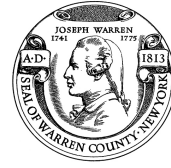


Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 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 McDevitt.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Leggett, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll, Frasier, Simpson, Hogan, Diamond, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Magowan, Seeber, Beaty, Shepler, Geraghty and Thomas-20 Absent -0

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

Chairman Thomas announced Congresswoman Stefanik, Senator Little and Assemblyman Stec were not present; he noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of the October 16th Board Meeting, as well as the November 6th Special Board Meeting subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Geraghty and carried unanimously.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Thomas declared the Public Hearing on Warren County Sewer District (Industrial Park) Assessment Roll open at 10:03 a.m. and he asked Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, to read the Notice of the Public Hearing aloud, which she proceeded to do. Chairman Thomas asked Don Lehman, *Director of Public Affairs*, whether there were any public comments. Mr. Lehman replied there was extensive public comment from members of the Zero Waste Committee and he asked whether Chairman Thomas would like to address these now or later in the meeting and Chairman Thomas responded those could be addressed later in the meeting. He advised that they would leave the Public Hearing open while they proceeded with the Agenda review.

Continuing, Chairman Thomas declared the Public Hearing open on the 2021 Tentative Warren County Budget at 10:05 a.m. and he asked Mrs. Allen to read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud, which she proceeded to do. Chairman Thomas then asked Mr. Lehman whether there were any public comments and Mr. Lehman replied the comments he had received were from the Zero Waste Committee and asked when Chairman Thomas would like to address them. Chairman Thomas inquired whether the comments related more to the 2020 Tentative Warren County Budget or the Sewer District (Industrial Park) Assessment Roll and Mr. Lehman replied they related more to the Solid Waste Plan than the 2020

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Tentative Warren County Budget itself. Chairman Thomas apprised since this appeared to relate to the 2020 Tentative Warren County Budget he would entertain those comments now.

Mr. Lehman advised Elizabeth Crawford, *Member of the Zero Waste Committee*, indicated she had some budgetary suggestions that could assist Warren County with streamlining the solid waste stream in the County. She informed there were many trash haulers involved in transporting solid waste in Warren County and currently there was no oversight or enforcement of the laws which were adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1991. She suggested Warren County could finance a position at the County level to provide enforcement of the County Solid Waste laws that were already on the books, as well as data collection from all of the haulers. She mentioned this position could be financed through a fee of \$10 per ton of solid waste levied on the hauler, but in order to do so the County would have to determine how much solid waste each hauler was picking up. She pointed out the City of Troy had recently taken this step and stood ready to inform and assist Warren County in what needed to be done. She inquired if the relevant Supervisors and staff were ready to meet via Zoom with the City of Troy's Director of Recycling and members of the Zero Waste Committee. She stated in actuality this was not a difficult process and only appeared to be difficult because Warren County had never attempted it. She noted several other Counties and municipalities throughout New York State had started the process which was working for them. She apprised although it looked complex by following in the steps of the other municipalities Warren County could move into a more efficient way of dealing with solid waste. She concluded by thanking the Board for the opportunity to comment.

Mr. Lehman stated there were also some comments from Joy Keithline which thanked the Board for meeting and discussing the present situation that every community across the Country was facing. She mentioned they were all aware of what the problem was, but the solution was multifaceted and involved industry, society and various mindsets. She apprised while they concurred that the consequences they were presently facing were only going to get worse as a result of more people and a less hospitable planet it behooved individuals to start thinking of a more sustainable approach to waste which was complex, but there were solutions. She suggested the Board consider including a waste czar in its budget for whom recycling, composting and less food waste were meaningful objectives that could be met. She said they could consider the roll of industry and its irrefutable contribution to the problem more specifically in plastic packaging and consider the carcinogenic products that people were seduced into buying due to advertising. She pointed out bees were also to be considered in their demise due to the callous use of pesticides both directly and indirectly which was very much a part of this evolution of change. She apprised they should put the City of Glens Falls on the global map of sustainable cities who cared about the future of the planet by shutting down the incinerator that was shortening lives, demanding that industry was mindful of the waste stream they were creating and the numerous ways they could manage waste that was less polluting and even beneficial to the air, water and soil. She thanked the Board members for making the bold decision to make the region more healthy and sustainable and she wished everyone peace and harmony.

Mr. Lehman apprised the next comments were from Mary Beth Mylott, *Town of Bolton Resident*, who indicated she had reviewed the video of the Committee meeting on August 20th when they discussed the Warren County LSWMP (*Local Solid Waste Management Plan*) for the next decade. She said on page 16 of the R.S. Lynch Report the authors indicated there were data gaps and additional information was required due to the County currently not collecting enough solid waste disposal and recycling data to reliably measure actual recycling data. She continued, advising furthermore the data that was collected was occasionally incomplete and inconsistent and a goal for the County during this planning period would be to evaluate future options for improving the amount and accuracy of the data which the County received in order to measure actual system performance and make more informed future solid waste planning decisions. She said she had concluded that a comprehensive evaluation was difficult

due to the opacity of hard data from private haulers in towns and the absence of recycling data from many towns. She informed Warren County had many private haulers as evidenced by their containers along road sides and it appeared as if they were all doing their own thing without oversight. She suggested moving forward that the County collect hard data to make science based decisions and to have a higher level of enforcement so haulers could conform to the regulations already on the books; therefore, she said, she favored that the Warren County 2021 Budget include funding for a dedicated position to collect data about all these private haulers and their loads. She advised in addition this professional would enforce regulations to prevent private haulers from disposing of recyclables in the incinerator. She stated next she would propose the establishment of a modest tipping fee of a certain amount of dollars per ton that could offset the cost of funding such a position that should begin in 2021.

Mr. Lehman apprised Diane Collins stated that she knew she sounded like a broken record, but sometimes that strategy got things accomplished. She informed the Zero Waste Committee had been in repeated communication with Warren County Supervisors and Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, with zero waste ideas and invitations from other towns and cities willing to work with Warren County and share their successful strategies. She advised they felt that the consultants Local Solid Waste Management Plan 2019-2028 left out substantial improvement recommendations with the exemption of permitting licensing haulers and collecting data to measure what was going on. She stated her street, Thornberry Drive in the City of Glens Falls, was three tenths of a mile long and this summer on a Tuesday she had counted seven different private hauler bins along it which translated to seven heavy garbage trucks driving weekly on her recently paved street. She advised she had called these seven companies and three of the smaller companies had indicated to her that all they collected was brought to Wheelabrator for incineration which as the Board Members were well aware it was against the law to incinerate the recyclables picked up by these companies; however, she noted, everyone was well aware the County was providing no enforcement of the 1991 source separation law for private haulers, as the municipalities were not tracking private haulers at all. She said many community members were well aware the single stream system was not working and had lost faith in recycling. She remarked it was time to find out and act. She apprised Mr. Hajos had shared with our Committee that he planned to bring to the Public Works Committee the issue of hauler permits, fees and recording requirements. She indicated the DEC had recently established more stringent hauler recording requirements where enforcement would also be necessary and Warren County needed to coordinate and manage this complex hauler oversight program for consistency. She indicated professional staff to do this required budgeted funds and as a taxpayer she was requesting that the budget include oversight of the private haulers and where the refuse was taken and not wait for the 2022 budget. She mentioned there was also income potential of over \$500,000 annually by charging private haulers a \$10 per ton surcharge on garbage destined for disposal with minimal impact on homeowners estimated at about \$5 a year per person. She asked Supervisor Conover, Chairman of the Public Works Committee, what was the downside to amending the 2021 County Budget to include paying additional dedicated professional staff for a hauler oversight program and she inquired whether it would be appropriate for Supervisor Conover to address those concerns now. Chairman Thomas replied he would allow Supervisor Conover to address those concerns now as long as it was brief.

Supervisor Conover stated there was no disadvantage to amending the 2021 County Budget to include the additional staff for a hauler oversight program and his understanding was Mr. Hajos would be going before the Public Works Committee with a plan to administer those laws soon. He said they may be under the impression they had to wait until 2022 to amend the DPW Table of Organization and Salary Schedule, but this was not the case. He explained when Mr. Hajos brought forward his plan the Committee and then the full Board would be at liberty to amend the County Budget should that be required and appropriate the required resources.

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Mr. Lehman advised Ms. Collins had also questioned whether potential surcharge revenue from transfer stations and private haulers could be considered. Mr. Conover replied he did not want to prejudge the Committee or the process, but that would be on the table for consideration. Mr. Lehman stated Ms. Collins was asking whether Mr. Conover would be willing to meet viz Zoom with the Zero Waste Committee and Mr. Hajos in the near future and Mr. Conover responded he would be pleased to meet with anyone at anytime. Ms. Collins thanked the Board, adding they were one the same page with wanting to improve the way Warren County managed its solid waste, but she felt decisions and actions need not wait until 2022.

Chairman Thomas once again called for any comments on the Public Hearings regarding the Sewer District (Industrial Park) Assessment Roll and the 2021 Tentative Warren County Budget; there being no more, he declared the Public Hearings closed at 10:18 a.m.

