

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020**



Note: As per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1: "Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed".

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 10:01 a.m.

Mr. Frank E. Thomas presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Magowan.

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

Supervisors Leggett, Diamond, Braymer, Driscoll, Frasier, Simpson, Merlino, Strough, Seeber, Shepler, Geraghty and Thomas were present at the meeting, while Supervisors Conover, McDevitt, Bruno, Hogan, Wild, Magowan and Beaty were present via teleconference.

Prior to commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Thomas introduced Congresswoman Stefanik, who was unable to attend the meeting, but had made herself available via teleconference to update the County regarding what her Office had been focused on. Congresswoman Stefanik apprised her Office had been working on getting information out to the public regarding the resource available involving the Coronavirus. She thanked the Board members, County Public Health officials and County staff for their hard work over the past few weeks and work that she was anticipating would occur within the upcoming weeks. She stated first and foremost that her Office had been working tirelessly to distribute as much information as possible regarding the Coronavirus and continued to encourage all constituents to follow the CDC (*Center for Disease Control*) guidance, as well as the guidance coming from the County Public Health Divisions which were doing a tremendous job keeping the public informed. She said in addition, her Office had been in contact with each of the hospitals located in her District regarding their supply of PPE (*Personal Protection Equipment*), medical needs and testing supplies, and had been working with the State to ensure these supplies were replenished as quickly as possible. She requested that the County keep her informed regarding supply levels so that she could work with the State on getting these much needed supplies delivered.

Congresswomen Stefanik apprised she had been in contact with all of the Counties' Offices for the Aging within her District, which continued to adjust and ensure the seniors they served received Meals on Wheels deliveries given the fact that the Meal Sites where they had previously picked up their food were shutdown. She informed she had also been in touch with many of the Superintendent's of the School Districts located within the area she served to ensure their Meal Programs were fully funded; she added she was impressed by how everyone in the community had stepped up to ensure the

students had access to meals.

Congresswomen Stefanik informed the Federal Government had passed two phases of Legislation which would be very fast moving, the first of which provided \$8.3 billion in funding for the purpose of the immediate research and development of a vaccination for the Coronavirus, as well as to supply additional funding for broader healthcare and testing capabilities nationwide. Congresswomen Stefanik apprised the second part of the Legislation, which was adopted last week, concerned increased funding for Counties for Medicaid given the anticipated increase in this cost as a result of this pandemic. In addition, she said the Federal Government adopted Legislation which required testing for the Coronavirus to be free regardless of what type of insurance the individual being tested had.

Congresswomen Stefanik advised the Federal Government was currently working on negotiating a Legislative package which would provide money to the hard working citizens who were suffering a financial hardship as a result of the Coronavirus which she anticipated would be adopted early next week. She stated in addition, small business relief was available to communities with an immediate need, such as Warren County which had an abundance of locally owned hospitality businesses and restaurants that were facing uncertain times as a result of this pandemic. She stated the U.S. Small Business Administration recently announced that businesses in New York were eligible for low interest loans which were available through her Office and she was working with all of the regions Chamber's of Commerce to distribute that information. She apprised she had updated many area businesses on a conference call she participated in with the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce yesterday and she had another conference call scheduled with the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce & CVB next week. She added not-for-profits were also eligible for those loans and the legislation she anticipated would be adopted next week was likely to include immediate relief for small businesses where the loan would be forgiven if it was used for expenses such as mortgage payments, payroll expenses or additional expenses during this crisis. She said she and her staff were working tirelessly to keep businesses informed, advising she had spoken to hundreds of business owners herself over the past few days. She concluded by asking if anyone had any questions she could answer.

Supervisor Braymer thanked Congresswomen Stefanik for offering to help the County acquire additional testing kits, as she had just read in today's edition of *The Post Star* that Glens Falls Hospital was running low on them. Congresswomen Stefanik requested that someone notify her how many tests had been conducted to date and how many kits were available; she added if the supply of test kits was low she would contact the Director of New York State Homeland Security and Emergency Services to request additional tests. Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, advised the Director of Warren County Public Health would provide that information to Congresswomen Stefanik immediately following the conclusion of the meeting.

Chairman Thomas thanked Congresswomen Stefanik for taking the time to provide them with an update today, as well as for securing the additional funding which would be needed in the coming months. Congresswomen Stefanik encouraged anyone to contact her with questions, as she believed there would be an influx of inquiries once they notified residents about these relief programs.

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Thomas noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of the February 21st 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.

Chairman Thomas stated due to the present circumstances they would be holding off on the Employee of the Month presentation, but he was hopeful they would be able to resume the presentation next month.

Moving along to the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Thomas apprised he would like to start his report off on a positive note, pointing out today was the first day of Spring. He said they were currently dealing in unchartered territory, with this being an unprecedented time and he requested that they work together and support one each other so they could get through this and overcome the economic crisis that was bound to follow. He informed the more they did now to stop the spread of COVID-19 the sooner this would end; he asked everyone to remain calm, observe social distancing and wash hands repeatedly, and that those who were feeling ill remain home; he added everyone should stay home as much as possible. He remarked he could not praise the County's Department Heads and employees enough for doing whatever was asked and required of them to get the work done. He extended a special thank you to the (COVID-19) Task Force, as he was aware the Public Health Department had been working tirelessly on this pandemic everyday over the past three weeks, as well as the Sheriff's Office, the Office of the County Administrator, the County Attorney's Office, Department of Social Services, Office of Emergency Services and the Office for the Aging. He said he had met with the Task Force many times as this had evolved and the members had conducted themselves in a professional manner, were all doing an excellent job and he commended them for their leadership. He asked that the Board Members keep in mind when interacting with Department Heads, staff and residents that this was a stressful time for everyone with individuals being tired, nervous and worried. He advised he would also like to thank the County residents for their cooperation and compliance with what was being requested of them, as all of this was occurring rather quickly. He informed Governor Cuomo had issued seven Executive Orders to date; he added he would like to thank Governor Cuomo for the excellent response he had provided to this pandemic. Chairman Thomas apprised this Monday afternoon he had declared a State of Emergency for Warren County and all non-essential personnel were reduced by 50% as required by the Governor's Executive Order, many of whom were working from home and all of which were being paid. He stated the majority of Monday was spent determining which employees were considered essential and which could be classified as non-essential with the assistance of the County Department Heads. Chairman Thomas informed he had issued an emergency order yesterday at 3:00 p.m. to close County Buildings to the public, advising although this was not his desire he and the Director of Public Health felt this was essential to ensure the safety of County employees, as well as the public. He mentioned many departments were still working and there was always someone available to answer the phone calls from the public. He said they may be able to set up a system where appointments were made for those seeking assistance from the County with a list of phone numbers and emails posted on every door of County Buildings for each Department. He apprised in what seemed like a different time last week he had attended the Committee meetings and participated in several conference calls with the Governor's Office where clarifications regarding the Executive Orders issued by the Governor was provided. He stated he had also met with the County's (COVID-19) Task Force on multiple occasions over the past two weeks. He apprised that he, Mr. Moore and Supervisor Geraghty had participated in a conference call with several of the local School District Superintendents where the topic of discussion concerned each others needs and how they could assist one another; he added going forward they had decided to hold a couple of round table discussions a few times a year to familiarize everyone with their operation which he believed was appropriate. He advised that all of the School Districts were providing meals for their students, as well as online instructions with the School Districts persevering through this difficult time. He informed NYSAC (*New York State Association of Counties*) was holding conference calls every evening for the foreseeable future at 7:00 p.m. for all Counties and their website contained an abundant amount of information that he recommended everyone review if they had not done so already. He stated from these conference calls he had learned many Counties were utilizing their Mental Health Division to provide services to their residents who were confined to their home, and more specifically seniors on an as needed basis. He informed many may already be aware that mortgage payments for those who were out of work had been suspended for ninety days by Governor Cuomo. He apprised one County voiced how important it was to protect County Public Health Nurses and Call Center employees from this virus, as they were

essential and it would be catastrophic should any of them become ill. He informed another topic of discussion on the NYSAC Conference calls pertained to how the drug used to treat malaria had shown to have some effect on this virus. He stated a number of participants also expressed concerns regarding individuals who traveled from urban areas to their second homes in the Catskills, Finger Lakes, the Adirondacks and areas surrounding the Pennsylvania border without alerting anyone, as they would like them to contact their local officials or the NYS DOH (*New York State Department of Health*) to notify them they were in the region in case any of them were to become ill or this could lead to some real issues. Chairman Thomas advised going forward Committee meetings would continue to be held in the same manner this Board Meeting was being held today. He said he believed the creation of the Director of Public Affairs position which was going before them today for approval was essential to keeping the public aware through the use of social media platforms. He apprised NYSAC was recommending the use of Facebook Live and they would be holding a webinar today at 2:00 p.m. regarding this social media platform; he added he was willing to implement this to ensure their constituents remained informed. He advised the prediction was that this health crisis would end within forty-five to sixty days, but he was hoping for it to be sooner than that. He said following this crisis the County would have to deal with an economic emergency at the least on a short-term basis as a result of the anticipated decline in the County's revenue stream. He apprised he felt an economic support group needed to be established with the members consisting of various economic development entities and Board Members whose main focus would be to ensure that accurate information was provided to the local business owners.

Supervisor Leggett questioned whether second homeowners who were currently residing in the area should contact the County or their Town, to notify of their presence and Chairman Thomas replied he felt those individuals should notify the County Public Health Department. Supervisor Braymer questioned whether this meant these individuals should call the Public Health Department upon their arrival here or when they got sick, and if that was the case then she felt they should call their doctor. Chairman Thomas responded he believed it was necessary for the County to be notified if these individuals became ill; he added a significant amount of concern was expressed regarding this matter from across the State. Supervisor Braymer pointed out there were many individuals who owned second homes in the County, all of whom brought economic activity to the region which was beneficial for the County. Chairman Thomas interjected the goal was to stop the spread of the virus. Supervisor Braymer stated she foresaw no issue with individuals using their second homes for social distancing purposes.

Chairman Thomas stated the next item on the Agenda concerned the reports by Committee Chairman on the past months meetings or activities.

Supervisor Magowan apprised the Support Services Committee had met on February 24th during which they approved Resolution No. 125 which he provided a brief overview of. He added they also approved a request to fill a vacant position for the County Clerk's Office.

