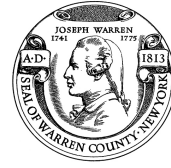


Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 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".

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

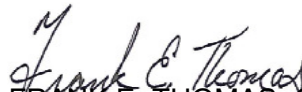
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WARREN COUNTY:

You are hereby notified that I, FRANK E. THOMAS, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, pursuant to the power vested in me by Rule A.3 of the Rules of the Board of Supervisors, hereby call and convene a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County to be held in the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Town of Queensbury, New York, on **NOVEMBER 6, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M.**, for the purpose of:

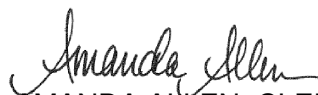
1. Presentation of the 2021 Tentative Warren County Budget; and
2. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the Board of Supervisors.

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby directed to call for the meeting and give written notice to all members of the Board of Supervisors of such meeting.

Dated: October 8, 2020


FRANK E. THOMAS, CHAIRMAN
Warren County Board of Supervisors

To the Members of the Board of Supervisors: At the direction of the Chairman of the Board, I am notifying you of the Special Meeting called for the time, place and purposes set forth above.


AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK
Warren County Board of Supervisors

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

Mr. Frank E. Thomas presiding.

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Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Geraghty.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Leggett, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Driscoll, Simpson, Hogan, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Magowan, Seeber, Beaty, Shepler, Geraghty and Thomas-17 Absent -3 Supervisors Bruno, Frasier and Dickinson

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

Chairman Thomas noted the purpose of the Special Board Meeting was to present the 2021 Tentative County Budget. Privilege of the floor was extended to Kevin Geraghty, *Budget Officer*, who proceeded to make the 2021 Budget Message, as follows:

“First of all thank you to the Budget Team.

Tammie DeLorenzo, *Assistant to the County Administrator*, Kristy Miller, *Confidential Secretary to the County Administrator*, Rob Lynch, *Deputy County Treasurer*, and Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, for all their time and effort put into organizing this 2021 Budget. I believe that Mr. Moore was like the guy in the Geico Insurance Commercial who holds the sign, but he holds on to the Budget.

Thank you again.

We opened the process to anyone who wanted to attend. We had a few takers, but Supervisor Diamond would receive an almost perfect attendance award at our sessions.

To all the Department Heads who met the challenge during the request for a Deficient Reduction Plan, thank you.

Their budget requests were what they felt they needed so we thank them for that also.

So here is the Tentative Budget.”

Supervisor Geraghty then proceeded to make a Power Point presentation on the 2021 Tentative Budget, a copy of which is on file with the items distributed at the Board meeting. During the Power Point presentation Supervisor Bruno entered the meeting at 10:05 a.m. via teleconference; Supervisor Dickinson entered the meeting at 10:06 a.m. via teleconference; and Supervisor Frasier entered the meeting at 10:08 a.m. At the conclusion of the Power Point presentation, Supervisor Geraghty opened the floor to any comments or questions on the Budget proposal.

Supervisor Leggett inquired if any future financing had been included in the 2021 Tentative Budget and Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, replied in the negative, explaining that would not be included until they went to market and borrowed the money. Supervisor Geraghty added if they were to borrow money next year they would not have to begin paying it back until the following year. Supervisor Magowan asked for clarification on Supervisor Leggett’s question and Supervisor Geraghty responded it pertained to whether any future financing had been included in the 2021 Tentative Budget. Supervisor Geraghty apprised there was a reduction in payments for borrowing in the 2021 Tentative Budget; however, he noted, this did not include any they did in 2021 because no payments would be made until 2022. He added they would have to shop around to obtain the best deal in terms of

borrowing for the County.

Supervisor McDevitt remarked he was pleased the paving and maintenance of County Roads would be taken care of by borrowing money at record low interest rates, as the ramifications in terms of the increase in this expense if they were not maintained would be substantially more.

Supervisor Braymer voiced her pleasure that the County Tax rate was decreasing and in particular for the City of Glens Falls even though she wished this decrease was slightly more; she added Supervisor Geraghty had done an excellent job addressing the reduction in State aid to the County. In regard to the position that was added to the County Planning Department for the purpose of managing the listing was comprised of future County Infrastructure projects, she asked whether this position had been included in the 2021 Tentative County Budget and if so was it funded because if it was then she believed they should consider removing it. Mr. Moore replied the position remained in the County Budget, but it was unfunded. Supervisor Braymer suggested they consider removing the position from the County Budget and then it could be reevaluated at a future date. Supervisor Geraghty stated he would make note of that for a future discussion.