Prior to continuing with the Agenda review, Chairman Thomas offered privilege of the floor to Ginelle Jones, *Director of Public Health/Patient Services*, to relay the concerns she had expressed at yesterday's meeting of the Coronavirus Task Force. Ms. Jones voiced her concerns as they moved into the holiday season and she respectfully asked everyone, including the Board of Supervisors, County Administration and staff, citizens in the community, visitors, travelers and college students to act responsibly through the holiday season. She said she would prefer for individuals to avoid travel and gatherings, apprising she was well aware it was legal to have a gathering with ten people; however, she noted, that did not mean it was a sensible decision. She indicated if individuals were going to hold gatherings she was requesting that they follow guidelines which were to limit the number of attendees, ensure they had the appropriate space in their home, remain socially distance and wear face masks. She stated households should be eating together and over six feet away from others because it was not possible to wear a face mask when eating. She mentioned appetizers and drinks should be limited while mingling because face masks could not be worn when eating and drinking and when drinking individuals should remain six feet apart; she added because appetizers were touched by many people she would discourage offering them. She advised individuals should remain home if they had been in a work or school environment where outbreaks had occurred, if they had been exposed to a family member who tested positive for the virus, had been around sick people even if they were unsure if it was COVID, or they had signs and symptoms themselves no matter how insignificant they may be. She informed college kids and visitors needed to slowly acclimate into their households rather than going out and visiting all of their family members and friends they had not seen in months to prevent the spread of germs. She stated after these individuals had slowly acclimated into their household then they could possibly visit a few of their friends, but they should wear face masks and maintain the proper social distance outside for a short period of time and then gradually increase that when they were sure they were not symptomatic, were not coming down with anything or exposed to someone who tested positive while out of the area. She said a number of the regions college kids who went to college in New York State were being tested before they went home; however, she noted, they were required to test within ten days of coming home and if they had a negative test, but remained at college for a few more days depending on what those risk factors were and what they had been doing since their test they could have potentially been exposed to the virus which would create an issue for when they were acclimating into a household. She advised many times during Thanksgiving friends and family were invited over with elderly, kids and others in one household which would perpetuate a number of exposures. She stated she believed the Health Services Department had done a stellar job in keeping up and maintaining all of the County's cases. She informed it took a lot of support, effort, compliance and patience from the public when they were told to stay home when they lived in a free Country, adding she was respectful of their rights and her Department attempted to quarantine only those who needed to be. She remarked she was proud to state that she believed Warren County was one of a few Counties that has had full compliance with all of their positive cases. She apprised all of the

County's positive cases had been notified the same day since Hudson Headwaters Health Network was doing rapid testing with the results available within fifteen minutes which allowed them to quickly quarantine people and was one of the reasons for the success they were seeing. She reiterated her fear of the possibility of the virus spreading as a result of the holiday season, as they were making every effort to keep the local businesses and schools open and the more community effort that went toward following these guidelines the more success they would have with remaining open, as well as being able to keep up with the cases they had. In regard to businesses, Ms. Jones advised there had been a lot of media surrounding enforcement, as no one liked being told what to do, but she would encourage businesses, especially during the busy season, to police themselves rather than waiting to be policed by developing ideas for their own industry and/or store by revisiting the plan they put together in order for their stores to be open and ensure these guidelines were adhered to keep staff and their families safe. She made a plea to customers to not go into stores with crowded parking lots and she suggested returning at a different time when there were not as many people shopping there. She urged businesses and their customers not to overcrowd stores. She apprised she wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone that their actions community-wide would impact the region and its businesses and the ability to remain open and she asked that everyone make responsible decisions and understand the impact of the choices that they made by doing what they could to minimize risk. She informed as they approached the Thanksgiving holiday she could relay that she was blessed to live in such a wonderful community, work with such great community partners and work for the County; she expressed her appreciation for having the opportunity to serve the public, adding she was ultimately blessed and impressed everyday with the staff of Public Health, who were all dedicated, passionate and willing to work through lunch and dinner each day to allow everyday to start on a fresh slate. She concluded by wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving and she thanked the Board for the support they provided to her Department.

Chairman Thomas thanked Ms. Jones for the work her Department did, as well as the County residents for complying with the rules.

Continuing to the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Thomas stated he had attended the meetings of the Economic Recovery Task Force on October 15th, 30th and November 19th. He advised on October 22nd he had attended the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks meeting with Lewis County via Zoom during which there was an informative presentation from the Director of the New York State Tug Hill Commission. He informed on November 10th he had attended via Zoom the Tourism Industry meeting where they discussed how the County could expand its tourism season to year-round. He stated although a lot of time and effort would be needed to achieve this goal he believed it was feasible. Chairman Thomas apprised on November 12th he had attended a webinar regarding MRF's (*Material Recovery Facility*) which he found to be very informative. He said he could recall years ago when the county had an MRF, but he was unsure if this was the route they would like to move forward with, as there was a significant amount of expense for staffing and equipment associated with them. He informed on November 18th he participated in a meeting regarding the state of the County with the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce, along with Supervisor Geraghty and the County Administrator. He added he had also attended the first stakeholder meeting of the Reform and Reinvent Policing Initiative. Chairman Thomas reported on the progress of the communications tower behind the Town of Stony Creek Town Hall which was progressing nicely with the hopes of having it operational by mid December. He stated the last thing he would like to mention was a beetle that had been released by an organization in the State of Washington which only fed on the hemlock wooly adelgid which was an invasive specie that was killing hemlock trees; he added if the majority of the hemlock trees in Warren County were destroyed it would be devastating.

Chairman Thomas then called for the reports by Committee Chairmen on the past months meetings

or activities.

Supervisor McDevitt advised in regard to Chairman Thomas's remarks regarding the hemlock trees, he believed it was sensible in instances when a natural predator could be used to combat invasive species as opposed to using chemicals. He stated as they approached a national/international solution to the pandemic he felt it was likely the County would be receiving some vaccines as they approached late December. He said then began the plight to convince all County residents of the value of inoculation. He apprised the logistics locally, as well as nationally in terms of vaccinating and tracking millions of people was staggering and what was occurring was an attempt to expand online systems to track and to share information about who had been vaccinated. He informed it was necessary on a national level to locate places to hold mass vaccination events with the biggest issue being convincing the public to be immunized. He said this would be a phenomenal logistical basis if they could accomplish it. He mentioned Pfizer was one of the first companies who had developed a vaccine which would require every recipient to get a booster shot three weeks after their initial shot. He apprised tracking those who had gotten the first shot by the County, as well as on a national level would be difficult, but imperative. He stated there was a new Federal computer platform that was described as the immunization gateway and the importance of this was to connect the State registries to allow them to share information to ensure that if an individual receives a vaccine here in Warren County and then traveled to the State of Florida, the information regarding their vaccine was readily available to the health professionals in Florida so they could safely provide them with the next dose. Supervisor McDevitt informed the Pfizer vaccine would be shipped in coolers with dry ice that could keep it viable for up to fifteen days with re-icing and could last an additional five days in conventional freezers. He advised the County did not have the capability to handle the ultra cold temperatures of the vaccine that would be forthcoming, adding the cost of an ultra cold freezer for storage ranged anywhere from \$400 to \$19,000 and may be something they want to consider purchasing in the future. He concluded by stating once the vaccine was made available it was imperative to ensure at minimum 75% of the County's population was inoculated.

Supervisor Braymer reported that the notice to proceed had been issued to demolish the building on the Mullen's property in the Town of Queensbury and demolition work would be starting soon. She advised the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee had met on October 20th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 407-409 and she provided a brief overview of each. She stated a discussion took place during the Committee meeting concerning a proposal to adopt a Septic Inspection at Transfer Law similar to the laws the Towns of Bolton and Queensbury had adopted. She said what came to light following that discussion was the discovery of a harmful algae bloom in Harris Bay on Lake George with some additional ones located over the past few weeks. She explained one of the reasons harmful algae blooms formed was because of excess nutrients in the water which could lead to toxins in the water that were harmful to humans and their pets. She said the reason she was bringing this up was because there could be poor septic systems that were leaking nutrients into the water which could contribute to the growth of harmful algae blooms. She apprised this was why she felt it was important for them to continue to push forward and consider what type of action the County could take. She noted the Lake George Park Commission had new storm water regulations which she would like to see them go forward with, as it would assist with ensuring pesticides and other types of pollution like that were not making their way into Lake George and she felt whatever kind of action the County could take, including the Septic Inspection at Transfer Law was imperative for the County given how important Lake George and its pristineness was to the County and its economy.

Supervisor Bruno indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Driscoll stated the Human Services Committee had met on October 19th during which a significant amount of helpful information was shared, but no resolutions were requested. He apprised

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he would like to thank Ms. Jones for her presentation, adding he felt not everyone was appreciative of the work the Health Services Department was doing during this pandemic to not only protect the health of the public, but also to ensure businesses were permitted to remain open and keep the economy moving forward. He informed not adhering to the safety protocols and guidelines in place would have a direct impact on the economy here which was why sharing the information Ms. Jones passed along in a positive manner with friends and family would assist with ensuring everyone remained safe and healthy. Supervisor Driscoll thanked Supervisor Conover for his comments regarding not having to wait until 2022 to amend the County Budget as it related to comments made by members of the Zero Waste Committee. He said he thought people were misinformed and thought the Board only made decisions on the County Budget once a year and any changes would have to wait until the following year, as this was not the case. He stated he was also appreciative of Mr. Hajos participating in discussions with the Zero Waste Committee, adding he was looking forward to moving forward with some of the changes that were mentioned in the future.

Supervisor Frasier advised the Finance Committee had met on October 29th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 403-404 and 429-431 and she provided a brief overview of each. She offered privilege of the floor to Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, to provide an update on the County finances.

Mr. Swan informed sales tax revenue was down 4%; however, he noted, he felt the County was in good shape financially with a sound County Budget for 2021 being proposed. He said the only concern he had going forward was the County did not have contracts in place with two of its major Unions which could have substantial expenses associated with them when considering salaries and retroactive pay, but other than that he felt the County was doing well from a financial perspective.