Supervisor Seeber reported on the February 24th meeting of the Criminal Justice Committee where they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 95-97 and she provided a brief summary of each. In regard to Criminal Justice Reform, Supervisor Seeber advised during the Committee meeting each month they reported on the number of inmates incarcerated in the Warren County Jail with the current figure being fifty-eight. She apprised the District Attorney asked her to relay to the Board Members that the number of those incarcerated was currently low because following his discussion with the County Sheriff and the local Judges they decided to pause weekend incarceration to prevent someone from entering the County Jail on the weekend and possibly bringing in the virus. She stated the District Attorney had also met with the Public Defender's Office this week to make an arrangement for expedited bail applications without appearances. She mentioned the Public Defender was working tirelessly with the District

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Attorney to review the population in the County Jail to determine if any special circumstances existed where a modification of that status could be sought. She advised due to the current circumstances she and Supervisor Beaty, who had attended the NACo (*National Association of Counties*) Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., would hold off on reporting on the Conference until a later date, but she wanted the Board Members to know she would be distributing the information she picked up for the Committee Chairs from NACo shortly. She informed yesterday she and a few other Supervisors spent some time putting together bags of food for the Meals on Wheels Program which were secured as a result of a meeting with the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce. She stated she would be making a brief announcement at the end of the meeting.

Supervisor Beaty apprised the County Facilities Committee had met on February 25th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 93-94 and he provided a brief overview of each. He remarked he concurred with Supervisor Seeber that this was not an appropriate time to discuss their trip to Washington D.C., as there had more pressing issues to deal with. He informed there was a local company that had changed their operation into the production of hand sanitizer with their own money, but were in need of donations in order to continue to do so. He said this company was giving the hand sanitizer away for free, adding he had provided the information to the Board Members prior to the meeting to pass along to their constituents.

Supervisor Shepler indicated she had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Geraghty advised he was well aware they would be facing some budgetary challenges in the coming months, but he had been through tough financial times before with the County and was confident they would persevere. He stated he was closely monitoring the County Budget and would ensure the correct steps were taken at the appropriate time.

Supervisor Conover reported on the February 25th meeting of the Public Works Committee where they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 119-124. He stated like most other towns, the Town of Bolton had closed their Municipal Building to the public and their staff was operating on an on-call basis, with the exception of the Town Transfer Station, which had scaled back its hours of operation. Supervisor Conover thanked Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, and Mr. Moore for establishing a mutual aid agreement between the County and the towns which was applicable if a town DPW employee became ill with the virus causing the entire staff to have to be quarantined. He said if this were to occur and a major snowstorm or emergency event happened Mr. Hajos would ensure the appropriate staff was in place to respond. He advised ideally this Mutual Aid Agreement would not be needed, but he felt it was essential to have in place and he encouraged the towns that had not responded to this agreement to do so by contacting Mr. Hajos. Supervisor Conover apprised he would also like to commend Robert Blais, *Mayor, Village of Lake George*, for spearheading the establishment of a Mutual Aid Agreement for the operation of the Municipal Water and Sewer Plants which required licensed operators amongst the municipalities who had these types of operations to ensure there was coverage should one of the operators become infected. In conclusion, he stated he had been through a number of these emergencies during his tenure on the Board, the most recent of which was the ice storm, and he felt compelled to note that Mr. Moore and his team were doing an excellent job communicating the requirements as they were passed along from the Federal and State Governments; he asked that they stay healthy and keep up the good work.

Supervisor Leggett informed the Public Safety Committee had met on February 24th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 113-118 and he provided a brief over view of each. He stated the County was fortunate to have such capable staff in their Office of Emergency Services that ensured the County's Emergency Management Plan was up-to-date because in times like these plans like that were essential.

Supervisor Leggett offered privilege of the floor to Brian LaFlure, *Director, Office of Emergency Services/Fire Coordinator*, to provide an update regarding his Offices response to the pandemic.

Mr. LaFlure stated first and foremost he would like to commend Ginelle Jones, *Director of Public Health*, and her staff, who were working even harder then he and his staff were. He stated his Office had been tasked by the State to be the liaison between any agencies, nursing homes, hospitals, first responders, etc. that were in need of additional PPE and the State. He said once his Office received a request they provided the organization with a form to fill out and then they returned it to his Office, where the request was entered into the State's system. He advised this system had worked until the State's inventory of PPE had been depleted resulting in a critical situation where there may be test kits available, but no swabs and there was a lack of PPE to protect the first responders and healthcare workers. He informed every morning at 8:30 a.m. his Office participated in a conference call with their counterparts in Warren and Washington Counties, as well as the State, to discuss this State-wide issue. He apprised that Governor Cuomo had contacted the Federal Government to inquire whether it was possible to obtain PPE's and test kits from their inventory. He said some individuals had developed alternatives, such as wearing a bandana or scarf, but these would not work for the healthcare workers and more specifically those out in the field who did not have the ability to use anything other than what they had in their vehicle. He advised this was an issue and his Office was working on providing what they could; however, he noted, they were unable to supply equipment they did not have available to them. He mentioned he would like the Town Supervisors who had been contacted by their local EMS regarding the lack of PPE available to relay the message that his Office was doing the best they could to work on resolving this issue. He informed his Office had distributed the entire shipment of forty gallons of hand sanitizer they received from the State which was produced by the inmates at the Great Meadows Correctional Facility; however, he noted, it was a liquid that was provided in gallon jugs that spray bottles were required for. He apprised they were prioritizing the requests they received for hand sanitizer and he was hopeful they would receive additional shipments, but they were only made aware that these would be delivered about an hour before their arrival. He stated he wished they were capable of fulfilling all of the orders they received, but they were unable to do so.

In regard to the lack of EMS coverage in the County, Mr. LaFlure advised this particular situation had caused even more of a shortage of staff. He said in response to this the EMS Coordinators had developed a plan where any EMS Squad with extra staff would share these individuals with other Squads to ensure there was no lack of coverage. He proceeded to read aloud the Governors Executive Order No. 202.5 as follows: "Notwithstanding Section 24 of the Executive Order no locality or political subdivision shall issue any local emergency order or executive order with respect to the COVID-19 outbreak without the approval of the NYS DOH". He said they should keep this in mind should any of the local municipalities be considering issuing such an order, as there were a number of different directions coming from the Governor's Office on a daily basis.

In regard to his Office, Mr. LaFlure stated he and his staff were working split shifts resulting in one individual staffing the EOC everyday to ensure there was coverage without having to take into account the need for social distancing. He said his Office Specialist was working from home unless the need arose for her to come into the Office and their phones were being forwarded to their cell phones; he added their EMS Coordinators had been working hard to develop plans.

Supervisors Diamond and McDevitt indicated they had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Braymer apprised the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee had met on two occasions, the first of which was where they approved several resolutions and she called attention to proposed Resolution No. 103, *Rejecting All Bids for Professional Auctioneer/Broker to*

Conduct Land Auction (WC 2-20), which she indicated needed to be withdrawn because they had approved a resolution awarding the work to one of the bidders at their March 17th Committee meeting as noted in Resolution No. 142, *Accepting Proposal and Authorizing Agreement with Brzostek's Real Estate Auction Co., Inc. for Professional Auctioneer/Broker to Conduct Land Auction (WC 2-20)*. She mentioned the amendment Supervisor Diamond would be recommending to proposed Resolution No. 106, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Bronze Contracting, LLC for Building Demolition and Asbestos Abatement Services for Tax Map Parcel No. 302.8-1-2 Located at 275 Bay Road, Queensbury, New York (WC 83-19)*, was distributed to the Board Members via email yesterday. She stated given that these were unprecedented times of turmoil due to the Coronavirus she believed it was imperative for them to disburse as much information as possible to the public about the action being taken by the County and she commended the activities of the Public Health Department, as well as the Office of Emergency Services. She added in order to facilitate information to residents that did not use the normal news media, a Facebook Page had been created for the Warren County Board of Supervisors which she and Supervisor Seeber had committed to managing to ensure it contained only accurate non-political information. She said she and Supervisor Seeber would work to post updates there and respond to comments as deemed appropriate and she encouraged any of the Supervisors wishing to work on that page to do so; she added the Board Meeting today was being streamed via Facebook Live as a way to provide the public with more access to the meeting since they could not be present in person.

Supervisor Bruno indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Driscoll stated the Human Services Committee had met on March 2nd where they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 111-112 and he provided a brief summary of each. He thanked Chairman Thomas for including the Department of Social Services in his recognition of particular Departments, as they were working hard to provide services to vulnerable residents on low and fixed incomes who may be struggling more as a result of this pandemic. He informed all of the food pantries in the County remained open, but had altered their operations to be similar to restaurants where they bagged groceries and personal care items to be picked up via curbside service. He encouraged residents to contact their local food pantries to inquire about the dates and times these items would be available for pick up; he added he was appreciative of the staff and volunteers who worked for these food pantries, as well as those who were ensuring the County's seniors and youth continued to be provided with Meals on Wheels and school lunches.

Supervisor Frasier reported on the March 5th meeting of the Finance Committee where they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 92 and 135-139 and she called attention to proposed Resolution No. 136, *Amending Resolution No. 186 of 2016 to Amend the Unassigned Fund Balance Policy for Warren County*, which she requested support of. Supervisor Frasier offered privilege of the floor to Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, to provide a report on the County's finances.

