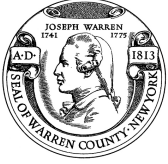
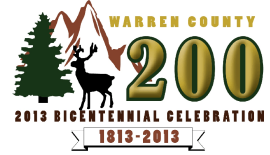


Warren County Board of Supervisors



**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2013**



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

Mr. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor McDevitt.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Monroe, Girard, McDevitt, Taylor, Loeb, Kenny, Frasier, Bentley, Vanselow, Dickinson, Merlino, Mason, Strainer, Westcott, Sokol, Thomas, Wood and Geraghty - 19. Supervisor Montesi, Absent - 1.

Motion was made by Mr. Strainer, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to approve minutes of the August 16, 2013 Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Commencing the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty introduced NYMIR (*New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal*) representatives Brian Custer and Mark LaVigne, and Lee Pollock, of Rose & Kiernan Insurance Agency, who were in attendance to present a check to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Custer thanked the Board Members for the opportunity to address them and advised NYMIR took great pride and pleasure in the ability to present refund checks as it spoke to the success of the NYMIR insurance company which was owned and operated by its members. He apprised that 2013 marked the fifth consecutive year that NYMIR had returned premiums to its members, distributing a combined total of more than \$10 million over the last four years, after paying claims and contributing to their surplus account. Mr. Custer noted Warren County was a long standing member of NYMIR, having joined in 1994, and was one of the largest contributors; he added that a refund of \$35,116 was being presented to the County and another check would be forwarded in 2014 as part of their two-year payout process.

Mr. Custer formally presented the refund check to Chairman Geraghty and a round of applause was given.

With respect to the flags that had been placed on the Supervisors desks, Mr. Custer mentioned that 2013 marked NYMIR's 20th Anniversary and in celebrating this occasion, NYMIR had purchased flags for distribution as a thank you gift to NYMIR members.

Mr. LaVigne apprised NYMIR had started with a membership consisting of 25 municipalities and had grown ever since, now representing 750 members. He thanked Warren County for joining NYMIR in 1994 and remaining with the company, noting that it had been designed specifically with the needs of the municipalities of New York State in mind. Mr. Pollock stated that he recalled when NYMIR was established and said that Rose & Keirnan Insurance Agency had enjoyed a great partnership with them over the years.

Another round of applause was given.

Chairman Geraghty announced the next order of business would be the presentation of Proclamations.

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He presented a Proclamation declaring the month of November 2013 to be COPD Awareness Month in Warren County to Alice Dunkley, of the COPD Foundation, and another Proclamation declaring the month of September 2013 to be National Youth Court Month in Warren County to the membership of the Warren County Youth Court. Applause was given after each presentation.

Resuming the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty extended privilege of the floor to Meighan Frye, of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, who was in attendance to report on the 2014 STAR (*School Tax Relief*) Registration Program. Ms. Frye proceeded to make a powerpoint presentation regarding the STAR Program and the steps necessary to register; *a copy of the powerpoint is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting.*

Following the presentation, Chairman Geraghty questioned how often residents would be required to re-register and Ms. Frye replied that although a definitive determination had not yet been made on this issue, she believed it would be every couple of years, rather than annually. In response to a question posed as to how a resident would verify their registration, Ms. Frye indicated that for online registrations, a confirmation number would be given at the close of the process. She continued that the process could also be completed by telephone, following which the operator would provide the confirmation number. Ms. Frye advised that in an attempt to alleviate any additional workload being placed on the town assessors, they had removed them from this process and would send a listing of who had applied and qualified for the STAR exemption on March 1st. She advised that any residents with questions regarding STAR exemptions should contact the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance directly via the telephone number or email address included in her presentation. Chairman Geraghty pointed out that it might make more sense to include the local tax assessors in the process since it was likely most residents would contact them if an issue arose where the STAR exemption did not take effect as it should following registration. Ms. Frye reiterated that they were trying not to affect the tax assessors in this process, but said this was a valid suggestion that she would share when she returned to her Office.

Lexie Delurey, Director of Warren County Real Property Tax Services, advised requests had been submitted to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance to receive the lists in January, instead of March, in order to possibly contact residents and prevent a loss of STAR exemptions. She noted that this was only the first year of the updated registration process and would likely be revised as they proceeded. Ms. Frye stated that the Department of Taxation and Finance appreciated all of the assistance they were receiving from the local assessors and she noted that she would be available after the meeting to assist anyone present who wished to do the online registration that day.

Moving on, privilege of the floor was extended to Dave Wick, Executive Director of the Lake George Park Commission (*LGPC*), who was in attendance to provide an update on recent Asian Clam findings in Lake George. Mr. Wick distributed copies of a map outlining Asian Clam locations in Lake George as of September 6, 2013; *a copy of the map is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting.*

Mr. Wick apprised that in his last update, provided at the July 11th meeting of the Invasive Species Subcommittee, he had reported a 98-100% success rate for treatments applied to effectively smother and kill Asian Clams in certain areas of Lake George, constituting a very good means to control the populations found, as well as to advise of plans to move forward with additional treatments for the upcoming fall season. In preparation for those fall treatments, Mr. Wick advised they had commissioned a pre-treatment survey through a professional organization, and the LGPC had organized a Lake-wide survey performed by 48 volunteers using five different boats to survey and take samples at every sandy area in Lake George. Mr. Wick noted that approximately 30,000 samples had been taken and, unfortunately, they had found five new locations inhabited by Asian Clams (*Glenburnie, Basin Bay,*

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Cotton Point, Sandy Bay and Million Dollar Beach). He advised the new findings at Glenburnie were concerning because the launch there was seldom used; however, he added, the most concerning findings were those at Million Dollar Beach which now had Asian Clams on the whole western part of the beach where hundreds of samples were taken during the prior year which had tested negative for the presence of Asian Clams. Similarly, Mr. Wick apprised that Basin Bay, one of the most heavily anchored bays in Lake George, now tested positive for Asian Clam where it had not last year.