Supervisor Magowan questioned whether the figures were available regarding occupancy tax revenue and Mr. Swan replied currently they were lagging behind because some of the larger hotels had yet to submit their payments so he could not provide an accurate accounting regarding the status. He stated the reason the payments were being remitted late was because many of the properties were dealing with cash flow issues resulting in them holding off remitting their payments, but the ones that had been received were paying the penalties and interest for making late payments. Supervisor Magowan requested that Mr. Swan keep the full Board abreast and Mr. Swan replied that he would, adding the only reason he did not bring any figures with him today was because of his concern regarding the lagging payments that would not be accounted for.

Supervisor Simpson advised the Personnel & Administration Committee had met October 29th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 428 and 435 and he provided a brief overview of each.

Supervisor Hogan apprised she was participating in the meeting today from home, as she was awaiting the second test results from her child, who had recently returned home from college and she encouraged others to follow suit, adding she would be having a small Thanksgiving celebration with only her immediate family. She informed Cornell Cooperative Extension continued to amaze her with their ability to remain relevant during a time when it was difficult to conduct in-person programming, advising they would be present at the annual Christmas in Warrensburg event on December 5th where they would have a Master Gardener activity table where evergreen swags would be made because although gatherings were not permitted, decorating was allowed. She stated they would be holding a Basic Air Rifle class which and would be COVID-19 compliant on December 6th and on December 10th they would be conducting a Zoom Diabetes COVID-19 session with all of this information available on their website.

Supervisor Dickinson indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Merlino stated the Tourism Committee had approved three resolutions at their last meeting, one of which concerned an agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. He advised the third resolution was proposed Resolution No. 427, *Dissolving All Existing Tourism-Related Advisory Groups; Establishing Three-person Advisory Panel to Serve as Consultants for the Tourism Committee*, which he would be requesting to amend at the appropriate time. He informed the winter media plan for the Tourism Department was ready to be launched, but they were holding off for a bit due to the surge in the Coronavirus infection rate; however, he noted, today they would be launching an Adirondack Christmas Shopping Local media campaign to encourage individuals to support the local businesses by shopping in local stores either online or in stores with all of the towns being involved in this campaign.

Supervisor Dickinson inquired what the total cost of the contract was with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. was referenced in proposed Resolution No. 426, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, INC. to Provide Broadcast and Digital Media Buying Services for the Warren County Tourism Department (WC 45-20)* and Chairman Thomas replied according to the resolution it was up to \$1,250,000. Supervisor Dickinson pointed out the cost of this one contract was almost the entire \$2 million budget of the Tourism Department. He voiced his opposition to this increase, especially when the supplementary occupancy tax payments to the towns had yet to be restored. Chairman Thomas interjected that this was an inappropriate discussion to have during the reports by Committee Chairmen on the past months meetings or activities and he suggested they hold off on this until the discussion and public comment on the proposed resolutions portion of the meeting.

Supervisor Strough indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Wild advised the Economic Growth & Development and Higher Education Committee had met on October 20th, where there were no resolutions requested. He stated the Economic Recovery Task Force and the Hospitality Group continued to meet, informing the Hospitality Group had met on November 10th for an outreach effort to take some of their larger ideas and spread them out amongst the business community; he added these efforts were well received and they were hoping to continue this effort on a quarterly basis. He apprised the business community rallied together earlier this year and developed procedures and standards in order to open their businesses safely and now that the County was in its second wave of a growing infection rate he would like to implore to the business community to be more diligent about following the plans they had in place. He suggested any business with an issue with face mask wearing enforcement visit a Stewarts shop, as they had originally indicated they would not be able to adhere to the standard, but now anyone who was not wearing a face mask was required to leave the store. Supervisor Wild apprised he would also like to support what Supervisor Braymer had previously mentioned about the harmful algae blooms which was a major concern because Lake George was a significant economic driver for this region, as well as all of the other water bodies and lakes here. He said it was necessary to stay on top of this not only because of environmental concerns, but also from an economic standpoint and he would be attending the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee meetings to determine what could be done from a prevention perspective.

Supervisor Magowan informed the Support Services Committee had met on November 16th regarding the County's renewal of its insurance policy that only had a 4% increase which hoped everyone was supportive of. He stated he would also like to thank Ms. Jones and her staffs efforts, as the pandemic had put a damper on everyone and her Department's work along with the daily updates from the County Administrator were what was required to keep things moving. He urged all of the County

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residents to be mindful over the holiday season because the County was currently going through a second wave of an increase in the infection rate and it was starting how many individuals could become infected within a family or business or being out there in the public. He remarked it was necessary for everyone to understand where all in this together and everybody needed to do their part to all stay healthy and he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Supervisor Seeber reported on the October 19th Criminal Justice Committee meeting, where they approved the filling of a few vacant positions for the Public Defenders Office. She said the first position was a Coordinating Assistant Public Defender which was fully funded using grant funding and the other was an 8th Assistant Public Defender, which was 90.5% funded by grants. She stated they had also continued their discussion concerning office space which they would continue to talk about at the November 21st Committee meeting. Supervisor Seeber informed a joint meeting of the Criminal Justice and Human Services Committees was held on October 27th for the purpose of entertaining a request from the Department of Social Services and the Probation Department to apply for a Supervision and Treatment Services grant for Juvenile Programs to use to assist with the prevention and detention of County youth and she asked if this had been included in the 2021 County Budget and Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, replied affirmatively. She advised she had attended the NACo (*National Association of Counties*) Public Safety and joint Criminal Justice Standing Committee meetings on November 12th and 18th and the NACo Resilient Counties Committee meeting on October 30th. She concluded by indicating she would be requesting discussion at the appropriate time on proposed Resolution No. 413, *Authorizing \$250 per Day Fee for Use of the Festival Commons at the Charles R. Wood Park for "Events to a T" and Further Amending Event Fee Rate for All Users of the Charles R. Wood Park For the Remainder of the Year 2020.*

Supervisor Beaty begun by wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, apprising although he was bothered by the offensive remarks Governor Cuomo had made about Sheriff LaFarr and Washington County Sheriff Murphy he hoped everyone would use common sense and make responsible decisions. He stated the County Facilities Committee had met on October 21st, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 405-406 and he provided a brief overview of each. He remarked considering the circumstances and the decrease in State funding he believed Supervisor Geraghty, Mr. Moore and some other key employees had done an excellent job preparing a County Budget that actually decreased the taxes. In regard to Supervisor Wild's comments regarding Stewarts stores, he apprised Supervisor Wild was correct that they had been a leader in pushing for the use of face masks if their customers wanted service. He informed early on during the pandemic he had distributed 300 face masks to different Stewarts stores located in the Town of Queensbury, all of whom were very gracious and indicated it would assist them with enforcement and providing face masks to their customers who did not have them.

Supervisor Shepler indicated she had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Geraghty advised he had presented the 2021 Tentative County Budget at the November 6th Special Board Meeting where he felt it was well received and he requested the full Board's support of. He stated he had spoken with Mr. Hajos regarding some of the initiatives proposed by the Zero Waste Committee, apprising he believed Mr. Hajos was planning on addressing some of them in the DPW Budget in the coming year. He mentioned the Budget Committee had met on November 16th and addressed the issues that were brought forward by the Committee members. He said he had also attended the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board and Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks meetings this month. He concluded by thanking Supervisor Beaty for his kind remarks.

Supervisor Conover advised the Public Works Committee had met on October 20th where they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 424-425. He stated proposed Resolution No. 423 had not been vetted by the Committee, but given the nature of that particular contract he believed the Board should move forward with the contract. In regard to solid waste, Supervisor Conover apprised the Public Works Committee would continue this discussion throughout 2021, as he believed the reduction of solid waste and how the County planned on addressing it was a priority going forward.

Supervisor Leggett apprised the Public Safety Committee had met on October 19th, during which they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 414-421 and he provided a brief overview of each. He reported that Ann Marie Mason, *Director, Office of Emergency Services*, was getting acclimated in her new position and the new Office of Emergency Services storage building was fully operational now. He mentioned the Sheriff held a stakeholders meeting on November 18th to receive input for the Police Reform Plan as required by Executive Order 203 where agencies from the region provided input to assist with the process. Supervisor Leggett informed the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District met on October 26th and discussed the Water Quality meetings they held to determine how to develop solutions when issues arose. He stated they applied for grant funding from the Lake George Basin for storm water improvement and aquatic invasive management. He advised the Warren-Washington Industrial Development Agency had three large projects under consideration, one of which was the expansion of the Etain Medical Marijuana facility in the Town of Chester. He said the other two were the expansion of Adirondack Winery in the Town of Queensbury and the insulation of a large transmission line from Canada to New York City that was passing through Washington County. He indicated the Local Development Corporation had met on October 26th to discuss the operation of the organization following the passing of the former President of the organization. He informed he had attended the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks meetings on October 27th and November 19th, one of which was hosted by Lewis County and the other was with Fulton County. He stated he enjoyed the informative reports from NYSAC (*New York State Association of Counties*) regarding the State's financial status and how it would impact the County. He apprised he had attended the meeting of the SUNY Adirondack investors on November 12th and on November 10th he had attended the meeting of the Hospitality Group which highlighted the need for the northern portion of the County to be more vocal regarding tourism.