Supervisor Wild apprised the expense related to the State retirement was increasing by about 10% and he questioned whether this increase related to the State investments. Supervisor Geraghty replied he was assuming that this is what it was based on; however, he noted, he had reviewed a report which indicated the State's return on investments was doing well and that was why he was perplexed by the significant increase, but he would defer to Mr. Moore on this question. Mr. Moore informed the employees with the longest tenure working for the County who were in Tier 4 or below of the retirement system added the most expense to the County's retirement costs and those in Tiers 5 and 6 added minimal expense. He advised the County's expense was a function of the expense associated with the Tier's of all of the employees and how well the State's return on investment was doing.

In regard to occupancy tax collections, Supervisor Wild questioned whether the funding allocated from the occupancy tax fund balance would be returned if the amount collected was more than what was budgeted and Supervisor Geraghty replied affirmatively. Supervisor Geraghty stated if he was reappointed as the Budget Officer next year and occupancy tax collections rebounded then as he had previously mentioned he was not opposed to revisiting the allocations next year. He said he believed there may be a slight increase in occupancy tax as a result of the Treasurer's Office working on collections from the short-term rentals. He noted he had learned from his previous experience as the County Budget Officer that it took several years to recover when you over estimate revenues which was why he budgeted conservatively for occupancy tax.

Supervisor Seeber stated her question related to the process moving forward, apprising she had previously expressed some concerns regarding the contracts with outside agencies; she noticed there was no increase in funding for these organizations, but said she would appreciate being able to take another look at all of these contracts and reevaluate whether cuts could be made. She asked Supervisor Geraghty what the process was between now and the November 21st Board Meeting in regard to how they relayed their questions and/or concerns to him. Supervisor Geraghty responded specific concerns anyone would like to be reviewed could be discussed at the November 16th Budget Committee meeting. He informed they had thoroughly reviewed each of these contracts and decided they were viable programs, some of which were taking cuts from other funding sources and why they felt keeping their funding amounts the same as the prior year was appropriate, but if there was a specific one Supervisor Seeber would like to discuss they could do so at the Budget Committee meeting. Supervisor Seeber indicated she would like to learn more about the analysis that was done on each contract.

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Mr. Moore informed if any changes were recommended to the 2021 Tentative Budget by the Budget Committee at their November 16th meeting he would issue a report pertaining to these changes and if the Board decided they would like to move forward with those changes they would do so at the November 20th Board Meeting.

Supervisor Diamond advised he felt compelled to point out to the residents of the City of Glens Falls were paying 9.3% of the County expenses in 2020, but in 2021 this figure was decreasing to 8.81%. He stated he and a few of his colleagues on the Board would like to opportunity to discuss the division for the Warren County EDC (*Economic Development Corporation*), as he had some questions he would like to ask them regarding their plans moving forward. Supervisor Geraghty apprised he had notified Jim Siplon, *Interim President, EDC*, that the County required a more thorough plan in writing regarding their budget to discuss their fund balance and some of the programs they planned on funding with it in order for the County to continue to fund them at the same level. Supervisor Wild stated that Mr. Siplon was more than willing to attend a meeting to address questions and he would notify him of the meeting on November 16th. Supervisor Geraghty apprised providing the information in writing would better assist the County in understanding what the EDC's plans were moving forward. Supervisor Wild pointed out the EDC had its own Board of Directors required to approve the annual budget, but they had yet to do so.

Supervisor Driscoll indicated what he liked the most about the 2021 Tentative Budget was that it included under future priorities they would continue to look for efficiencies that would cut costs while providing quality services, as he believed aside from the lakes and mountains in the region, the County Departments were one of its greatest assets. He pointed out the County had been recognized for its response to the pandemic not only in the State, but also on a national level when it was featured on national news. He remarked the fact that the departments put forth their best effort was important to him, noting the taxpayers paid for the programs and services the County provided which he was pleased would remain quality ones.

Supervisor Beaty stated he was pleased with a number of the initiatives, one of which was to correct the funding for County Road Projects which he believed was critical. He said he concurred the most sensible way to take care of this was by borrowing money at a lower interest rate to pay for this work. In regard to the retirement expense, he apprised this figure was a five year rolling average based off of the investments of the State's retirement system, similar to the system used by the Queensbury School District. He said as an example when he was a member of the Queensbury School District Board some years the State retirement would request to fund 10% of an individuals retirement into the system and other years it would be 20%. He advised that he foresaw the County's contribution to the retirement system increasing even more next year which they had no control over because it was based on the State retirement systems investments. He stated he felt the fact that they had requested every department to make cuts to their budget would speak volumes to the County taxpayers that they were being as responsible as possible with their money. He remarked he concurred with Supervisors Seeber and Diamond that they needed to review the contract the County had with outside organizations, as he was unsure if it was appropriate for the funding levels to remain flat; he added he was pleased these would be reviewed at the November 16th Budget Committee meeting.