Mr. Swan stated he was requesting support of proposed Resolution No. 136 which changed the current policy regarding to Unassigned Fund Balance that indicated the lesser amount be no less than \$9 million and the amount not to exceed was set at \$16 million to maintain an unrestricted general fund balance of no less than 15% of regular general fund operating expenditures for five years and then increase it to 16.7%. He stated this amounted to about \$22 million based upon the current County Budget with a maximum of well over \$27 million. He advised typically he liked to convey good news, but that would not be the case this morning because the amount of interest income that was projected for the year would be about \$200,000 short due to what was occurring right now. He apprised the County would also lose about \$100,000 in revenue as a result of the casinos closing. In regard to sales tax revenue, Mr. Swan apprised this could be an issue on the short-term, but before he went into further

detail he wanted to ensure everyone he did not feel there was a reason to panic because the County had a better financial outlook than almost all other Counties in the State. He informed as a result of the sound financial decisions made by the Board over the last ten years the County had a sufficient balance in its Unassigned Fund Balance; however, he noted, these funds would be needed to get them through this economic downturn. He said as an example, restaurants and car sales made up 20% of the County's sales tax revenue, but with restaurants being shutdown and car dealers not selling cars there would be a significant decline in revenue from these sources. He added, retail made up 24% of the County's sales tax revenue, noting the mall was closed and there were minimal retail sales occurring. He advised on a positive note he understood there was a significant increase in online sales that the County collected sales tax revenue on which he hoped would balance out a portion of the losses. He added there would also be a significant decline in occupancy tax collections; he pointed out the one property that paid 40% of the total amount of occupancy tax collected for the months of February and March was closed and the two other properties that contributed another 30% of occupancy had indicated to him they did not have the cash flow to pay the County nor did they foresee being able to make a payment until July. He apprised the area that concerned him the most was cash flow, as the County relied heavily on State and Federal funds for the Department of Social Services, Public Health, Public Defender, District Attorney, Planning & Community Development, etc. He said they had already observed a slow down in those payments being made to the County and this crisis had just started, but he assumed they would be forthcoming at some point. He recommended going forward for at least the next four months that the County make no expenditures from the Unassigned Fund Balance because this was the County's "safety net"; he added he would also suggest that no large purchases be made that did not have a reserve account associated with it or grant funds to pay for the expense. He advised it was not his intent to scare anyone, but he felt they needed to wait and see what the outcome of this crisis would be i.e would it have a short-term impact or longer He informed as a result of this crisis he believed the County's retirement payments would increase significantly next year just as they had the last time there was a recession and the payment increased by 10%. Mr. Swan apprised the majority of the County's staff was home, some of whom were working from home and the Payroll Division was tracking this to allow the County to receive reimbursement for the employees who were not working to offset the expense for the County; he added no reimbursement was available for those who were working from home. He thanked Mr. Moore and his staff for their efforts, as he was impressed with what had been accomplished.

Supervisor Frasier apprised she would also like to recognize Mr. Moore and his staff for the tremendous job that they had done keeping the Board Members well informed and updated; she added they were putting in time and effort that was above and beyond what was required of them.

Supervisor Wild asked Mr. Swan when he thought an austerity budget plan would be presented to the Department Heads so they could begin working on a plan to move forward. Mr. Swan responded he felt they should keep the current County Budget in place and wait and see what the outcome would be within the next few months. He said the financial status of the County would be closely monitored and determine where there was a revenue shortage. He said like most Departments he did not have many staff in the Office and their main focus was to finish the payroll to ensure everyone was paid and the bills were paid, as well as the filing of the closing of the books with the State by the deadline which the State had not changed the date of.

Supervisor Simpson reported on the March 5th meeting of the Personnel & Administration Committee, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 129-134 and he called attention to proposed Resolution No. 130, *Reappointing Warren County Personnel Officer*, which reappointed Patricia Nenninger as County Personnel Officer, whom he believed had done a great job. He requested support of the creation of the Director of Public Affairs position included in proposed Resolution No. 129, as he believed this position

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was essential for the County moving forward to communicate with the public during this difficult time. Supervisor Simpson recognized everyone the Town of Horicon had worked with including Messrs. LaFlure and Moore.

Supervisor Hogan stated before she reported on the Cornell Cooperative Extension she wanted to request support of proposed Resolution No 98, *Requesting the Repeal of Legislation That Negatively Impacts the Expansion of Fiber Optic Infrastructure in New York State and Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Issue a Letter Regarding Same*, which she noted was more important than it had ever been. She pointed out she had residents without internet access parking in the Town Hall parking lot to use their internet service so that their children could complete the school work they were required to do at home since all of the schools had closed. She added because of the lack of internet access many of her residents were unable to work from home. Supervisor Hogan advised all of Cornell Cooperative Extensions programs and activities had been suspended and their office was closed to the public and volunteers, but the staff was continuing to work as hard as they ever did with the development of online instructional videos and programs which would be posted on their YouTube channel. She mentioned one way to support the local Cornell Cooperative Extension was to participate in their annual plant sale fundraiser with order forms available via email that could be returned through regular mail or through email. She concluded her report by encouraging everyone to think about Spring, the future and some lighter thoughts.

Supervisor Merlino advised the Tourism Committee had met on March 2nd approving proposed Resolution Nos. 126-128 and he provided a brief overview of each. He stated currently the Tourism Department was not doing any paid media for advertising, but they were using social media to keep people aware of the region for visiting. He said they were sharing business event posts, as well as restaurants open for take out on the Tourism website. He added they were also doing virtual imaging to allow potential visitors to envision what the area looked like for future reservations. He stated all phone calls were being answered, as the staff was working on a rotating schedule to ensure there was always someone in the Office. He apprised they were participating in Statewide banner advertising and were continuously checking with businesses to see if their events were still scheduled or if they were closing, as well as working with I Love NY and New York State Park on messaging. He stated they were also reassuring the visitors they were still present and would be getting out as much media exposure as soon as they could.

Supervisor Strough remarked he would like to thank all of the Town Supervisors, as well as the Village and City Mayor's for working cooperatively during this difficult time. He said all of them had been sharing plans and ideas out of which each of them could develop their own plans which would be better because of that sharing. He stated he felt it was helpful that they would be sharing DPW services if the need were to arise. He informed he had received clarification from the Governor's Office this morning that the 75% reduction in the workforce was not applicable to municipalities and only concerned businesses and not-for-profits. He apprised going forward he was appreciative of all of the hard work the County was doing and he was grateful for working with the County; he added the only way to get through this stressful time was to work together. Supervisor Strough informed the Legislative & Rules Committee had met on March 17th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 143-145 and he provided a brief overview of each. He requested support of proposed Resolution No. 106, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Bronze Contracting, LLC for Building Demolition and Asbestos Abatement Services for Tax Map Parcel No. 302.8-1-2 Located at 275 Bay Road, Queensbury, New York (WC 83-19)*, as he did not believe further delay was warranted since this had been addressed by the Committee on three occasions and was approved by the Committee. He advised he was well aware that Supervisor Braymer was uncomfortable with last minute resolutions or those that were not brought before the Committee for approval, but that was not the case with this particular resolution. He noted the

residents of the Town of Queensbury and the Queensbury Town Board would welcome support of the proposed Resolution in its current form. In regard to the possibility of individuals being interested in purchasing the parcel with the building intact, Supervisor Strough apprised no one had contacted him with any such interest. He stated he believed they should move forward with tearing the building down, as it was filled with asbestos, was in a state of disrepair and was a public health hazard. He restated his request for support of proposed Resolution No. 106 in its current form.

Supervisor Wild apprised the Economic Growth & Development and Higher Education Committee had approved proposed Resolution Nos. 98-101 and he provided a brief overview of each. He informed the next Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th during which the topic for discussion would be how they could assist with economic recovery for the County. He said he felt this could be used as an opportunity to communicate to the residents and business owners what steps the County was taking to support the economy.

Continuing to the report by the County Administrator, Mr. Moore advised the Executive Order issued by the County yesterday required the approval of the New York State Health Commissioner which was subsequently granted. He read aloud the Executive Order, which was posted on all of the doors of the County Municipal Buildings and on the County website, for the benefit of the Public who was watching the live stream and may not be aware of what was occurring as follows: "Whereas a National State of Emergency has been declared by the United States as part of the response to COVID-19 and Whereas a State of Emergency has also been declared by the State of New York and Warren County also in response to COVID-19 and Whereas we encourage all those in the community to continue all efforts of social distancing as an effective public health measure to prevent and slow the transmission of COVID-19 and rely upon facts and information provided by Federal, State and Local Health & Public Safety officials. Now it is hereby ordered pursuant to the State of Emergency of Warren County related to the COVID-19 pandemic and by virtue of the authority of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors all buildings and indoor spaces of the County of Warren are hereby ordered to remain in a state of restricted access. Members of the general public shall not have access to County premises. Buildings and indoor spaces administered by the NYS OCA (*New York State Office of Court Administration*) shall be exempted under this order and shall abide by all orders duly promulgated by the OCA. The effective date is immediate and will remain in effect for thirty days or until lifted by the Chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors, whichever occurs first. Our staffing protocols during the pendency of this order the following protocols shall apply to Warren County employees: 1. Potential Departments playing a direct roll in the COVID-19 response including, but not limited to the Sheriff, Health Services, Office of Emergency Services, County Administrator, County Attorney and others as determined by the Chairman shall continue working on sight at the volume necessary to respond to this emergency and in a manner that complies with the CDC and NYS DOH guidelines. No 2. Work activities that cease to be necessary by virtue of the public no longer have any physical access to County premises are hereby suspended. Personnel performing those activities are deemed non-essential unless re-purposed by the County to perform essential services and such non-essential personnel will be sent home. No. 3 Department Heads have discretion to designate certain work activities as being essential for the public welfare or the continuity of County Government and which can be performed remotely. Such designations are subject to disapproval by the Chairman. Essential work activities that cannot be performed remotely shall only be approved by the Chairman and be performed on sight at the volume necessary to serve the public and in a manner that complies with CDC and NYS DOH guidelines. Official meetings of the Board of Supervisors and Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees thereof shall be conducted remotely in compliance with State law and the executive authority of the Governor of the State of New York. Meetings of other public bodies that would otherwise utilize County premises shall not be held on County premises. All non-essential in-person meetings or gatherings shall not be held on County premises. Essential in-person meetings of employees authorized to have access to County premises shall abide by the social distancing and COVID-19 prevention protocols recommended by the CDC and NYS DOH.

Mr. Moore apprised following his discussion with Supervisor Wild, as Chair of the Economic Growth & Development and Higher Education Committee, as well as a few other Supervisors, he was recommending removing the creation of Senior Planner position and deleting the position of Senior Planner #2 for the Planning & Community Development Department from proposed Resolution No. 129, *Amending Tables of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2020*, due to the economic downturn and the need to hold off on using funds from the Unappropriated Surplus General Fund at this time, which was where the funding for this position would be allocated from. He added the purpose of this position was to work on the Capital Improvement Program which was still a priority for the County, but due to the current circumstances was being put on hold until it became of significance again. Supervisor Wild apprised that he and Mr. Moore had discussed this matter and he was fully supportive of the action.