Continuing to the report by the County Administrator, Mr. Moore apprised prior to going into his report he would like to address proposed Resolution No. 426, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. to Provide Broadcast and Digital Media Buying Services for the Warren County Tourism Department (WC 45-20)*, which was previously mentioned by Supervisor Dickinson. He explained the amount included in the proposed Resolution was the amount referenced in the bid which was more than previous years in order to have the ability to increase the amount spent on advertising in the future years in the event the County had the economic ability to do so. He noted the proposed resolution indicated the amount shall be limited to the amount provided in the 2021 County Budget which was \$1 million so there was no increase in what was being proposed to be spent in this contract, as it was the same amount it had been in previous years. He restated the \$1,250,000 was only reflective of the bid which would allow them to increase the amount they spent in future years if it was sensible for them to do so. He mentioned this had all been discussed and approved at the Tourism Committee meeting on October 26th, with Supervisor Wild being the only Supervisor to vote in opposition of the action.

Proceeding with the report by the County Administrator, Mr. Moore informed in regard to the 2021 Tentative County Budget, he would like to thank Supervisor Geraghty for working with him and the other members of the Budget Team on its preparation which he thoroughly enjoyed, adding he believed Supervisor Geraghty did an excellent job. He also thanked Tammie DeLorenzo, *Assistant to the County*

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Administrator, Kristy Miller, Confidential Secretary to the County Administrator, and Rob Lynch, Deputy County Treasurer, for the assistance they provided putting together this Budget because without them it would not have been done. He stated he would also like to recognize each Supervisor for their assistance, as well, as they were all either chairs of Committees or they were additionally involved in the budget process in various respects, with Supervisor Diamond attending almost all of the Budget Team meetings with the Department Heads and many of the other Supervisors who participated; he said he was appreciative of their input to the Budget. He remarked he believed the 2021 Tentative County Budget was respectable and was reflective of everyone having some form of involvement with it which was always positive.

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

- * Paul Bachman for 30 years of service as County Coroner; and
- * Connie Haulk for 20 years of service to Office for the Aging.

Mr. Moore stated the County Christmas Adopt A Family program the County workforce participated in was a great program managed by the usually Employees Activity Committee which mostly consisted of employees from the Public Health Department who were unable to administer the program this year due to their excessive workloads as a result of the pandemic. He informed an email had been distributed to all employees looking for volunteers to take over managing the program to which over two dozens responses were received, including some Supervisors, all of whom indicated they were willing to do whatever was needed to ensure the Program was able to move forward this year. He said as a result of that the County would be having a larger program than previous years, providing assistance to thirteen families, as well as a number of residents at Countryside Adult Home that were in need. He noted those thirteen families were representative of twenty-five kids, eleven moms, one day, one grandmother, one grandfather, nine dogs and fifteen cats, all of whom the County assisted in helping them have a better Christmas. He remarked County employees had been supportive of the community during this pandemic, first with the Take Out Initiative to try and bolster business for local restaurants and now with the Adopt a Family Program and he thanked them for that and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

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

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

Reports from:

1. Warren County Probation Department - Report of Criminal and Family Workloads for September of 2020.

Other:

1. Capital District Regional Off Track Betting Corp. - September 2020 payment in the amount of \$2,913.00.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 403-437 were distributed to the Board of Supervisors and posted to the County website on November 13th; she informed proposed Resolution No. 438 was authorized pursuant to action taken at the November 16th Support Services Committee meeting and was distributed to the Board of Supervisors and posted to the Warren County website on November 17th which met the mailing deadline specified in the Rules of the Board and only a simple majority vote would be needed to bring Resolution No. 438 to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Wild and carried

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unanimously. Mrs. Allen advised proposed Resolution No. 426 was amended after mailing and a motion was needed to approve the revisions. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Diamond and seconded by Supervisor Magowan to approve the revision to proposed Resolution No. 426.

In regard to proposed Resolution No. 426, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. to Provide Broadcast and Digital Media Buying Services for the Warren County Tourism Department (WC 45-20)*, Supervisor Dickinson voiced his opposition to increasing the contract from \$1 million to \$1,250,000 when the supplemental occupancy tax funding had yet to be restored. He added if the supplemental payments to the towns were not restored it would lead to serious issues. He stated it appeared as if anytime the County needed funding they took it from the Towns of Lake George, Bolton and Queensbury instead of using County funds and he was no longer going to stand for it. He noted the Town of Lake George generated \$2 million in occupancy tax funding for the County and they needed their portion in order to carry out what was required to continue to attract tourists to the area. Mr. Moore interjected that was objectively not true, as there was \$350,000 in funding taken out of the Tourism Budget in 2021 which was representative of a 14% cut. In response, Supervisor Dickinson advised the Town of Lake George had received a 100% cut in funding so he had no sympathy for the Tourism Department, adding he believed more cuts could be made to their departmental budget.

Supervisor Seeber requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 426. She said she was unsure if there was an opportunity for proposed Resolution No. 426 to return to Committee to discuss some of the questions that had been brought up regarding it, but if it was possible that would be her request.

Chairman Thomas called the question and the motion to approve the amendment to proposed Resolution No. 426, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. to Provide Broadcast and Digital Media Buying Services for the Warren County Tourism Department (WC 45-20)*, was carried by majority vote, with Supervisors Dickinson and Seeber voting in opposition.

Chairman Thomas advised discussion on proposed Resolution No. 426 would continue.

Supervisor Conover apprised he was prepared to vote in favor of the Tentative 2021 County Budget which included the funding for the Tourism Department. He added he had been in favor of providing occupancy tax funding for buses in the Town of Johnsbury and he was part of the team who had designed the funding for Cool Insuring Arena which he was proud to be supportive of for the City of Glens Falls, as well as the Capital Plan for Cool Insuring Arena on top of a number of other things. He stated all he had requested at Committee was that the Board of Supervisors express their intent that at the time the funding restored itself the funding to the towns would be reinstated, adding he had not asked to debate this or the metrics. He informed he felt it was important that the \$275,000 over the next five years that had been taken away from the Towns of Queensbury and Bolton and the \$750,000 that had been taken from the Town and Village of Lake George, not to mention the funding that had been taken away from the other towns would all be restored. He questioned what would occur if they did not restore this funding, as requests would be coming before the Town of Lake George in a few months to fund all sorts of events and yet the money would still not have been restored. He said he believed there needed to be a statement of intent, but this had been summarily rejected by the Committee possibly due to the Committee misunderstanding his request that Board notify the towns when the funding restored itself the funding stream for the towns would be reinstated. He pointed out the next five year projection that he saw provided the towns with no funding for the next five years beginning in 2021, informing this was the only budget line that was zeroed out. He stated he was willing to give them the benefit of the doubt in that it was zeroed out because it was not being funded and was an administrative action, but they needed to convince him with some type of intent otherwise

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what was occurring was the Supervisors were being asked to approve appropriating millions of dollars without any indication the occupancy tax payments to the towns would be restored.

Chairman Thomas asked Supervisor Conover how the comments he was making related to proposed Resolution No. 426, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. to Provide Broadcast and Digital Media Buying Services for the Warren County Tourism Department (WC 45-20)*, and Supervisor Conover responded he was suggesting that the resolution be amended to express the County's intent to restore the funding to the towns or have someone make a motion to Waive the Rules of the Board to propose a resolution that expressed this intent by the Board. Supervisor Conover questioned why the County kept piece mailing all of the towns with all of its individual ordinances. In regard to the Tentative 2021 County Budget, Supervisor Conover advised he could state that there had been years when the Board did not approve a resolution on the supplement until at least January. He stated if there was such an urgency then he asked that someone explain to him what the plans were for going forward, as no one had expressed an intent regarding this other than a few Supervisors indicating they would revisit this matter in the future. He indicated a number of these issues would dissipate if they would amend the resolution to express the County's intent to restore the funding.

Supervisor Wild apprised he was not requesting a roll call vote, but he was not supportive of proposed Resolution No. 426, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. to Provide Broadcast and Digital Media Buying Services for the Warren County Tourism Department (WC 45-20)*, for a number of reasons. He stated this summer had been a strong tourism season despite spending half as much as they typically did on advertising and there were opportunities for the County to move forward in that this resolution did not specifically address. He said he was convinced the Board could keep an open mind moving forward in terms of what they contributed to the Tourism Budget which he would be supportive of from the background.

Supervisor Magowan stated the increase in the contract with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. was rather significant and he was well aware of Supervisor Wild's previous requests for data concerning how the money was being spent and what the County's return on investment was, noting overall the tourism industry had grown even during the pandemic that occurred this year. He restated the increase was significant and it was up to the Board to determine whether it was worthwhile.

Supervisor Strough indicated he would like to hear the thoughts of the Tourism Department staff on this particular topic because if they were strongly supportive of it then he would be, as well. He added he would also be supportive of the amendment suggested by Supervisors Dickinson and Conover which would return occupancy funding to the municipalities using the funding formula that existed in 2019 if there was enough support to move forward with it.

Supervisor Merlino asked if Joanne Conley, *Director of Tourism*, could be afforded the opportunity to speak regarding proposed Resolution No. 426, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. to Provide Broadcast and Digital Media Buying Services for the Warren County Tourism Department (WC 45-20)* and Chairman Thomas replied affirmatively and offered privilege of the floor to her.

Ms. Conley advised she would like to reiterate what Mr. Moore had indicated in that the amount noted in the proposed resolution was \$1,250,000 which was an up to amount which had been \$1 million in previous years. She indicated this year in particular with everything that was occurring they had only spent slightly more than \$500,000 and she repeated this was always an up to amount. She stated it was necessary to spend money in order to attract visitors to the region, apprising she felt \$1 million was

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a reasonable amount, but if conditions did not warrant that they spend this amount in 2021 they would not. She informed the \$1,250,000 was for future years if the fiscal outlook improved for the County and they wanted to spend more money that additional money was there as a buffer in the resolution and the contract. She explained the contract was for one year with the option to renew for up to three additional one year terms.