Mr. Moore advised he would like to thank the Department Heads again for providing the Budget Team with a good foundation to start with, as there were a number of cuts made to those budgets. He said he felt they had made some tough decisions, but he believed they could live with all of them,

Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, pointed out the interest rate he had provided to Budget Team was the current rate and he could make no predictions as to what that figure would be going into 2021. He

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stated he felt this was an appropriate budget, noting that many other Counties had to borrow money, but because of the excellent budgeting that had been done over the last ten years the County remained in good financial standing. Mr. Moore informed a number of Counties were increasing their tax rate, with only a few of them like Warren County who had been able to reduce the taxes. He apprised the County already had one of the lowest tax rates within the State and reducing that figure even more would assist the County with accomplishing what they were trying to do in terms of economic development and other areas.

Supervisor Braymer suggested moving forward with bonding now so they could lock in the low interest rate since there was uncertainty regarding what the rate would be going into next year. Mr. Swan advised he would prefer not to borrow money this year because if they did then they would have to begin paying it back next year. Mr. Swan added the DPW had not provided him with a solid figure in terms of the amount of money they needed for Road Projects nor did they know how much money they required to deal with the collapsing retaining wall on Sagamore Road in the Town of Bolton. He said that as soon as those figures were available they could begin planning, but he did not want to borrow the money until next year so no payments would be due until 2022.

Supervisor Leggett noted 29% of the County Budget originated from property tax, with the bulk of it coming from other areas.

Supervisor Geraghty asked Don Lehman, *Director of Public Affairs*, whether there were any public comments and Mr. Lehman replied affirmatively. He stated Diane Collins, *representing the Zero Waste Committee*, had indicated she was a resident of the City of Glens Falls and paid County taxes and her concerns regarding the budget involved waste management in the County. She said she was a member of the Zero Waste Committee that had repeatedly recommended changes to the Board of Supervisors on waste policies which related to budget decisions. She stated currently there appeared to be no oversight of private haulers responsible for picking up residents trash, with an abundance of anecdotal evidence supporting that these haulers were bringing recyclables to Wheelabrator for incineration which was illegal by law. She explained according to the law oversight was mandated, but in reality there was none. She said it was likely that the County DPW would need increased funds allocated for this responsibility and she asked whether the County was moving forward with licensing haulers in the County and requiring data reports as the 2018-2028 Solid Waste Report recommends. She mentioned NYS DEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*) had developed stricter requirements concerning where private haulers were taking their trash and Warren County coordination would be necessary versus the traditional approach of asking municipalities to carry out this responsibility. She asked if the DPW had increased their budget to reflect the cost of hauler oversight, licensing and data reporting requirements, did the Budget Team consider potential revenue from a hauler fee schedule successfully accomplished in other cities, such as Troy, did the Budget reflect funds from moving towards having a County-wide compost facility, how did the Budget reflect funds for required recommended changes in waste management policies, what was the DPW Budget for 2021 and for the past 2020, as she would hope that her taxes would go toward a significant increase. Mr. Lehman apprised Ms. Collins made some additional comments on YouTube regarding who the Zero Waste Committee should meet with to discuss the possibility before the Budget was finalized. He informed she had also noted by charging haulers \$10 a ton on garbage destined for disposal potential revenue for the County could exceed \$400,000 based on data included in the County's Solid Waste Plan. In response to Ms. Collin's comments, Supervisor Geraghty advised he would meet with Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, to determine the status of the County's Solid Waste Plan.

Mr. Lehman apprised there was also a question from Christine Strough regarding the Airport and why the County website listed Leaf Air as the only provider of flight instruction if Freer Ideas had been

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operating a flight school for ten years there and why was this business not been listed on the County website, as well keeping in mind that the issue of a contract with Freer Ideas only came to light recently. Supervisor Geraghty stated this was out of his realm as Budget Officer, but he was sure it would be addressed at their regular meeting.

Supervisor Driscoll informed Ms. Collins was a constituent of his and he wanted to ensure everyone was aware he had contacted Mr. Hajos for his input on those questions which he had forwarded on to Ms. Collins.

This concluded the comments on the 2021 Tentative Budget, and Chairman Thomas resumed the Chair.