In regard to the proposed Floor Resolutions, Mr. Moore informed there was an accompanying Floor Resolution to Waive the Rules of the Board requiring that a resolution be provided to the Members of the Board of Supervisors on the Tuesday prior to the Board Meeting. He said he was aware this had been an issue and he would ensure they were in accordance with the Rules of the Board for the Resolutions that did not meet that requirement. He stated Floor Resolution No. 1 called on the Members of the New York State Senate and Assembly to Reject the Governor's SFY 2020-21 Executive Budget Proposal to Shift 100% of the Cost of 730.20 Competency Restoration Services to Counties. He informed this referred to Criminal Procedure Law Section 730 which was in reference to a defendants ability to competently stand trial meaning a defendant is competent if they understood the charges against them and they had the ability to assist in their own defense. He stated in some cases depending on mental health issues and things of that nature defendants could not exercise those rights that they had under the United States Constitution. He said what occurred was two psychiatric examiners were appointed to make that determination and if they agreed a restoration to competency procedure occurred where these individuals if they were inmates were transported to a secure facility that specialized in restoration to competency. He mentioned this process was very costly with an average cost of about \$1,000 a day and a typical case taking thirty to sixty days, but if it was a difficult case it could take much longer. He advised the County was responsible for half of this cost and State and Federal Aid could not be used to offset this expense. He apprised the proposal included in the Executive Budget was to change the County's share from 50% to 100% of the expense meaning the appropriation would need to be increased in the County Budget. He mentioned thus far this year the County had expended \$12,778 through March 15th; last year \$14,895 was expended; in 2018 \$92,842 was spent; and \$22,692 was expended for this purpose. He stated if this proposal was to go into effect then this expense would double in size for the County.

Mr. Moore informed Floor Resolution No. 2 which was accompanied by Waiving the Rules of the Board requiring that a resolution be provided to the Members of the Board of Supervisors on the Tuesday prior to the Board Meeting concerned appropriating funding from the State into the Health Services Budget for the purpose of the Coronavirus. He mentioned there were some last minute Resolutions that were included and distributed to the Board, the first of which was proposed Resolution No. 142, *Accepting Proposal and Authorizing Agreement with Brzostek's Real Estate Auction Co., Inc. for Professional Auctioneer/Broker to Conduct Land Auction (WC 2-20)*, which was approved by the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee at their meeting earlier this week. He explained initially the Committee had decided to reject all bids at their March 2nd Committee meeting, but because this posed a hardship on the Purchasing Department they decided to move forward with the contract for one year at the March 17th Committee meeting following which they would re-advertise this service, but include online capabilities for next year.

Mr. Moore advised Supervisor Strough had mentioned proposed Resolution No. 143, *Resolution Calling on the Governor and New York State Legislature to Preserve the Zero Percent Medicaid Growth Cap for All Counties and New York City*, during his report, but he would like to add the zero percent Medicaid

Growth Cap had benefitted all Counties and allowed Warren County to abide by the property tax cap. He informed NYSAC had put together a calculator for Counties to use to estimate the range of financial impact this would have on them if this remained as part of the State Budget with this figure being around \$1.7 million on an annual basis for Warren County. He apprised Supervisor Strough had already spoken about proposed Resolution Nos. 144 and 145.

Mr. Moore stated it was day fourteen of the County's response to when the Coronavirus case involving the CVS pharmacist was first announced following which almost everyone had been working tirelessly since then and he recognized Ms. Jones and her staff, who were doing an excellent job. He stated he believed one of the things Public Health was doing that had assisted with keeping the County safe was their relationship with those who had been quarantined, as good communication and trust was critical on a national level between local public health officials and those who were quarantined because if this was lacking the most dangerous thing that could occur was having someone who was quarantined that did not feel sick go out of the house to places where they could potentially expose others to the virus. He commended Ms. Jones and her staff that communicated with these individuals and established that trust, as well as those who were under quarantine for being responsible and taking the right steps to keep the public safe. Mr. Moore apprised the Department Heads had all done fantastic jobs keeping up with the ever changing objectives that were required of them, the first of which was complying with the orders from the State and Federal Government regarding public access, as well as the State of Emergency that was declared on Monday. He advised on Tuesday the County dealt with its first positive test result and the abundance of work required to get the best information out to the public. He said at the same time the staffing reduction was being implemented at the County and at the towns which was a very involved effort with all of the Department Heads stepping up to the plate and doing an excellent job getting that executed. He mentioned Warren County was ahead of the curve more so than most Counties because the 50% staffing requirement was in place by Tuesday morning. He mentioned on Wednesday they had commenced working on establishing remote meetings for the Board of Supervisors in light of the fact there were Supervisors who wanted to observe social distancing and not have to come to the County to meet. He stated all of the technology that was being utilized today on a trial run was going rather well with only a few minuscule glitches. He mentioned the County also had an obligation to ensure that clients would get the services that they needed with all of the Departments doing an excellent job with that outreach and the Supervisors utilizing the media available to them to pass along that information. He apprised for the benefit of the public that may be listening to the live feed of the meeting there was a contact sheet posted on the County website with all of the departments emails and phone numbers being continuously monitored to ensure someone responded to whatever service was needed. Mr. Moore thanked the media for their responsible coverage of these events; he added it was difficult to strike a balance between taking this seriously and imparting to the public that they should also take it seriously without causing a panic and he felt the media understood this and was doing a good job; he said he could not thank them enough for this because this was not being done every place in this Country, but it was here and it was working. He mentioned the general public had also been great with cooperating and residents wanting to know what they could do to assist, including Supervisors and he could not thank them enough for ensuring vulnerable residents in the County received the help they needed. He suggested everyone check in with individuals and family members that lived close by and ensure those who were at risk were doing what they should to safeguard themselves. He said the best thing anyone could do to the extent they could to remain safe was to stay home, as this was imperative to contain this virus.

In regard to putting together care packages for seniors, Mr. Moore advised the Director of the Office for the Aging came up with the idea of putting these care packages together utilizing goods that were available to the Office for the Aging. He said the Director reached out to the Supervisors who had expressed an interest in helping in any way they could to assist with putting together these care packages and this occurred the other day. He stated to the general public who wanted to donate goods, such as food items and toilet paper, the County had to ensure it was done in a manner that was

compliant with public health recommendations; he added during a time like this it was always advisable to utilize the agency systems that were already in place to not create redundancy because those agencies were in the community and knew what they were doing by keeping themselves informed about the latest guidance from the CDC and NYS DOH, as a well intentioned effort carried out the wrong way could be counterproductive in spreading this virus. He apprised Ms. Jones and her staff were compiling a list of community organizations that were equipped to handle this and were willing to accept those donations from the general public; he added this list would be posted online once it was completed and all of the organizations were aware that they had been included on it so they were prepared to handle these donations. He thanked everyone for the sentiment behind this which was admirable; however, he noted, they had to ensure what they carried out did not have unintended consequences.

Mr. Moore apprised going forward the County would operate under restricted access for as long as necessary and would be taking the advice of the local public health and public safety officials, as well as State and Federal agencies to determine how to phase this out as the danger subsided and how to get everything back up and running in a normal manner. He stated as previously mentioned by several Supervisors, when this pandemic waned the County would have to deal with an economic crisis which would be rather serious and he would that ask all of the departments develop fiscal posterity measures. He said the steps they took now would assist them with avoiding future layoffs which was his highest priority as the County Administrator because of the dedicated staff who provided a public service by keeping their jobs. He said a few of the other Counties in the region have started paying any of their employees who were working and declared essential during this crisis time and a half, but although there had been pressure to do so here, as well it was not going to occur because this meant layoffs would occur sooner and he believed it was in the best interest of the employees to do the work and get paid straight time for it.

He advised as previously mentioned by Supervisor Wild and Chairman Thomas, the County would be creating an economic recovery task force; he added they had some ideas about possible representatives from the business community and there had been interest expressed by some of the Superintendents of local school districts, as well. He remarked the message he wanted to pass on to the public, which had already been expressed by several Supervisors, as well as Congresswomen Stefanik, was that there would be assistance for businesses that were impacted and for those who were unemployed as a result of this. He said the goal was to develop a sound plan to implement to ensure this region perseveres through the forthcoming economic crisis to minimize its impact. He advised another thing he felt there was a need for in the long-term was the lessons learned as they moved forward. He mentioned the County had excellent plans and structure to respond to matters of this nature as proven by the repetity that the County Departments had executed the tasks required to protect the public health and safety; however, he noted, no response was perfect with crises like this revealing areas that needed attention. He stated one of the areas requiring attention was that the County leadership could do a better job in the future communicating with other entities in the region. He mentioned while the school districts all had excellent plans for themselves, the County had an excellent plan for the County, health agencies had a good plan to handle healthcare and businesses had an excellent plan to manage business what was lacking was a layer above all of that where designated representatives of all of those different entities met periodically so when situations such as this occur it was first and foremost in their minds to make those connections before any of them made a decisions that adversely impacted any others. He thanked the Information Technology staff who were all working tirelessly to keep the County online and the email server up and running with only a few glitches thus far that were rectified quickly. He apprised public communication was an issue during this time when staff was doing all they could working to protect the public, respond to the crisis in real time and gather all the information needed. He informed he had been able to communicate updates once a day to the full Board and Department Heads, as well as some community leaders and members of the media; he added everyone on his distribution list had been great disseminating this information to their contacts to ensure everyone was

aware of what was occurring. He advised social media was an area where the County was lacking that the new position of Director of Public Relations would be tasked with working on and he implored for support of this position which was desperately needed. He stated Supervisors Simpson, Seeber, Driscoll, Magowan and Geraghty would be meeting in his Office immediately following the conclusion of the Board Meeting to work with him on filling the position as soon as possible and he thanked them for their willingness to assist him with the process.

Mr. Moore apprised the County would emerge stronger after this crisis concluded in terms of being aware of the areas that required attention. He thanked Chairman Thomas for working hard in an attempt to respond in real time to make decisions. He added not only had Chairman Thomas done that, but he had also exercised that authority to do what needed to be done when required and it had been a pleasure to work with him on this response.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mary Elizabeth Kissane, *County Attorney*, to provide a report from the County Attorney. Ms. Kissane advised she had nothing to report on.