Supervisor Wild questioned whether this contract needed to be approved this month at this Board Meeting because he wanted to ensure they had a contract in place going forward so his resistance may change if there was any impact moving forward. Ms. Conley responded the current contract was expiring December 31st so her hope was to have proposed Resolution No. 426 approved now to ensure they were ready to commence advertising for winter promotion on January 31st. Supervisor Wild pointed out this meant they could delay making a decision on this until the December 18th Board Meeting and he asked Ms. Conley if this would still allow the Tourism Department sufficient time to move forward with the contract to be able to begin advertising for the winter campaign on January 1st and Ms. Conley replied affirmatively. Supervisor Wild remarked he felt delaying a decision until the December Board Meeting was the appropriate action to take in this case, but he would not make a motion to table until he heard the opinions of other Supervisors.

Supervisor Leggett stated proposed Resolution No. 426, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. to Provide Broadcast and Digital Media Buying Services for the Warren County Tourism Department (WC 45-20)*, was discussed and approved by the Tourism Committee meeting, apprising he respected the Committee process that the Board adhered to which was why he believed a resolution brought forward by the Committee process had a certain amount of weight. He indicated he was always resistant to amending any resolution that was brought forward by the Committee process to add anything on to it and he hoped the Board would not amend this resolution nor table it. He mentioned as noted by Ms. Conley the contract had been for \$1 million over the past four years and was an up to amount and decisions were being made at the Tourism Committee level which was lead by their Chair, Supervisor Merlino, who kept a tight watch on the departmental budget and directed what they should be spending their money on. He voiced his support of proposed Resolution No. 426 as presented and he encouraged others to, as well.

Supervisor Hogan advised she was also supportive of proposed Resolution No. 426, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. to Provide Broadcast and Digital Media Buying Services for the Warren County Tourism Department (WC 45-20)*, noting it was an up to amount as Supervisor Leggett had just reiterated. She questioned whether a floor resolution could be proposed regarding the intent to restore the funding to the towns in the 2021 County Budget. Supervisor Dickinson asked Supervisor Hogan if she was making a motion stating such and she replied she was unsure this was the appropriate time to do that, but she would make one when it was.

Supervisor Dickinson remarked he was assuming that was a motion to which he seconded. Chairman Thomas noted the motion would not be entertained until the discussion regarding proposed Resolution No 426 was finished.

Supervisor Seeber stated she had attended the Budget Committee meeting where the contract with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. was discussed and in response to Supervisor Leggett's remarks regarding budgets being monitored and up to amounts she said she was going to state what she had at the Budget Committee meeting which concerned her being uncomfortable with a contract this large with an up to amount of \$1,250,000. She mentioned she believed there was an opportunity to discuss this much more in depth prior to the contract deadline, as some good questions had been raised which warranted further discussion. She advised as much as they liked to discuss how matters were brought

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forward from the Committee process should be provided with a significant amount of weight, she believed that should be applied across the board. She pointed out there was new information that came up from the time someone made a decision at Committee or other meetings that should be respectfully considered and she was opposed to proposed Resolution No. 426, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. to Provide Broadcast and Digital Media Buying Services for the Warren County Tourism Department (WC 45-20)*, as it stood.

Supervisor Dickinson asked if there was a limit on the number of times the Supervisors could comment and Chairman Thomas responded his understanding was everyone was supposed to be afforded the opportunity to speak before individuals spoke for a second time. Supervisor Dickinson remarked while he was appreciative of Ms. Conley's comments, he found it to be unusual that a line item would be padded in the departmental budget to the tune of \$250,000 when the County was supposedly in a crisis with occupancy tax funding. He advised he concurred with Supervisor Seeber that this was a political process where Committee meetings were held and made recommendations to the full Board, but it was the Board's whole decision to review the decision by the Committee and to move ahead accordingly, as it was not necessary to approve everything that went before them.

Supervisor Hogan asked Ms. Conley how winter advertising would be impacted if proposed Resolution No. 426, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. to Provide Broadcast and Digital Media Buying Services for the Warren County Tourism Department (WC 45-20)*, was tabled and Ms. Conley replied there was funding available within the 2020 County Budget from now until the end of the year for this purpose. Ms. Conley stated if the proposed Resolution went before the Board at the December 18th Board Meeting and was approved there would be no abruption of advertising beginning January 1, 2021.

Supervisor Magowan inquired what the average amount spent on advertising over the last few years was, as she had previously noted around \$500,000 had been spent this year and Ms. Conley responded the cap on the contract for the last four years had been \$1 million and in 2020 it was slightly more than \$500,000. She said she had gone back and reviewed the budgeted amount for this expense back to 2007 when the County was in the previous financial crisis and during that time the contract amount was for \$850,000. She noted from 2008 to 2021 the amount budgeted for this contract had not increased considerably. In response to the remark made about padding the budget, she apprised this was not the case, as she only had \$1 million budgeted for this purpose which was the same it had been for the last four years. Supervisor Magowan questioned why \$1 million was needed if this amount had never been spent and Ms. Conley replied over the last four years they had typically spent \$1 million for this contract. Supervisor Magowan asked what was actually spent, as he thought it was stated that \$500,000 was spent on this contract for this year, and yet now \$1 million was being mentioned. Ms. Conley responded \$500,000 was the amount spent for 2020 because it had not been prudent to spend money on advertising considering the public health crisis they were in.

Chairman Conover closed the discussion on proposed Resolution No. 426, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. to Provide Broadcast and Digital Media Buying Services for the Warren County Tourism Department (WC 45-20)*, and he asked if there was any action to be taken, but no response was given.

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

Supervisor Conover requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 426, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Lake Placid Advertisers Workshop, Inc. to Provide Broadcast and Digital*

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Media Buying Services for the Warren County Tourism Department (WC 45-20). He stated in terms of Supervisor Hogan's question regarding whether a floor resolution could be proposed regarding the intent to restore the funding to the towns in the 2021 County Budget, it was permissible to make a motion to Waive the Rules of the Board requiring a resolution to be in writing in order to entertain a motion concerning same.

In regard to proposed Resolution No. 426, *Dissolving All Existing Tourism-related Advisory Groups; Establishing Three-person Advisory Panel to Serve as Consultants for the Tourism Committee*, Supervisor Merlino apprised he would like to change that the members of the Tourism Advisory Board would be appointed at the discretion of the Tourism Committee and not the Chairman of the Tourism Committee, as he had been contacted by many interested in being a member, but he did not feel it was appropriate for him to have to select the members. He indicated he believed they should put out an RFP (*Request for Proposal*) asking interested individuals to submit their resumes for the Committee members to review and then invite them in to discuss their interest following the Committee would select who they would like to appoint. Chairman Thomas asked for clarification that Supervisor Merlino would like to amend proposed Resolution No. 426 to indicate the members of the Tourism Advisory Board would be appointed at the discretion of the Tourism Committee and not the Chairman of the Tourism Committee and Supervisor Merlino replied affirmatively, adding he would also like it to include an RFP. Chairman Thomas interjected that an RFP was not necessary at this time, as that could be brought back to Committee to decide.

A motion was made by Supervisor Merlino and seconded by Ms. Braymer to amend proposed Resolution No. 426 as outlined above.

Supervisor Diamond stated he concurred with Supervisor Merlino that it was appropriate for the Committee to make the decision regarding who to appoint. He said the Committee structure itself spoke for their actions and it was more sensible for the Committee to make the decision on the appointees who would be acting in an advisory role going forward.

Chairman Thomas called the question and the motion to amend proposed Resolution No. 426, *Dissolving All Existing Tourism-related Advisory Groups; Establishing Three-person Advisory Panel to Serve as Consultants for the Tourism Committee*, to indicate the members of the Tourism Advisory Board would be appointed at the discretion of the Tourism Committee and not the Chairman of the Tourism Committee was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Seeber apprised she had a procedural question for the County Attorney regarding resolutions. She stated every month she mentioned the need for a training on Robert's Rules of Order for the entire Board. She asked the County Attorney to determine whether this was permissible or maybe the County had a parliamentarian and she asked who the County's parliamentarian was and Chairman Thomas responded it was typically the County Attorney. She apprised in instances of a highly debated topic or a matter that had significant discussion was it permissible to make a motion to limit or extend the limits of debate to allow individuals more opportunities or longer timeframes to comment or they could make a motion to limit the opportunity to speak to only once and she asked Ms. Kissane if this was a correct interpretation and Ms. Kissane replied she was unsure and would have to look into this further. Supervisor Geraghty stated he believed this was referenced in the Rules of the Board. Supervisor Seeber advised in the instance where the Rules of the Board did not address it then Robert's Rules of the Board was in effect or vice versa. Chairman Thomas indicated he was unsure, but he believed the Rules of the Board reigned in most cases, but Supervisor Seeber could be correct. She asked whether it could be made a priority to hold a training on the Rules of the Board and Robert's Rules of Order to ensure in the future the County's parliamentarian and County Attorney were

prepared to answer those questions as they were brought up because today was a good example of how that could be utilized to have further discussion about matters that were important to their constituents, as well as the Board. Chairman Thomas inquired whether Supervisor Seeber was speaking about proposed Resolution No. 426 and Supervisor Seeber replied affirmatively, apprising she would make it applicable to proposed Resolution No. 426. She added she would also make it applicable to anything, as this was a question regarding procedure. Chairman Thomas remarked it was not his intent to upset anyone when he cut off the discussion on proposed Resolution No. 426, as she had thought they had covered it well.