Chairman Thomas commended the Budget Team for doing an excellent job putting together the 2021 Tentative Budget, especially given how difficult 2020 had been and he thanked them for their efforts.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, apprised Resolution No. 399 had been distributed to the members of the Board of Supervisors on November 3rd. She stated there were three proposed Floor resolutions that needed to be addressed that had been distributed to the Board of Supervisors on November 3rd which met the technical distribution date specified in the Rules of the Board and in order to entertain these items a motion and a simple majority vote was required to bring them to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Braymer, seconded by Supervisor McDevitt and carried unanimously. Mrs. Allen announced proposed Floor Resolution No. 1 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 400, proposed Floor Resolution No. 2 would be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 401, and proposed Floor Resolution No. 3 would now be referred to as proposed Floor Resolution No. 402.

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

In regard to proposed Resolution No. 401, *Authorizing the Appropriation of Additional Funds from the Environmental Testing Reserve Fund to the Real Property Tax Services Budget to Pay Bronze Contracting, LLC for an Increase in the Cost of Demolition for Town of Queensbury Tax Map Parcel No. 302.8-1-2 (275 Bay Road) Related to an Increase in Prevailing Wage Rates; and Amending 2020 Warren County Budget*, Supervisor Braymer informed although the Committee had not met, this particular Resolution concerned the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee in regard to the demolition of the property on Bay Road in the Town of Queensbury which had an additional cost of \$500. She said she felt it was imperative for this to go before the Board now to ensure the building could be demolished before the winter. She stated while she had advocated to prevent this building from being demolished, this had not been the will of the Board and the demolition was moving forward with the hopes of it being done before significant snowfall prevented the work from being done.

Mrs. Allen advised she had neglected to mention proposed Resolution No. 401, *Authorizing the Appropriation of Additional Funds from the Environmental Testing Reserve Fund to the Real Property Tax Services Budget to Pay Bronze Contracting, LLC for an Increase in the Cost of Demolition for Town of Queensbury Tax Map Parcel No. 302.8-1-2 (275 Bay Road) Related to an Increase in Prevailing Wage Rates; and Amending 2020 Warren County Budget*, would require a roll call vote.

Chairman Thomas called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution No. 399-402 were approved as presented.

Chairman Thomas called for announcements.

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Chairman Thomas informed last night an email was distributed to the members of the Board of Supervisors by Mr. Moore concerning Governor Cuomo's Executive Order No. 203 which was issued back in June. He stated the Sheriff had developed a community discussion or survey regarding police reform and re-invention of policing in the County. He requested that each Board member distribute this to around ten of their constituents to review and provide any suggestions and/or comments they may have to the Sheriff. He advised the County was beginning the process, but he believed the Sheriff was ahead of most other Counties and was why he believed Warren County would be in good standing on April 1, 2021. Mr. Moore stated the Sheriff's Office was accredited which was an accomplishment on its own because of all of the police agencies in the State only 29% of them were accredited. He said this assisted the County with this process, as it meant the County was keeping up with all of the latest training and industry trends and provided them with an advantage with this process which was a credit to this department.

Supervisor Driscoll inquired whether there was a maximum number of surveys the Supervisors could distribute to their constituents and Chairman Thomas replied the Sheriff had suggested five to ten per Supervisor, but he did not foresee this being an issue if any of them would like more than that. Chairman Thomas advised they did not want to distribute it to the public because then they would be unsure if the responses were from residents of the County. He added many more Committee and public meetings would be held regarding this issue. He apprised the Sheriff viewed this as an opportunity to increase their professional standards even greater than they already were to do a better job.

Supervisor Strough stated he had a conference call with State employees regarding the pandemic during which the County was recognized for its response, enforcement and plan concerning the virus which he attributed to the efforts of Mr. Moore and Ginelle Jones, *Director of Public Health*. Chairman Thomas remarked he felt Mr. Moore and Ms. Jones were deserving of the recognition because of the excellent job they had done managing everything related to the pandemic.

Supervisor Seeber advised given the issues associated with the recent presidential election that were occurring in other States she felt it was appropriate to recognize the Board of Elections staff for ensuring there were no issues with the election in the County, as well as the time and attention they provided to each of the voters. She said she wanted to point this out and ensure that they were aware their hard work did not go unnoticed and was appreciated.

Supervisor Geraghty indicated he would like to echo Supervisor Seeber's remarked regarding the Board of Elections staff and their handling of the recent election. He stated he had contacted them to let them know how smooth the election process had been in the Town of Warrensburg, adding the State's with issues could learn something from the way the County Board of Elections managed the election. He informed they had ensured they were in compliance with all of the rules and regulations and he thanked them for the manner in which they administered the election.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Strough and seconded by Supervisor Seeber, Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.