Resuming the Agenda review, Chairman Thomas called for the reading of communications, which Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, read aloud, as follows:

Reports from:

1. National Grid - Semi Annual PCB Inventory Report

Other:

1. FitzGerald Morris Baker Firth on behalf of the City of Glens Falls IDA - Transfer of property subject to a PILOT Agreement at 10-14 Park Street, Glens Falls, NY from EASM Properties, LLC to Park Theater LLC.
2. FitzGerald Morris Baker Firth on behalf of the City of Glens Falls IDA - Transfer of property subject to a PILOT Agreement at 14 Hudson Avenue, Glens Falls, NY from 14 Hudson LLC to MP GF Hudson LLC and Dawn GF Hudson LLC.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 92-140 were mailed; she informed that proposed Resolution Nos. 141-145 were produced after the resolutions were mailed pursuant to actions taken by the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services and Legislative & Rules Committees meetings held on March 17th, and a motion was necessary to Waive the Rules of the Board requiring that Resolutions be provided to the Board of Supervisors on the Tuesday prior to the Board Meeting to bring them to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Diamond and seconded by Supervisor Strough and carried unanimously. She stated the Resolution that Waived the Rules of the Board would now be referred to proposed Resolution No. 141 and Resolution Nos. 142-145 were the proposed Resolutions she had just mentioned. Mrs. Allen apprised there were two Floor Resolutions to be considered, both of which were outlined by Mr. Moore, the first of which pertained to Floor Resolution No. 1 which was advanced by the Director of Mental Health with permission from Supervisor McDevitt, who Chaired the Health Services Committee, that called upon the Members of the New York State Senate and Assembly to reject the Governors 2021 Executive Budget proposal to shift 100% of the cost of Competency Restoration Services to Counties. She indicated a motion was needed to Waive the Rules of the Board requiring that resolutions be provided to the members of the Board of Supervisors on the Tuesday prior to a regular Board Meeting and to bring Floor Resolution No. 1 to the Floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Strough, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll and carried unanimously. She advised the Resolution that Waived the Rules of the Board would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 146 and Floor Resolution No. 1 was now proposed Resolution No. 147. Mrs. Allen apprised Floor Resolution No. 2 was advanced by the Director of Health Services to amend the County Budget to appropriate funds related to the COVID-19 outbreak. She said a motion was also needed to Waive the Rules of the Board requiring that resolutions be provided to the members of the Board of Supervisors on the Tuesday prior to a regular Board Meeting

and to bring Floor Resolution No. 2 to the Floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Merlino, seconded by Supervisor Braymer and carried unanimously. Mrs. Allen apprised the Resolution that Waived the Rules of the Board would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 148 and Floor Resolution No. 2 was now known as proposed Resolution No. 149. She mentioned proposed Resolution No. 103 which pertained to rejecting all of the bids received for professional Auctioneer/Broker services needed to be withdrawn because it was being replaced by proposed Resolution No. 142 which awarded the bid for those services to Brzostek's Real Estate Auction Co., Inc. and a motion was required to withdraw proposed Resolution No. 103. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Braymer, seconded by Supervisor Diamond and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Wild stated for those who were participating in the meeting via teleconference, there was a high likelihood they would experience some feedback preventing them from hearing what was occurring. He said he felt it was necessary to take action to acknowledge how each of the Supervisors voted by raising their hands and to keep them unmuted unless they had something specific to say. Chairman Thomas apprised they could either raise their hands or give a thumbs up to vote in support of the proposed Resolutions. Mr. Moore added since Supervisor McDevitt did not have the video capability they would unmute his line when it was his turn to vote. Supervisor Magowan interjected that it was easy for them to follow along and unmute themselves when it was their time to vote. Chairman Thomas suggested they give a thumbs up if they were voting in support of the proposed Resolution and to raise their hands if they had a question.

Mrs. Allen apprised the last item that pertained to the reading of resolutions concerned the amendment to proposed Resolution No. 129, *Amending Tables of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2020*, mentioned by Mr. Moore to remove the creation of the Sr. Planner position and to delete Assistant County Planner #2. She said if the Board Members were in favor of the proposed amendment then a motion was required to amend proposed Resolution No. 129.

Supervisor Braymer stated she had worked on getting a position added to the Planning & Community Development Department last year to ensure the County was equipped to work on master planning for the County Infrastructure Project and she was aware of the discussion regarding the changing of the title; however, she voiced her disappointment that it was being removed altogether, but she also understood it was necessary not to spend any money out of the Unappropriated Surplus Fund Balance at this time. She said in that vane she felt they needed to get more information out to the public, but she felt the Supervisors should have access to this information prior to it being distributed to the media, as they needed clear information regarding what they could relay to the public involving what steps the County was taking. She said while she was appreciative of all the updates Mr. Moore was providing them, she felt it would be beneficial to be aware of what they could convey to the public; she added the public wanted to know what they should be doing and how they could assist the County in regards to the needs of the Office for the Aging, where the public could donate items and any other extra supplies and she suggested having a centralized location where these donations could be dropped off. She stated her point was should they delete the creation of the Director of Public Relations the same as the position in the Planning & Community Development Department was being deleted.

Supervisor Hogan stated while she understood the sentiment of eliminating the position for the Planning & Community Development Department and she would certainly support holding off on hiring an individual for this position, she did not believe they should delete it altogether. She asked whether anyone had consulted with the Director of the Department regarding the deletion of this position and Mr. Moore replied affirmatively. Supervisor Hogan questioned whether the Director had agreed this was the correct course of action to take at this point in time and Mr. Moore responded affirmatively, apprising the Director of the Planning & Community Development Department had indicated to him because the purpose of the position was not an essential service, they would not have position in the Office right now. Supervisor Hogan inquired whether it would be possible to move forward with

creating the position, but holding off on hiring someone, as she believed the Planning & Community Development Department would be essential for the recovery efforts from this crisis. Mr. Moore responded that they always had the option not to fill a position, as this was why they had a process in place regarding the filling of vacant positions and this could be used as a stop gap if the Board felt they should still move forward with the creation of the one position and the deletion of the other for the Planning & Community Development Department, as he could not foresee why this would not accomplish the same purpose. Supervisor Hogan asked whether they would just leave the Resolution in its current form and Mr. Moore replied those who felt the position should be created should vote against the proposed amendment to Resolution No. 129.

Supervisor Wild advised in response to Supervisors Hogan and Braymer's statements, it was not his intent to hold off on creating the position indefinitely because the infrastructure plan was imperative for the County going forward and this was just a temporary delay; he added he would prefer that they follow the recommendation of Mr. Moore which was to remove this position from proposed Resolution No. 129. He restated that he would ensure that this position was not held off on indefinitely and would be created as soon as it was appropriate.

Supervisor Seeber remarked she would support creating this position, but leaving it vacant at this time. She said she believed it would be shortsighted of the Board not to consider the incredible challenges they had in front of them and to that sentiment also continue to move forward with the Director of Public Relations position recognizing that in the future this could be a position they could fill for the Planning & Community Development Department. She mentioned it took a significant amount of effort to get these resolutions to go before the full Board and although they did a great job today meeting remotely she felt by leaving the position vacant since there was a process in place for the filling of vacant positions she would be supportive from that perspective.

Chairman Thomas called the question and requested a roll call vote on the proposed amendment to Resolution No. 129, *Amending Tables of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2020*, which would remove the creation of the Sr. Planner position and to delete Assistant County Planner #2. Following the vote it was determined that the motion to amend proposed Resolution No. 129 as outlined above passed, with a vote of 731 in favor (*Supervisors Magowan, Beaty, Shepler, Geraghty, Conover, Leggett, McDevitt, Bruno, Driscoll, Frasier, Simpson, Merlino, Strough, Wild and Thomas*) and 216 against (*Supervisors Seeber, Braymer, Diamond and Hogan*) and 53 absent (*Supervisor Dickinson*).

During the roll call vote, Supervisor Seeber requested for a point of order that if she voted in favor she was voting to remove the position from Resolution No. 129 and if she voted in opposition she was voting to keep the position, but have it remain vacant and Chairman Thomas replied affirmatively.

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

Supervisor Diamond requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 106, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Bronze Contracting, LLC for Building Demolition and Asbestos Abatement Services for Tax Map Parcel No. 302.8-1-2 Located at 275 Bay Road, Queensbury, New York (WC 83-19)*.

Supervisor Braymer requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 128, *Establishing the Tourism Advisory Group and Appointing Members*.

Supervisor Seeber stated for the purpose of the public who was watching the live stream of the meeting she felt they should acknowledge how the Supervisors who were present via teleconference were voting

to ensure the public was aware of this. In regard to proposed Resolution No. 128, *Establishing the Tourism Advisory Group and Appointing Members*, Supervisor Seeber apprised while she applauded the efforts of Supervisor Merlino she believed the County already had an Advisory Board which was established under the Local Law in Schedule A regarding occupancy tax who had not been meeting and she questioned whether this was something that could be combined in that Advisory Group for tourism or if his intention was to have something completely separate. She remarked because she did not feel she had a sufficient amount of information on that she would be abstaining from that vote. Supervisor Seeber requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 100, *Accepting Proposal and Authorizing Agreement with Invasive Solutions Dive Company, LLC for Schroon Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Control Program - Plant Management (WC 84-19)*, because while she was appreciative of the County Attorney's efforts to provide the Board Members with copies of all contracts that would be voted on ahead of the meeting, it was her understanding they had not been able to complete and disseminate a contract with Invasive Solutions Dive Company, LLC resulting in her having to abstain from voting on the proposed Resolution due to the lack of information. She added she was aware the lack of a contract in this case was through no fault of the County Attorney's Office because they had sought after additional information to complete it, but she did believe these contracts should be distributed for review prior to voting on anything and she was appreciative of Ms. Kissane's efforts on that part.

In regard to proposed Resolution No. 128, *Establishing the Tourism Advisory Group and Appointing Members*, Supervisor Diamond apprised he had the privilege to attend the Committee meeting where this matter was discussed during which he was surprised when Supervisor Merlino mentioned that he was creating this Advisory Group because there was minimal discussion nor had the matter been included on the Committee meeting agenda. He said he had voted in favor of it being brought before the full Board for the purpose of having additional time to have more dialogue in regards to what was trying to be accomplished. He pointed out there were currently seventeen Standing Committees, two Special Committees as well as an Airport Advisory Committee and now they were considering the creation of a Advisory Group for the Tourism Committee; he added he was unaware that there was also an Advisory Group for Occupancy Tax. He voiced his concern with how this Advisory Group was initiated and what was required of them, apprising he thought the matter should be tabled and sent back to Committee to have that discussion, as this had been attempted in the past, but it was not successful.