In regard to proposed Resolution No. 413, *Authorizing \$250 per Day Fee for Use of the Festival Commons at the Charles R. Wood Park for "Events to a T" and Further Amending Event Fee Rate for All Users of the Charles R. Wood Park for the Remainder of the Year 2020*, Supervisor Seeber apprised this was an instance where a brief discussion took place in Committee and there was an individual who wanted to hold an event at the Festival Commons's for the purpose of charity with no one making money off of the event. She said Mr. Moore referred her to the exact location in the Youtube video where this matter was discussed at the Park Operations & Management Committee meeting, as she did not participate in this meeting nor was she a member of that Committee; however, she noted, she was concerned about the reluctance to decrease the rental fee for the Festival Commons to an individual who was holding a charitable event. She stated the Board was being asked to adopt a resolution to charge a rental fee for the space of \$500 a day which was already a reduced rate in a time when the County was looking for tourism events to be held in a safe manner. She apprised this event was similar to the incredibly popular Capital Holiday Lights event that was held in Albany, New York and would benefit all of the municipalities in the County and she requested that they consider reducing the rental fee from \$500 a day to \$50 a day. She informed while she understood the County had been unable this events organizer by providing her with occupancy tax funding she was disappointed and hoped they would be able to assist them by reducing the rental fee for the space.

Chairman Thomas asked for clarification purposes if Supervisor Seeber was referring to proposed Resolution No. 413 and not proposed Resolution No. 426 and Supervisor Seeber replied affirmatively. Supervisor Seeber apologized, as she thought the discussion had been opened up to other resolutions and she would like to discuss proposed Resolution No. 413, but if Chairman Thomas preferred they could continue the discussion on proposed Resolution No. 426. Chairman Thomas inquired whether Supervisor Seeber was proposing an amendment to proposed Resolution No. 413, *Authorizing \$250 per Day Fee for Use of the Festival Commons at the Charles R. Wood Park for "Events to a T" and Further Amending Event Fee Rate for All Users of the Charles R. Wood Park for the Remainder of the Year 2020*, to reduce the rental fee from \$500 a day to \$50 a day and Supervisor Seeber replied affirmatively. Chairman Thomas questioned whether there was a second to the motion and Supervisor Dickinson replied he would second that motion.

Supervisor Magowan stated he had attended the Park Operations & Management Committee meeting where this matter was discussed, informing he felt the rental rate of \$500 a day was an excessive fee for this event, but the organizer had indicated this is what they thought they could pay to hold this event. He advised he was not opposed to reducing the fee to \$50 a day, as he felt this event provided a great opportunity to attract visitors to the region.

Supervisor Merlino advised he was not opposed to them reducing the fee, but he wanted to ensure they were aware there was a cost associated with holding events on the Festival Commons property, such as cleaning, paying employees to take care of the bathrooms, electricity, etc. and this event was charging an admissions fee. He added the individual organizing the event had suggested the reduced fee of \$500 a day, but the circumstances could have changed since the meeting. He restated he was not

opposed to reducing the fee, but if they did they would need to determine where the funding would come from to cover the expense associated with the use of the Festival Commons to hold this event. Chairman Thomas apprised he believed the admission fee for this event was around \$5 per person and was sold out.

Supervisor Braymer informed her understanding was an admissions fee was being charged in order for the event organizer to be able to manage the number of people attending at the same time to ensure they were in compliance with the COVID-19 restrictions. She added the event organizer would also be donating all of the proceeds to charity and would not be making a profit off of this event. She said she would suggest the County offer the space for this event for free, but she did not believe this was a valid option so she was fully supportive of reducing the rental fee to \$50 per day.

Ms. Kissane apologized for sounding like a broken record, as she stated this each time they reduced the fee that this was an unconstitutional gift to someone, as it was unconstitutional to reduce the rate for one event. Supervisor Seeber advised she would amend her request to reduce the rate to \$50 for anyone who would like to use the Festival Commons space for the remainder of 2020 to ensure this was a constitutional action and Supervisor Dickinson amended his second to the motion.

Supervisor Dickinson apprised although he had great respect for Ms. Kissane he found that her opinion on this was disturbing, as every event was different and required review to determine whether to charge a higher or lower rental fee. He stated he did not believe this was a precedent, but rather the Supervisors doing their job to consider each individual event and charge a rental fee accordingly. He remarked he felt they could move forward with reducing the rental fee for this event without having to offer it to others in the future unless they met the same conditions.

Supervisor Shepler inquired what the total cost each day would be for the County to hold this event and she inquired whether it was appropriate to charge that rate to ensure the County's costs were covered. Mr. Moore replied the County reimbursed the Village of Lake George for a number of the expenses, as Village employees were the ones doing a significant amount of work. He said the Village brought their expenses before the Park Operations & Management Committee to request reimbursement for these expenses. He said Mr. Hajos would be bringing forth a request at the November 24th Committee meeting to cover the cost of the funding shortfall to pay the expenses associated with Festival Commons as a result of the lack of events being held there this year. He apprised part of the shortfall related to some expenses leftover from 2019 that were carried over into 2020, informing if they did not address the funding shortfalls then they would continue to be carried over into future years. He added the other issues was there had not been enough events to generate revenue to cover the expenses this year. He advised this was where the issue of whether it was constitutional to reduce the fee for one event arose from because ultimately it was taxpayer resources that was paying for the work required to prepare and clean the site and it was necessary to have some equity in how this was reimbursed amongst the host of events that used the site. Supervisor Shepler stated if the individual who was holding this event had already agreed to the \$500 rental fee then why were they seeking to reduce it and Mr. Moore responded he could speak to that, as well, informing the individual that would be hosting this event did not attend the Committee meeting and the request was instead presented on her behalf. He apprised as previously mentioned by Supervisor Magowan when the Committee initially discussed the event several members on the Committee suggested \$500 may be too excessive of an admission fee for this event and whether a lower fee was more appropriate to which the individual who presented the request on behalf of the organizer responded in the negative, informing the \$500 a day rental fee was appropriate. He indicated this may not have been an accurate representation of the event organizers position, as they were not in attendance to represent themselves which was why he believed they were having this discussion today.

Supervisor Driscoll informed he concurred with Supervisor Dickinson's comments in regard to reviewing each individual event on a case by case basis, but as an individual who had attended a substantial amount of fundraisers and supported those, as well as being a part of the planning committee for those types of events he thought analyzing and assessing what constitutes a need as far as being charged a lower rental fee versus what did not was a major undertaking which would require a significant amount of discussion and debate and he was unsure how that could be assessed. He restated the work that went into these assessments would be substantial and he understood the constitutionality that Ms. Kissane had mentioned, but the process was not cut and dry in regard to what was more important and deserving of some relief.

Supervisor Magowan questioned whether it would be feasible to reduce the rate to \$50 a day and include the expenses that the Village of Lake George would have to be reimbursed, as well because he felt this would be less than \$500 a day and would cover the County's costs.

Supervisor Wild advised the Supervisors frequently stated they were stewards of taxpayer dollars and the rental fee was agreed to at \$500 a day. He said if it the fee was reduced to \$50 a day then were they not in effect donating \$450 a day to a charity not of their choice with taxpayer dollars.

Supervisor Geraghty apprised he thought they had a clause to charge different rental fee when not-for-profits used the Festival Commons and Supervisor Merlino replied affirmatively, explaining according to the County Attorney it was not legal for them to offer certain individuals a specific price that was not offered to others. Supervisor Geraghty stated he thought a specific rental fee had been set to charge all not-for-profits versus for-profits who used the Festival Commons and Supervisor Merlino replied in the negative.

Mr. Merlino suggested they leave the rental fee as is and provide the organizer with any revenue that was leftover after covering the County's expenses to donate otherwise a funding source would have to be located to cover these expenses.

Supervisor Seeber stated that Mr. Hajos was compiling the information and would be providing them with what the Village of Lake George billed the County per day for the Festival Commons during events shortly. She apprised more importantly she was comfortable tabling proposed Resolution No. 413, *Authorizing \$250 per Day Fee for Use of the Festival Commons at the Charles R. Wood Park for "Events to a T" and Further Amending Event Fee Rate for All Users of the Charles R. Wood Park for the Remainder of the Year 2020*, until they had the additional information required to render a decision; however, she noted, she wanted to address the fact that the event organizer was not invited to attend the Committee meeting where this reduced fee was discussed. She pointed out they all discussed good communication and yet no one relayed the time and date of the Committee meeting when this matter was going to be discussed and while she understood Robert Blais, *Mayor, Village of Lake George*, had advocated on the event organizers behalf she felt things may have been lost in translation. She restated this may be an opportunity if they wanted to do so to bring the request back to Committee, but if they decided to go that route then she would be requesting that the event organizer be notified of the date and time of the meeting. In regard to the issue of constitutionality, Supervisor Seeber suggested they include this as an item to be discussed on the Personnel & Administration Committee meeting agenda to get this matter resolved so they could assist individuals in their community. She mentioned the amount paid to the Village employees who maintained the grounds and bathrooms for these events was \$14 an hour for up to three of them depending upon the number of attendees. She said she was unsure what restrictions were in place as a result of COVID-19 or if attendees walked or drove through the space, but she was unsure why this had not been discussed by the Occupancy Tax Coordination, Tourism and Park Operations & Management Committees to ensure everyone was communicating on

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this issue. She indicated it was up to Chairman Thomas whether he would like to handle the amendment or table the matter and bring it back to Committee.

