last February. Chairman Thomas informed this year's Conference was scheduled for February 29- March 4, 2020. Supervisor Hogan questioned what the estimated cost per participant was and Chairman Thomas replied the projected cost was \$1,500. Supervisor Hogan asked if this included travel expenses and Chairman Thomas replied affirmatively. Supervisor Leggett advised he thought for the sake of consistency that whoever attended last year should attend again this year to ensure they remained informed on the issues, but Supervisor Simpson was unable to attend and Supervisor Braymer had not indicated an interest in attending. Supervisor Braymer stated she felt that was a good point, as the Conference consisted of more then training and there was a significant amount of information that could be brought back to the County. She said she was unable to attend this year, but she would encourage Supervisors Beaty and Seeber to compile as much information as possible to bring back to the County.

Chairman Thomas called for a motion to Waive the Rules of the Board requiring that a Resolution be presented in writing regarding authorizing out-of-State travel for Supervisors Beaty and Seeber to attend the NACo Legislative Conference from February 29-March 4, 2020 in Washington D.C. The necessary motion was made by Supervisors Geraghty, seconded by Supervisor Dickinson and carried unanimously.

Chairman Thomas called for a motion to authorize out-of-State travel for Supervisors Beaty and Seeber as outlined above. The necessary motion was made by Geraghty, seconded by Supervisor Dickinson and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Allen announced that the Resolution Waiving the Rules of the Board would now be referred to as Resolution No. 26 and the one that authorized out-of-State travel for Supervisors Beaty and Seeber would be Resolution No. 27; she added nether of these proposed Resolutions required a roll call vote, unless one was requested.

Chairman Thomas called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 9-27, were approved as presented.

Chairman Thomas called for public comments from anyone wishing to address the Board on any matter, but no response was given.

Chairman Thomas called for announcements.

Supervisor Seeber advised she would like to notify the Board Members that she was appointed to the NYSAC Standing Committee on Public Safety. She provided a brief overview of the three Resolutions that would be discussed by the Committee at the NYSAC Conference and she encouraged anyone with questions and/or concerns to contact her so she could bring them up at the meeting.

Supervisor Geraghty informed he and Supervisor Hogan had attended a Rural School Board Association meeting in the Town of Warrensburg last Tuesday night which he felt was very informative. He said the discussion concerned what was occurring in school districts located in Upstate New York including the disparity with school funding and the reduction in the number of students. He advised there was a total of eight of these meetings held across the State and they were planning on putting together a report. Supervisor Geraghty stated he was pleased to announce the Town of Warrensburg sewer line extension to Cornell Cooperative Extension and Countryside Adult Home had been activated and was operating without any issues.

Supervisor Simpson announced the annual Adirondack Park Local Government Day Conference was scheduled for April 29-30, 2020 in Lake Placid, New York during which updates regarding cellular coverage in rural areas from the State as to the direction they were moving forward in, as well as details concerning the \$3 million bond act for New York State's environment would be provided and he encouraged all to attend.

In regard to Supervisor Geraghty's remarks regarding the Rural School Board Association meeting that was held in the Town of Warrensburg, Supervisor Beaty informed the eight year decrease in student population in the North Country was identified early on by the Queensbury School Board as a significant issue. He said he believed the Master Plan for the Queensbury Union Free School District which indicated the number of students enrolled there would increase to over 4,400 was false, as the opposite was occurring there. He stated the Queensbury Union Free School District had about eleven years of decreases in student population; however, he noted, this was not unique to them, as it was also occurring in most school districts in Upstate New York for multiple reasons. He remarked he felt the Board, as a group should be more proactive in addressing these serious concerns to prevent individuals from continuing to move out-of-State. He voiced his appreciation to Supervisor Geraghty for mentioning the meeting, as he had been unable to attend. He advised David Little, ESQ., *Executive Director, Rural School Board Association*, concurred with him that this was a crisis that needed to be addressed.

Supervisor Braymer invited everyone and their families to attend the Fire and Ice event on Crandall Pond in the City of Glens Falls in the evening hours on January 21st. She stated the Pond would be officially opened to the public at the event and warming fires and hot chocolate would be available to those who brought their own coffee mug, as it was a zero waste event.

Supervisor Thomas advised the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District would be hosting a Farm Talks Program entitled "Don't Be Chicken Master Pasteurized Poultry with Bob Brody" on January 31st at the Office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Warrensburg, New York from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Supervisor Driscoll announced the annual Martin Luther King Day March was scheduled for this Sunday beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the Glens Falls City Hall building and ending at the Christ Hall United Methodist Church with many different activities for all ages and he encouraged all to attend this non-partisan event.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Beaty and seconded by Supervisor Dickinson, Chairman Thomas adjourned the Board Meeting at 10:47 a.m.