Supervisor Magowan apprised he would like to discuss proposed Resolution No 106, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Bronze Contracting, LLC for Building Demolition and Asbestos Abatement Services for Tax Map Parcel No. 302.8-1-2 Located at 275 Bay Road, Queensbury*. Chairman Thomas interjected the current discussion concerned proposed Resolution No. 128 and not 106 and he asked that Supervisor Magowan hold off on his comments until the appropriate time.

Supervisor Hogan remarked she was fully supportive of public participation in all of the County processes and Supervisor Merlino's intent in bringing these few individuals into the Committee process, but she had expressed to him some concerns about the constitution of the group he had chosen and how she did not feel there was a fair representation of the entire County.

Supervisor Wild stated he also supported the intent; however, he noted, he concurred with Supervisor Hogan that they had not had a chance to discuss the Advisory Group and its members. He advised he felt that it would be appropriate to determine what the purpose of this Group was and their goals and he suggested they consider tabling the matter and sending it back to Committee for further discussion.

Supervisor Conover mentioned for point of order purposes if that was a motion to table by Supervisor Diamond and there was a second to that motion then all discussion ceased and the Board voted on the motion to table and he asked Supervisor Diamond whether he had made a motion to table proposed Resolution No. 128, *Establishing the Tourism Advisory Group and Appointing Members*, and Supervisor

Diamond replied in the negative. Supervisor Diamond informed his intent was to discuss the matter to determine whether the other Board Members felt the same and if so he would support a motion to table the proposed Resolution.

A motion was made by Supervisor Diamond, seconded by Supervisor Conover and carried by majority vote, to table proposed Resolution No. 128, *Establishing the Tourism Advisory Group and Appointing Members*, and send it back to Committee, with a vote of 618 in favor (*Supervisors Magowan, Seeber, Beaty, Shepler, Conover, Diamond, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll, Simpson, Hogan and Wild*) and 329 against (*Supervisors Geraghty, Leggett, McDevitt, Frasier, Merlino, Strough and Thomas*) and 53 absent (*Supervisor Dickinson*).

In regard to proposed Resolution No 100, *Accepting Proposal and Authorizing Agreement with Invasive Solutions Dive Company, LLC for Schroon Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Control Program - Plant Management (WC 84-19)*, Supervisor Leggett informed this related to eurasian milfoil mitigation services that went out to bid and involved the Towns of Horicon and Chester on the lakes located in their Towns. He said he was concerned that if the proposed Resolution was voted down then it would slow down the process to contract with this vetted vendor to be able to mobilize and do the necessary work this summer.

Supervisor Simpson apprised he had not received the email with copies of the contracts that were distributed to the Board Members nor was he aware there was an issue getting in touch with the Invasive Solutions Dive Company, LLC. Ms. Kissane apologized, as this was the only contract she had not been able to finish prior to the Board Meeting because she required additional information regarding how it would be established and who would pay who. She said she had distributed all of the contracts, with the exception of this one on Monday but some of the emails were returned as undeliverable because the attachment was too large and when she tried emailing them again some of the emails were again returned and she did not make another attempt because at that point her concentration was on plans relating to COVID-19. Supervisor Simpson informed his understanding of this contract was that the Towns of Horicon and Chester were paying the vendor for this service with no expense to the County.

Supervisor Geraghty asked Supervisors Leggett and Simpson if they were supportive of proposed Resolution No. 100 and they both responded affirmatively. Supervisor Wild remarked he felt this was something they should be moving forward with, but he would like to understand if there were any consequences to holding off on this for a month. Supervisor Simpson responded that there was a shortage of milfoil harvesters and this contractor booked their work for the season early so if they lost them due to the delay then it could result in a year with no harvesting work done on some of the County's lakes. Supervisor Leggett added this contract was carried out with the Town of Schroon in Essex County, who had approved this remediation effort, as well and was a fully grant funded program with this being one aspect of it. He mentioned the County giving assurance to a small business in the Adirondacks that they would have upcoming business this summer would also be beneficial.

Supervisor Magowan advised Supervisor Braymer had distributed a proposed amendment to proposed Resolution No 106, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Bronze Contracting, LLC for Building Demolition and Asbestos Abatement Services for Tax Map Parcel No. 302.8-1-2 Located at 275 Bay Road, Queensbury*, prior to the meeting. He said he had viewed the building and had listened to Supervisor Strough's concerns regarding its condition, but he felt it would cost the County more money once the building was demolished because there was little that could be done with the buildings foundation and disturbing the soil would result in the return of the NYS DEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*); he added this was why he had been lobbying for the opportunity to determine if anyone from the public would be interested in purchasing the property as is and bringing it up to code and he had contacted Ms. Kissane to inquire whether an RFP could be released to include some form of bonding to ensure that the necessary improvements would be made. He restated that he

was asking for the opportunity to determine if anyone was interested in purchasing the property, but if nothing was in place by June 19th then they would move forward with demolishing the building. He pointed out a few individuals who had attended the March 2nd meeting of the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee indicated they may be interested in purchasing the property in its current condition. He said he was well aware the dilapidated building had been an issue for a number of years, but he believed they owed it to the County taxpayers to attempt to get the property on County taxroll and put out an RFP for the sale of the property in its current condition with the stipulation that the building needed to be renovated as soon as possible.

Supervisor Diamond advised a proposed amendment had been distributed to the Board Members prior to the meeting which spoke to delaying the demolition of the building until June 19th. He mentioned the Board had been notified by several individuals about their interest in the acquisition of the 275 Bay Road. He stated everyone concurred that the building located there was an eyesore, but the question was whether the building could be rehabilitated or should it be demolished, but in order to make this determination he felt they needed a report from a structural engineer; he added the cost to the County to demolish the building was about \$70,000. He advised with this amendment the Board had the opportunity to delay this demolition until June 19th to determine if there were individuals interested in purchasing the property who would rehabilitate the building. He stated this to him seemed to be the correct course of action to take because the property would not be removed from the taxrolls while also saving the County the cost of demolition. He remarked he thought this was a fair compromise that Supervisor Braymer had put forward for the Board to discuss and approve, as he did not feel that holding off on demolition for three more months was an issue since they had been dealing with this eyesore property for many years now. He said although no one may express an interest in the parcel, he felt they should provide them with the opportunity to do so in order to save the County about \$70,000.

A motion was made by Supervisor Diamond and seconded by Supervisor Beaty to amend proposed Resolution No. 106, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Bronze Contracting, LLC for Building Demolition and Asbestos Abatement Services for Tax Map Parcel No. 302.8-1-2 Located at 275 Bay Road, Queensbury*, to delay the demolition of the building located on 275 Bay Road until June 19th to allow an RFP to go out for the purchase and renovation of the building.

Mr. Moore questioned in terms of the process they were envisioning using for this Notice to Proceed to be issued what was the authorization for that, such as a Resolution from the full Board, i.e who had the authority to move forward with this. Supervisor Braymer responded that she got this notion from the County Superintendent of Public Works, as he had indicated to her that a Notice to Proceed would have to be issued before the demolition occurred. She said she believed this was a decision for the Board to make assuming that they could not sell the building prior to the deadline included in the amended resolution unless they wanted to give that authority to someone else, such as the Chairman of the Board. She apprised she felt this would suffice if they did not have any appropriate bidders by the deadline then they would authorize the Chairman of the Board to issue the Notice to Proceed.

Supervisor Conover asked whether they had Waived the Rules of the Board to bring the proposed amendment to the floor and Chairman Thomas responded it was not necessary to Waive the Rules of the Board for an amendment. Supervisor Conover advised his issue with the proposed amendment was that the proponents of this had not produced any type of metrics or standards that made him comfortable with accepting title to a contaminated property and then sell it to an unsuspecting bidder so the County could avoid the cost of demolition. He mentioned the approach he would be interested in would have been for the County to require whomever bid on this first and foremost to have experience with these types of environmental issues, as well as experience in re-mediating them. He said in addition the kind of individual that would be serious enough to bid on this should be required to provide personal guarantees and a non-refundable assurity performance bond that they would

handle this as the County wanted. He mentioned what was occurring was the County was delegating its responsibility to protect the public health to some yet to be determined individual. He remarked the reason he would be voting in opposition was because there had been no information or standards established for how the County would proceed and currently his understanding was someone could offer the County a few thousand dollars for this building and then the County would “wash their hands of it”. He said the issue was now the County was part of a title trail making them liable for any injury associated with this in the future and he was not supportive of that. In regard to the individuals who were indicating the property was clean, Supervisor Conover apprised he was not aware of any environmental investigation that notified whether this parcel was the source of contamination or whether it originated from some other sight or whether the underground pool moved into those wetlands resulting in the groundwater contaminating the streams and brooks. He remarked until he saw this type of investigation with that level of seriousness he could not consider this a critical matter relative to this amendment. He concluded by stating he would be voting in opposition of the amendment for all of the aforementioned reasons.

Supervisor Beaty advised their No. 1 priority should always be to take all steps necessary to keep properties on the taxrolls, as he believed there were too many government owned properties now. He said although it was sensible for the County to own properties in some cases, he did not believe this was relative in this case since the property had been an issue for over twenty years and he did not think holding off on demolition for an additional three months was unreasonable. He stated with the current state of the economy he did not believe the company that was awarded the contract for demolition would mind delaying the work for a few months, as they would more than likely just be pleased to have the business. He apprised he believed they should be doing everything in their power to provide the private sector with the opportunity to purchase the parcel; he added he had received two phone calls after the article featured in *The Post Star* was published from individuals interested in the property and when he asked why they had waited until now to express their interest their response was because they were not aware until they read the article. He remarked he would be voting in favor of the proposed amendment, as he could foresee no harm in delaying the demolition and he could not understand why anyone would vote against this since the goal was for the parcel to remain on the taxrolls. He stated they would all agree there would be some issues but their intent was to extend every courtesy to ensure the property remained on the taxrolls so the taxpayers did not have to fund another demolition of a building or its conversion into a parking lot which was what Supervisor Strough would like to occur for the Warren County Bike Trail since there was one already located about a half mile from this property. He apprised it made no sense for this parcel to be converted into a parking lot since the other one had a sufficient amount of parking available and was never full. He remarked he was fully supportive of this amendment because he believed they should provide the public with the opportunity to purchase the parcel before they moved forward with the demolition.