Chairman Thomas apprised as a point of order there was a motion to amend proposed Resolution No. 413, *Authorizing \$250 per Day Fee for Use of the Festival Commons at the Charles R. Wood Park for "Events to a T" and Further Amending Event Fee Rate for All Users of the Charles R. Wood Park for the Remainder of the Year 2020*, on the floor that had been moved and seconded that would be voted on. He informed the amendment before them was to reduce the rental fee from \$500 per day to \$50 per day for this event, as well as any others that may be held on the Festival Commons property for the remainder of 2020. He advised any changes could be proposed following the vote on the proposed amendment as it stood before them.

Supervisor Magowan requested a roll call vote on the amendment to proposed Resolution No. 413.

Chairman Thomas called the question and the motion to amend proposed Resolution No. 413, *Authorizing \$250 per Day Fee for Use of the Festival Commons at the Charles R. Wood Park for "Events to a T" and Further Amending Event Fee Rate for All Users of the Charles R. Wood Park for the Remainder of the Year 2020*, to reduce the per day use from \$500 to \$50 per day for use of the Festival commons failed due to obtaining the lack of majority voted required, with 480 votes in favor (*Supervisors Braymer, Driscoll, Dickinson, Strough, Magowan, Seeber, Conover, and Diamond*) and 520 against (*Supervisors McDevitt, Bruno, Frasier, Simpson, Hogan, Merlino, Wild, Beaty, Shepler, Geraghty, Leggett and Thomas*).

Supervisor Braymer noted no other events were scheduled there and she felt they should be thanking the organizer of this event for holding an event in the middle of winter outdoors, as the annual Adirondack Christkindlmarkt which was typically held there during this timeframe had been cancelled. She stated she was disappointed the amendment had been voted down; however, she noted, based on the information Mr. Hajos had provided them with the County's cost amounted to around \$224 per day and included the labor costs of two Village employees for eight hours per day, adding she believed the event was scheduled for less than eight hours per day.

A motion was made by Supervisor Braymer and seconded by Supervisor Magowan to amend proposed Resolution No. 413,, *Authorizing \$250 per Day Fee for Use of the Festival Commons at the Charles R. Wood Park for "Events to a T" and Further Amending Event Fee Rate for All Users of the Charles R. Wood Park for the Remainder of the Year 2020*, to reduce the per day fee for use of the Festival Commons from \$500 per day to \$250 per day.

Supervisor Geraghty asked the dates and times this event would be taking place and Supervisor Merlino replied the event began on November 28th and ended on December 20th. Supervisor Geraghty inquired what the hours of operation were and Supervisor Merlino responded he was unsure, but assumed it would be late afternoon into the evening hours. Supervisor Geraghty informed he probably would have voted in favor of the amendment if he knew what the event consisted of. Supervisor Merlino advised the event consisted of decorated trees all around the walking path of the Festival Commons. Supervisor Geraghty questioned whether it was similar to the Capital Holiday Lights event held in Albany, New York, but a walking path instead of having cars drive thru and Supervisor Merlino replied affirmatively.

Supervisor Dickinson inquired if the event organizer had submitted an application for occupancy tax funding and Chairman Thomas replied he was unsure.

Supervisor Wild advised by no means was he a legal scholar, but when he was notified an action was unconstitutional then he had concerns about that and the consequences associated with it. He asked

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Ms. Kissane what the consequences were to them if they moved forward with an action that was considered unconstitutional and Ms. Kissane responded her concern was an event organizer who had paid a larger per day use fee would sue the County for whatever the difference was. Supervisor Wild inquired if as a Board they were prepared to deal with those consequences.

Supervisor Magowan stated he had attended the Park Operation & Management Committee meeting where this matter was discussed and he had been thrilled to know someone was interested in holding an event there during this pandemic while ensuring they adhered to all of the required restrictions. He informed he was pleased the motion before them was to cut the \$500 day use fee, which he believed was too excessive, in half while still covering the County's costs. In response to Supervisor Dickinson's question regarding whether the event organizer had applied for occupancy tax funding, he informed the request had been presented by Mayor Blais who had indicated he had no occupancy tax funding to provide them with.

Supervisor Beaty apprised he concurred that this could possibly open up the County for future litigation from past users who paid a larger day use rate. He stated although he also felt this was a great event that was being proposed and he would like to see the proposed amendment move forward they needed to be mindful there were potential liability issues in the future with other organizations that contradicted what they were doing here today from a rates standpoint. He advised he would like to see the County move forward with the approving the reduced rate which covered the County's costs per day for this event.

Supervisor Leggett inquired what the typical daily rate was for the rental of this site, as well as what the total sum of the rental fee would be for this entire event. Chairman Thomas replied this event was scheduled to commence in eight days over a twenty-two day period and the regular rental charge for the Festival Commons per day was \$1,500. Supervisor Leggett questioned how much funding would be generated from the \$250 day use fee and Supervisor Frasier replied the total was \$5,500. Supervisor Leggett noted \$5,500 was almost equal to four days if the regular daily rate of \$1,500 was charged,

Supervisor Braymer asked which other organizations had paid to use the Festival Commons this year and how much they paid and Mr. Moore responded he believed the regular rate was around \$1,000, but during mid-year it was reduced to \$500 per day in light of the pandemic. Mr. Moore suggested they set the daily use rate for the Festival Commons at \$250 for the remainder of the year and then it could be reviewed again at the beginning of next year as long as everyone was agreeable that this was a fair way to treat all remaining events that used the Festival Commons site for 2020. He stated he felt this was an appropriate compromise that addressed all of the concerns that had been expressed. In regard to the dates and times the event was scheduled., Mr. Moore informed it was scheduled to begin on November 28th, 29th and was scheduled for the next three weekends after on Friday and Saturday evenings from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Supervisor Braymer questioned whether anyone had used the site this year and Mr. Hajos replied he was unsure, but he did not believe anyone had used it during 2020. Supervisor Braymer apprised that meant no one could sue them this year for reducing the rate for this event. Mr. Moore interjected he was almost positive someone used the Festival Commons earlier in the year before the pandemic occurred, but he would have to check those records. He advised there should be no issue with changing the rental rate since they were applying the reduced fee to anyone who wanted to use the Festival Commons for the remainder of the year.

Chairman Thomas noted the amendment as it stood did not state that the reduction in the fee from \$500 to \$250 was through the end of the year and he asked Supervisors Braymer and Magowan if they would like to amend their motion to indicate such and they both replied affirmatively.

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Chairman Thomas asked if anyone else would like to comment on the proposed amendment to Resolution No. 413, *Authorizing \$250 per Day Fee for Use of the Festival Commons at the Charles R. Wood Park for "Events to a T" and Further Amending Event Fee Rate for All Users of the Charles R. Wood Park for the Remainder of the Year 2020*, to reduce the per day fee for use of the Festival Commons from \$500 per day to \$250 per day; there being no response he called the question and the motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Braymer asked if they had discussed the 2021 Tentative County Budget yet and Chairman Thomas replied it had been discussed during the public hearing and he thanked the members of the public who had taken the time to comment on it. Supervisor Braymer apprised she had a question concerning the salary schedule for some of the Department Heads, inquiring whether it reflected any salary increases or if all of the salaries had remained flat and Supervisor Geraghty responded the only salary increases within the 2021 Tentative County Budget were for those they were obligated by contract to provide.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hogan, seconded by Supervisor Dickinson and carried by majority vote, with 949 votes in favor (*Supervisors McDevitt, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll, Frasier, Simpson, Hogan, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Magowan, Seeber, Beaty, Shepler, Geraghty, Conover, Diamond and Thomas*) and 51 against (*Supervisor Leggett*) to Waive the Rules of the Board to entertain a resolution that restored the 2019 additional allocation of occupancy tax funding to the towns immediately.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hogan and seconded by Supervisor Dickinson to entertain a resolution of intent to restore the 2019 additional allocation of occupancy tax funding to the towns immediately.

Supervisor Leggett requested that more information be provided regarding what the balance of occupancy tax funds was and what the total additional distribution to the towns would be, as he was unsure if there was sufficient funding to cover this allocation.

Supervisor Geraghty asked how much the total additional payments to the towns would be and Chairman Thomas replied he was unsure. Supervisor Braymer apprised she concurred with Supervisor Leggett, informing one of the reasons these additional payments were cancelled for this year was because they thought they had insufficient funding to make these payments. She said while she understood the desire to have an intent to restore these additional payments assuming there was sufficient funding so they could use these funds, she would also like a statement of intent that the septic inspection at transfer law would be adoptions; however, she noted, she did not believe the Board was comfortable doing so yet. She advised if they were to move forward with restoring these payments then she would also like it to include that they were going to do a more thorough review of occupancy tax funding and what could be done with it to determine if there was action that could be taken to provide the County with a better return on investment than the 2019 Occupancy Tax Spending Plan. She advised she was aware the towns did not want their payments taken away from them, adding maybe there was a way they could mesh it all together. She indicated she did not want to just reinstate the funding for the towns and not conduct a thorough review to determine the best way occupancy tax funding could be used. She said if they did not include this in the resolution then she would at least like to ensure they would discuss this in the future.

Chairman Thomas clarified the proposed Resolution before them was not a statement of intent, but rather it was to restore the additional occupancy tax payments to the towns immediately.

Supervisor Simpson advised he could have misunderstood the motion, but he did not believe anyone

was expecting the County to disburse the additional payments to the towns if there was insufficient funding available. He said he thought what was occurring was they had heard two different reasons why occupancy tax should be taken away or reinstated, one was because there was insufficient funding available to be able to reinstate those payments to the towns and another was individuals wanted to review how occupancy tax was being spent. He indicated there were differing ideas being proposed which he believed they should separate and the intent should be if there was sufficient occupancy tax funding available then the payments to the towns should be reinstated and then there should be another conversation about how those funds should be used going forward.