Supervisor Leggett stated this matter had been tabled at the February 21st Board Meeting and was once again vetted by the Committee at their March 2nd Committee meeting; he added he was a supporter of the Committee system, apprising if there were objections to it at that time then it would not be before them today. He advised because this parcel was located in the Town of Queensbury and the Queensbury Town Supervisor was advocating for the passage of proposed Resolution No. 106, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Bronze Contracting, LLC for Building Demolition and Asbestos Abatement Services for Tax Map Parcel No. 302.8-1-2 Located at 275 Bay Road, Queensbury*, in its current form he would be voting against the proposed amendment.

Supervisor Seeber apprised she would like to highlight that she had the opportunity to speak with Queensbury Town Board Member George Ferrone who had not conveyed the same information that had been communicated here today in terms of the Queensbury Town Board’s position on this. She said she would furthermore like to state that at the County they were all At-Large, Ward and Town Supervisors meaning not only is she a member of the public, but she also represented the Town of Queensbury

taxpayers, as well and she had heard from multiple people who echoed the support of the compromise proposed by Supervisor Merlino at the March 2nd Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee meeting. She remarked she did not feel it was reasonable for any representative to state that they signified every single view point in the Town of Queensbury or in their municipality. She mentioned they did the best they could to reach out to their constituents and provide communication to let the public participate. She advised she would be supporting the amendment that was before them today; she added she felt compelled to highlight the actions taken Committee were not based on a weighted vote and the Board Meetings were their opportunity to represent each constituent. She mentioned blocking or discouraging resolutions from going before the full Board was a concern not only they should all be aware of, but also the public.

Supervisor Strough apprised this discussion could be ongoing since the building had been vacant for about twenty years during which time no one had indicated any interest in it. He pointed out when they inquired if C.R. Bard, who bordered the property was interested in purchasing it they had responded in the negative given the contamination of the soil, the asbestos and lead paint that was present. He mentioned demolishing the building removed what had prevented this parcel from being marketable. He stated he was aware there were those who were indicating that he wanted this parcel to be converted into a parking lot for the Warren County Bike Trail which would be fine; however, he noted the parcel could become saleable once this building was torn down resulting in individuals possibly becoming interested in purchasing it, but no one would be as long as the building remained erect. He said he had been working since 2014 to try and get this building demolished and they had finally reached that point with the lowest responsible bid coming in well below what the anticipated cost was and the money had been allocated to move forward with this work. He implored with the Board Members to support proposed Resolution No. 106, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Bronze Contracting, LLC for Building Demolition and Asbestos Abatement Services for Tax Map Parcel No. 302.8-1-2 Located at 275 Bay Road, Queensbury*, in its current format. He advised in contrast to what Supervisor Seeber had indicated the Queensbury Town Board was fully supportive of moving forward with demolishing the building regardless of what one of their members had signified.

Supervisor Wild mentioned because he was in support of and championed the sale of the County's former recycling building he fully understood what was being presented today as an amendment; however, he noted, he had to look at this from a different perspective because of the differences in the two properties. He advised he had viewed this parcel on several occasions following which he determined he did not believe there was any commercial potential for it be because of how small it was and the lack of parking. He said he thought the only thing that location may be good for was an ice cream shop to support the Warren County Bike Trail, but there was already one of those located close to this parcel. He said he could not foresee what this parcel could be used for commercial purposes; adding Supervisor Magowan, who was also a member of the Town of Queensbury Planning Board, could also speak to the restrictions that were imposed on this property. He remarked based on his opinion he would not be supporting the proposed amendment because he did not believe the potential bidders were aware of the cost to re-mediate the building and the risk they were taking going forward. He mentioned even though he felt the County should sell this property and allow the private sector to be involved, he felt this was different then the former County recycling building and they needed to consider what the potential use may be, as well as whether it was feasible. He stated he would be supporting Supervisor Strough and the Town of Queensbury and be voting in opposition of the proposed amendment.

Supervisor Merlino asked that they move forward with voting on the proposed amendment, as he had to leave shortly due to another commitment.

In response to the concerns expressed by Supervisor Conover regarding a potential bidder having the means and qualifications to deal with the environmental concerns, Supervisor Diamond apprised all

of those questions could be answered in the form of an RFP. He said the County could include a requirement that the bidder put up a performance bond and demonstrate they had the financial backing to carry out the project, develop a conceptual plan for the Board to review, put in place a timeline for development, etc. He stated he, as well had questions about who could handle the work required, but without putting out an RFP there was no way to get that question answered.

Supervisor Leggett displayed an aerial map of the parcel in question which revealed the roof of the building that was in terrible condition. He added the view also assisted the Board Members with having a better understanding regarding the concerns expressed for the future use of the property.

Supervisor Magowan thanked Supervisor Conover for bringing attention to some valid concerns and Supervisor Diamond for responding with an appropriate solution. He advised once the building was torn down and all that remained was a slab a shovel would go into the ground which would result in the NYS DEC coming back in because currently there were some issues, but not enough for them to be concerned with unless the soil was disrupted. He said what he was asking them to consider was keeping the building intact and attracting someone who was qualified to follow through with making improvements to the building, but if no one responded by the deadline then they could move forward with the demolition which the County would pay for.

Supervisor Beaty stated upon occasion some of the Supervisors gave more credibility or weight to a Town Supervisor, but his weighted vote of eighty-five was the same as Supervisor Strough's. He said although Supervisor Strough was the Town of Queensbury Supervisor, he also represented the entire Town of Queensbury, as well as Supervisors Seeber, Wild and Magowan. He mentioned he was offended when individuals stated "the Town Supervisor" because they were all Supervisors from the Town of Queensbury. Next, he questioned how anyone could state there was a harm in delaying the demolition for three months since they had been waiting twenty years already.

Supervisor Strough informed this particular parcel was shaped like a triangle which did not meet today's standards and he displayed a picture of the lot with setbacks which were outlined in red with the lot line sketched in white. He stated the property was zoned for commercial/light industry with a number of uses not being permissible. He mentioned the building contained asbestos, lead paint, as well as contaminated soil that was acknowledged; he suggested they address the issues and not delay this demolition any further.

Chairman Thomas called the question and the motion to amend proposed Resolution No. 106, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Bronze Contracting, LLC for Building Demolition and Asbestos Abatement Services for Tax Map Parcel No. 302.8-1-2 Located at 275 Bay Road, Queensbury*, as outlined above failed, with a vote of 458 in favor (*Supervisors Magowan, Seeber, Beaty, Diamond, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll and Hogan*) and 489 against (*Supervisors Shepler, Geraghty, Conover, Leggett, McDevitt, Frasier, Simpson, Merlino, Strough, Wild and Thomas*) and 53 absent (*Supervisor Dickinson*).

Chairman Thomas called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 92-149, were approved as presented with the exception of Resolution No. 103, which was withdrawn and Resolution No. 128 which were tabled; Resolution No. 129 was amended from the floor.

During the roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 100, *Accepting Proposal and Authorizing Agreement with Invasive Solutions Dive Company, LLC for Schroon Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Control Program - Plant Management (WC 84-19)*, Supervisor Seeber apprised she was not opposed to the purpose of the contract, but because she did not receive the information she had requested a roll call vote. She said the information had since been forwarded to her; however, she noted, because she did not have a sufficient time for review she felt it was appropriate for her to abstain from voting on the proposed Resolution.

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

Mr. Moore advised he neglected to mention during his report that Mike Morris was the County's new representative on the second floor of the Governor's Office. He stated Mr. Morris had been phenomenal to work with because of his quick response and taking the time each day to check in and inquire if the County needed anything.

Supervisor Leggett announced the Governor had issued an Executive Order during the meeting that required 100% of the staff that was not essential to work from home or not work at all and he asked where EMS fell under this order. Mr. Moore advised he would need to review the details included in the Executive Order in order to make that determination. Supervisor Braymer pointed out that it appeared this was only applicable to businesses. Supervisor Leggett apologized, as he had only briefly glanced at the notification on his laptop so he was unaware of the details. Supervisor Beaty advised the order required all non-essential businesses to shutdown. Supervisor Leggett questioned whether EMS staff were essential like garbage services and Mr. Moore replied affirmatively.

Supervisor Conover apprised he was not sure everyone fully understood that Mr. Moore was the designated spokesperson of a multi-disciplined team in the event of an emergency. He stated he had no issue if Mr. Moore felt there was a need for the County to activate its facebook page, which was a governmental sight, as part of his communications and responsibilities, but a process was required for when a Supervisor would like something posted on the page to allow them to send this to the appropriate individual and then it could be reviewed and transmitted to Mr. Moore to make a final determination as to whether the information was accurate in a very fast changing situation. He remarked it was up to Mr. Moore to determine whether to activate the County's Facebook page, which was a governmental sight, if he felt he had the resources and time and could easily integrate that into his process, but if not then he may want to consider holding off until the Director of Public Affairs was hired.

Supervisor Seeber advised she would like to clarify for those of whom may not be as familiar with social media was what Supervisor Braymer had attempted to do last night was for the benefit of public participation which could not be done using YouTube Live Streaming or the Zoom that the County currently used. She said she and Supervisor Braymer had followed the lead from Albany County Legislators where they had their own separate Legislative page. She apprised any member of the Board of Supervisors was welcome to be an Administrator on the Warren County Board of Supervisor page with the hope that as soon as the position of Director of Public Affairs was approved today and subsequently filled, the Board would establish a Facebook page that would provide official communication out to the entire public because this was one of the major ways individuals received their communication, but not to substitute for websites, mail or other ways the County used to notify the public about what was occurring. She informed today they were able to have the public participate with about five questions from members of the public which she had forwarded to Mrs. Allen, but she did not know how the Chairman would choose to recognize that. She mentioned these questions were copied and pasted identically and not modified to allow that public participation; however, she noted, this was not a government Facebook page, but rather a collective group of coworkers that were attempting to provide information that any members of the Board were welcome to join. She stated she was looking forward to the Warren County official mode of communication which she had been asking for some time now. She mentioned several years ago Supervisor Leggett and a few other Supervisors including herself had attended a NYSAC training where they indicated this was needed. She advised they were doing the best they could today to get the information out, but she did feel that was a point of clarification that needed to be made.

Mr. Moore thanked the Board Members for approving the creation of the Director of Public Affairs

position today, as it was very much needed and probably should have been created long before this. He stated the Supervisors he had previously mentioned earlier would be convening in his Office immediately following the conclusion of the meeting to work on filling the position. He said when he presented the request to create the position before the Personnel & Administration Committee his initial thought was to not just have all of the access through him, but also for this position to have access to all of the Supervisors, as well because in particular in a time like this the Supervisors were just as valid as he was in terms of communicating with an individual who was going to maintain an official County presence on social media and that individual was a professional who would work with him or whomever else to sort it out. He advised the notion was for the individual in this position to be a “fly on the wall” in any important meetings being held by the County to ensure they understood the context of decisions so they were aware of what was permitted to speak about publicly; he added this was why he would like this individual to have direct access to all of the Supervisors when they were hired. He mentioned the ideal candidate for this position would be someone the Board Members already worked with, knew, was comfortable with and had a trustful relationship with them. He apprised this was what he was hoping would occur with his meeting with the working group of Supervisors this afternoon with the goal of hiring someone for the position as soon as possible with the perfect scenario resulting in someone starting on Monday morning.

Supervisor Wild advised he would like to mention something that was brought to his attention regarding stress and anxiety in the times they had today with people working from home with their children at home due to the schools all being closed. He referred to a notice distributed by SUNY New Paltz entitled “COVID-19 Managing Stress in this Anxious Time” which provided some coping mechanisms He said everyone should make sure they stay in touch with their friends and family because no matter how they looked at it this would be a stressful time over the next few weeks.

Supervisor Braymer stated as elected officials they were responsible to all of their constituents and she knew she was receiving a significant amount of questions from the public about what was occurring with the meal programs for students and elderly which were being taken care of by the School Districts and Office for the Aging with supplies available and the County was working on obtaining more hand sanitizer. She advised residents wanted to know what they could and could not do which is why she believed it was important for all of the Supervisors to provide this information to their constituents. She apprised for all of those Supervisors who were not on social media she wanted to ensure they were aware that the Facebook account she and Supervisor Seeber created was an important way for their constituents to stay informed; she added if the Director of Public Relations created an official account for Warren County then this would be even more information being communicated to the public through their official pages.

Supervisor Conover commended Mr. Moore for his excellent response to his question to him regarding communication which he hoped everyone would heed to what Mr. Moore had stated. He advised he recently noticed individuals had been privately filming Committee, Board and other types of meetings and he assumed because there was no regulation that this was permitted or in the absence of regulation that it was not permitted and he asked Chairman Thomas to make a determination as to whether private videoing of their meetings was permitted; he added they may also want to look at other governmental entities, as well as he did not believe they should have several Supervisors videoing the meetings because there may be some Supervisors that did not want to be on video. Chairman Thomas apprised he would take this under advisement.

Mr. Moore stated his thought on this was that they were in a public meeting where the media could not attend because there not allowed in the building and since it was a public meeting if live streaming was helpful in making it more of a public meeting he certainly had no issue with this.

Supervisor Beaty advised it was a public meeting and the Board was all about transparency which was

why he was confused about Supervisor Conover mentioning rules regarding the method that allowed the public to view the meetings while they were occurring. He remarked the public should have total access at all times and he thanked Mr. Moore for being supportive of that.

Supervisor Conover apprised he took no issue with live streaming of their meetings as long as there was a procedure in place for that purpose; he added this concerned Committee meetings, as well because they were also being privately videotaped and he was supportive of them being live streamed, as well. He said his question related to the private videotaping of their meetings, as he believed other governmental entities had addressed this matter with a policy. He informed no one was opposed to denying the public information, all he was concerned with was what the rules would be going forward.

Chairman Thomas stated this was an unusual time that he did not believe any of them had experienced before with the goal of having public participation and interaction during the Board Meeting, but they did not have the technological capability to do so yet; he added he was hoping it would be possible to have something in place that would have this capability in the future. He said at this point he did not have an issue with individuals live streaming the meeting to their facebook pages.

Supervisor Wild remarked he concurred that these had to be open meetings, but what he would like was an official stream to ensure nothing was modified or edited to prevent some of the Supervisors comments from being taken out of context.

Chairman Thomas advised the Board Meeting today was not only being recorded by Zoom, but also the technology used by the County to post Youtube videos of the meetings on the County website; he added the meeting was currently being live streamed to Youtube.

Supervisor Strough exited the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Supervisor Seeber advised she was appreciative of all of those efforts with her only comment being a live stream on Youtube and the licensing the County currently held with Zoom did not allow public participation. She said they were trying to band together not as political entities, but as members of this Board to provide that opportunity to the public in a time of crisis to answer their concerns. She apprised to that point they did have public participation included as an item on the Agenda and in recognizing the offices were closed to the public she had verbatim copied the questions that had come from the live feed and would appreciate and opportunity to have those comments read into the record and answered to the best of their ability here today. She restated that she had copied, pasted and distributed them verbatim in an email to Mrs. Allen and inquired if that was something that could do briefly to address public concern. Chairman Thomas apprised he took no issue with taking the time to answer the questions from the public.

Mrs. Allen apprised the first question stated “now would be a good time to report on testing data. It is understood there is a national shortage, how do we compare?” Mr. Moore responded he was unsure because he did not have access to any other municipalities testing data. Supervisor Braymer asked if anyone was aware of the statistics for Warren County. Mr. Moore replied he would let Ms. Jones speak to this, but one of the issues they had with recording the tests that were pending was the County was not always aware if the test was pending because the practitioner can order the test on their own authority. Ms. Jones apprised Mr. Moore was correct in a sense that the County was unsure of how many tests were being carried out locally. She said Glens Falls Hospital was the only institution providing the testing in the County; however, she noted, they were also handling tests for residents from Essex, Hamilton and northern Saratoga County. She informed there were between seventy to one hundred tests being handled in the tent that was set up outside on the Hospital grounds everyday and about thirty were being conducted on in-patients on a daily basis, but she was unsure how many of them were County residents because her Department had no control over who was getting tested.

Mrs. Allen read aloud the next comment which stated “perhaps links to agencies could go on the County website so individuals can reach out on how to help reduce redundancy”. Mrs. Allen added there was also the following question: “what is the situation with ventilators?” Supervisor Seeber requested that each question and/or comment be addressed on its own, apprising these individuals were aware their names were public for public comment. Ms. Allen stated the comments regarding the national shortage were from M.S. Hayes and the request to put the links on the website was from Darlene Giblin Hayes and Pamela DeGroff was asking about the situation with ventilators. In regard to ventilators, Chairman Thomas stated the only thing he was aware of he learned from the news and that was that two of the automobile manufacturers were going to start producing ventilators through the Federal Government. Mrs. Allen advised Pamela DeGroff had another question where she was asking what could individuals do if they thought they had the Coronavirus and their doctor was no longer working. Ms. Jones responded that individuals who felt they had the Coronavirus and their doctor was no longer working could contact the local Urgent Care Facilities or her Office and they could get them in contact with a doctor. Mr. Moore recommended that they call their insurance provider and inquire if they had a telemedicine option; he added the County was offering telemedicine to all of their employees who were covered under the County insurance plan to address all types of illnesses, including Coronavirus, so they did not have to sit in a doctor's office waiting room in order to get checked out. Mrs. Allen informed the next one was a comment from Kelly Borgos Hatin which indicated SUNY Adirondack was doing a tremendous job of getting courses online and educational assistance and advising for Summer and Fall, etc. and she thanked everyone. She said we would get through this with students all getting remote training as we speak we should be right on track. In regard to what Mr. Moore had just mentioned, Chairman Thomas advised he had received an email that doctorsondemand.com was a tool that could be used for telemedicine where the user created a profile and provided their insurance information if the user had any and then downloaded the application. Mrs. Allen informed the next question was from Melody from Impression Florist which stated “you are doing good things. Question I am hoping you can direct me where to check if they are still allowing funerals with restrictions. I was told by a florist support group that I can transfer my business phone and take floral orders for funerals and go in myself and design and deliver. I am wondering if this is true or I keep my business functioning, limiting hours with just me only or did I have to close the store?” Mr. Moore replied the best advice he could give was to contact an association or a business directly, as the County was still trying to get a handle on what the latest Executive Orders meant. Ms. Jones advised she would like to return to the question regarding what someone should do if they thought they had Coronavirus, but did not have a doctor, apprising the Glens Falls Hospital had a tent where an individual without a provider could drive up and get a screening and be tested if necessary. She said this would probably be better than going to urgent care unless they required management of their disease. Mrs. Allen apprised the final one was a comment from Clyde Moore who would like everyone to support their local restaurants by grabbing food to go and taking it out.

Supervisor Wild mentioned he would like to respond to the question regarding which businesses were determined to be essential, apprising he read an email which indicated the Empire State Development Organization was answering those questions. He advised he was unsure if this were correct, but he could work on finding this information and he encouraged the individual who asked that question to contact him through his email which was posted on the County website. Chairman Thomas stated he had been on a conference call with the Governors Office yesterday and Supervisor Wild was correct that the Empire State Development Organization would make the determination on what businesses were essential; he added there were also waivers available. Supervisor Wild asked if individuals searched for the New York State Empire State Development Organization they would be able to find this information and Chairman Thomas replied affirmatively. Mr. Moore suggested googling NYSESD.

Supervisor Driscoll advised he had been contacted by a few of his constituents who had heard the State and Federal Governments would be withholding Federal and State tax returns. He said some of these families depended on those monies to develop their monthly budgets every year and he asked if anyone

else knew anything about this because he was unsure if this were true. Supervisor Geraghty stated if individuals had filed their income taxes then the Federal Government had already begun processing income tax refunds, but the State was slower with their processing. Supervisor Driscoll apprised these individuals filed their return in the beginning of March, but they had not received anything yet and were concerned because they heard these monies were being withheld. Mr. Moore informed he had no information regarding that.

Chairman Thomas called for announcements.

Supervisor Seeber stated there had been a Trivia Night scheduled for tonight at SUNY Adirondack which had been cancelled in light of the circumstances and she thanked those Board Members who had signed up to participate. She said in light of that every time they participated in the competition she personally purchased hats for Warren County's team, but on behalf of the Board of Supervisors what she wanted to do was use these hats and give them to Mr. Moore and Ms. Jones as an acknowledgment because this was a difficult time with everyone doing the best they could and she would like to see the hats go to good use.

Chairman Thomas thanked everyone for their patience, as he believed the meeting had run smoothly.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Geraghty and seconded by Supervisor Simpson , Chairman Thomas adjourned the Board Meeting at 1:19 p.m.