Supervisor Magowan asked Mr. Swan whether he was comfortable restoring the payments to the towns and Mr. Swan responded he had no issue restoring the payments to the towns as long as there was sufficient funding available which he was unsure of. He stated he would be able to provide a more accurate accounting of occupancy tax funds and whether the funding was available to restore these payments at the December 18th Board Meeting. Supervisor Magowan advised he would like to hold off on making a decision until the figures were available to review.

Supervisor Wild apprised he was opposed to restoring the additional occupancy tax payments to the towns and he would like to know where the money went since no events were held this year. He indicated he concurred with Supervisor Braymer that a more strategic review of occupancy tax funding and how they would like to move forward was required. He said they had discussed this before, but no action had been taken because of all of the differing opinions. He informed he would like to see this matter tabled to allow it to go back to Committee for further discussion.

A motion was made by Supervisor Wild and seconded by Supervisor Beaty to table the motion to entertain a resolution of intent to restore the 2019 additional allocation of occupancy tax funding to the towns immediately.

Chairman Thomas asked for clarification that it was proper to table the floor resolution before them and Ms. Kissane replied affirmatively, advising the motion to table took precedence. Chairman Thomas thanked Ms. Kissane for this clarification, as he wanted to ensure they were handling it in the proper manner. He apprised the motion to table took precedence and ended discussion and called for a roll call vote on the motion to table. Following the roll call vote it was determined the motion to table was carried by majority vote with 742 votes in favor (*Supervisors McDevitt, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll, Frasier, Simpson, Hogan, Merlino, Wild, Magowan, Beaty, Shepler, Geraghty, Leggett, Diamond and Thomas*), and 258 against (*Supervisors Dickinson, Strough, Seeber and Conover*).

During the roll call vote Supervisor Seeber advised while she disagreed with the motion to table her specific question concerned whether in a motion to table if they had one month to go back Committee, but since this did not come from a Committee which Committee would it be going back to and Ms. Kissane responded there was one month to bring it back before the voting body which in this case was the Board. Supervisor Seeber stated she interpreted this to mean this could be discussed in any of the Committees if they chose to do that and Ms. Kissane concurred. Supervisor Seeber voiced her opposition to tabling, as she believed more discussion was required to straighten out the issues.

Supervisor Conover also voiced his opposition to tabling the motion, apprising as far as he was concerned anyone with questions regarding any expenditures relative to the Town of Bolton could attend their Town Board Meeting which were held every month.

In regard to proposed Resolution No. 407, *Ratifying the Actions of the Planning Department in Executing a Grant Application to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for a Municipal*

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Waste Reduction and Recycling Program, Chairman Thomas inquired how much funding the County was applying for and Supervisor Braymer replied her intention was to apply for the grant, but she was unsure of the amount. She said they were unsure if they would be awarded the funding and planned on bringing it back to Committee to formulate a plan on using the funding because County matching funds were required. Mr. Moore stated he believed the application was for \$10,000, as a work plan and a budget had been developed that would allow the County to get to the minimum grant amount of \$10,000 that could be accomplished within a one year window. He added if that \$10,000 was referring to the amount of the grant then the amount of the overall project would be \$20,000.

Chairman Thomas asked Mr. Lehman if there were any public comments on the proposed Resolutions before them and Mr. Lehman replied in the negative.

Chairman Thomas called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 403-438 were approved as presented, with the exception of Resolution Nos. 413 and 427 which were amended from the floor.

Chairman Thomas called for public comments from anyone wishing to address the Board on any matter, but no response was given. He asked Mr. Lehman if any comments from the public had been received and Mr. Lehman replied affirmatively, apprising he had one comment from a representative of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Southern Adirondacks, who wanted to notify everyone they were in need of some mentors for youth in the vicinity of the Town of Johnsbury and other parts of northern Warren County. He stated anyone interested or aware of anyone who may be interested could contact them directly.

Supervisor Magowan advised he was pleased insects were being introduced to combat the invasive species that were attacking the County's forest. He stated the algae bloom issue in the County's waterways needed to be addressed, as well. Supervisor McDevitt stated he believed the insect that was being introduced was initiated by Cornell University.

Supervisor Strough mentioned he was never afforded the opportunity to speak regarding the resolution that was proposed from the floor concerning occupancy tax that was tabled. In regard to COVID, he stated he believed the biggest increases in positive cases would be in January and February of next year, but with a vaccine forthcoming and with better care by the public they may be able to beat COVID. He said if this were to occur they could go into next summer with a positive outlook and would like to encourage individuals to bring previous and new events forward to attract visitors to the region. He said they were compounding the issue by not reinstating the payments to the towns now so they could award occupancy tax funding to the events that would have occurred in the summer of 2021 which would assist the County with generating even more occupancy tax. He remarked he felt it was shortsighted of them to trim the budget by cutting these additional payments of occupancy tax to the towns in the manner they did, adding he concurred with Supervisors Conover and Dickinson on this matter. He stated he thought this was possibly the worst year they wanted to leave them short.

Supervisor Magowan apprised he was pleased to see so many of the Supervisors had attended the meeting in person, adding he believed they had some beneficial discussions during the meeting. He indicated he felt it was imperative for all of them to begin attending meetings in person again.

Supervisor Seeber thanked the Board members for the lengthy debate regarding the rental rate of the Festival Commons which she had attempted to address prior to this meeting by making a number of phone calls and meeting with the event organizer. She stated she wanted to ensure they were aware this was not something that had come off of the floor in a last minute attempt. She mentioned she

believed communication was vital and she was happy to share the information she had gathered with anyone. She indicated she had just sent an email asking for clarification regarding the County's Rules of the Board and Robert's Rules of Order to Ms. Kissane that she copied every Supervisor on which she would appreciate a reply on prior to the next Board Meeting. She said her question concerned the difference between the Rules of the Board and Robert's Rules of Order and also how a motion to table was to be utilized, as she believed there were a number of differing opinions on this and she would like this to be addressed. In regard to the requests for training, Mr. Moore advised he had contacted NYSAC who indicated they thought they had identified the appropriate person to handle the training, but he had not heard back from them for when this would occur and he would follow up with them on this today.

Supervisor Conover thanked Supervisor Hogan for bringing forward a resolution to Waive the Rules of the Board in order to entertain a resolution of intent that restored the 2019 additional allocation of occupancy tax funding to the towns immediately which he was appreciative of, as well as Supervisor Strough for his remarks. He apprised everyone was prepared to do their fair share to balance the occupancy tax budget, noting the towns had ripped up the contracts they had in place for this funding. He informed what was missing was how and when that funding would be reinstated and their repeated requests for meetings had gone unanswered. He advised this was the question he would like to have answered and he suggested they could restore half of the funding if they were against restoring all of it. He restated all he was seeking was an answer to how and when this funding would be restored to the municipalities, adding there were some that expected the municipalities to take many steps before the funding would be restored, but he was hopeful the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee would address the fundamental question of when and how much of this funding would be reinstated at their next Committee meeting.

Supervisor McDevitt advised the most important thing he took from Supervisor Seeber's parliamentary question which he believed was important was when a motion was made that had the practical effect of limiting discussion he truly disagreed with that. He said he had heard some interpretations regarding the motion to table where in effect there was no discussion when there was a motion and a second to table a matter and this is where he took issue. He apprised he believed Supervisor Seeber did a service to the Board in her attempts to get a definition of whether the intent of the motion was to limit discussion of fellow Board members which he hoped was not the case.

Chairman Thomas called for announcements.

Supervisor Hogan mentioned as they headed into the summer it had been all hands on deck for the purpose of tourism, occupancy tax and economic development to determine how the County would continue through the summer tourist season and promote healthy economic activity. She stated she wanted to remind everyone they were headed into the winter season which was the busy tourist season for the northern portion of the County and she was not hearing from everyone that same laser focus on how the County could continue to safely and productively promote tourism and economic growth. She encouraged everyone over the next few weeks as Committee meetings were held to remember the northern portion of the County was just entering its busy tourist season now.

Supervisor Driscoll informed tomorrow the North Country Ministry would be distributing Thanksgiving baskets in the Towns of Warrensburg and North Creek, as well as the North Warren YMCA facility and the Salvation Army would be doing their distribution program this coming Monday and Tuesday. He stated both of those organizations had their cut off for their Christmas programs by the end of next week or shortly thereafter. He added the Home Energy Assistance Program began on November 2nd and individuals could find out more information from the Department of Social Services or if they were

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senior Citizens they could apply through the Office for the Aging.

Supervisor Geraghty announced it was unfortunate they had to cancel most of the Christmas in Warrensburg event for December 6th and 7th. He mentioned this Sunday, November 22nd the Warrensburg Fire Department held a free dinner for senior citizens who resided in the Town of Warrensburg which was take out only, but not as many residents as previous years had signed up which he equated to the pandemic and people not wanting to go out. He said he was disappointed they had to cancel events, but he knew it was the appropriate thing to do for the community so they did not increase the number of positive Coronavirus cases. He advised he fully concurred they were in this together and they had to review the events for next year, adding he had stated several times during his Budget Committee meetings that if occupancy tax collections rebounded they could discuss reinstating the payments to the towns, but apparently some had forgotten about his statement. He reiterated for the last time he was willing to discuss reinstating the occupancy tax payments to the towns for 2021, adding he was aware some towns had received payments in October for this year so he did not believe anyone was destitute.

Chairman Thomas wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and asked that everyone be safe.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Dickinson and seconded by Supervisor Geraghty, Chairman Thomas adjourned the Board Meeting at 12.49 p.m.