Mr. Wick reported that many inquiries had been made to individuals across the country in an effort to gather more information about how to successfully eradicate the Asian Clam species from Lake George, but not much new information had been garnered as the scientific processes being used for Lake George were far advanced in comparison to other areas. He advised the next step in their research work would be to determine what was not being found in the sieving process. Mr. Wick explained that a 2mm sieve was historically used to find where the Asian Clams were located and they had not searched for anything smaller because the juvenile populations of less than 2mm were not thought to be viable for creating new populations as long as the adult clams were controlled, based on the scientific information available from around the World. He stated that following studies in Lake George they were finding differently, as they had applied successful treatments for adult clams, only to find Asian Clam populations cropping up just outside of those treatment sites, or in new sites. Mr. Wick stated that they were unsure whether the clams were being translocated from other locations, or brought in from other waterbodies; he added that the most likely source was probably from boats anchoring in one area and then moving to anchor in another, transporting and re-depositing Asian Clams as they did so.

In conclusion, Mr. Wick advised that they were not moving forward with full scale treatments for the fall of 2013. He thanked Warren County for the donation of \$150,000 to assist with the Asian Clam eradication efforts and he said they hoped to use some of those monies to support additional research on the Asian Clam to study a number of issues that had not been addressed so far, such as the transport, reproduction and buoyancy factors. Mr. Wick noted that they felt they had developed a successful methodology to identify areas with Asian Clam populations in both high and low density areas, and if they worked, they would use them to take samples on a Lake-wide basis. He stated that if it turned out that the Asian Clam juveniles were ubiquitous throughout the Lake, they would have an entirely different problem to address. Mr. Wick commented one positive factor was that they had a good method in place for killing adult populations which could be relied upon to address problematic areas; the negative, he stated, was that they were still trying to find how the juvenile populations were popping up around the Lake. Mr. Wick said he would report back with a status update at a future meeting and he encouraged anyone with questions to contact him directly. Additionally, he said they welcomed participation of anyone wishing to assist with the program.

Mr. Loeb questioned why full scale treatments would not be taking place during the upcoming fall season and Mr. Wick replied that they would be moving forward very quickly with juvenile sampling for the Glenburnie and Cotton Point locations to determine whether they were of a size less than the 8mm, which had been identified as the smallest size viable for reproduction. He commented that if the Clams were under the 8mm size class, they would probably begin immediate treatments in order to kill the Clams before they were able to reproduce. Mr. Wick stated that they would also be looking at the Shepard Park area where previous treatments had been successful in stopping a southward migration of the Asian Clams into the Shoreline Docks, which was considered to be a great success. He added they would likely place mats on another half acre south of McDonald Pier to stop the migration to the Steamboat Docks and he noted that a couple of other locations might be treated, as well. Mr. Wick apprised that they had initially intended to treat almost 10 acres of Lake George beginning in the fall of 2013; however, they had determined that these treatments would constitute

money not well spent if they were unable to identify the juvenile populations.

Mr. Taylor pointed out that no Asian Clam populations had been discovered in a large stretch of Lake George, extending between Shelving Rock Bay and Lake Forest, and he questioned whether those areas had been sampled. Mr. Wick replied that most of this area was very rocky and steep, which did not provide a conducive habitat for the Asian Clam species as they preferred sandy areas, such as those located between the Norowal Marina and Lake George Village areas. He commented that although it could be construed as a positive that the areas identified by Mr. Taylor would not be heavily populated by Asian Clams, the drawback was that these areas were primarily surrounded by State-owned lands where there were no hotels or tourism businesses.

Mr. Monroe noted Mr. Wick's prior indication that the most likely source of Asian Clam transportation was anchoring and he questioned whether there was any evidence that the Clams were able to spread in microscopic form throughout Lake George. Mr. Wick responded that the Asian Clams were definitely spreading locally and he cited a situation where they had applied a two-acre treatment intended to prevent the Clams from migrating from the Village of Lake George, northward to the English Brook Delta; however, he stated, that plan had not worked as the Clams had successfully traveled the 200' gap and had now completely overtaken the English Brook Delta. Mr. Wick said they had learned the Asian Clams were able to travel in a similar manner to a baby spider, by releasing a thread that allowed them to move certain distances. He continued that in shallow areas, the wind and wave action expedited this travel and that was why the expansion was more prominent on the southwest shoreline areas, especially around the deltas. In closing, Mr. Wick apprised that the LGPC would be holding public hearings for their draft Invasive Species Prevention Regulations on October 10th at the Roaring Brook Conference Center in Lake George, NY at 1:00 p.m. and at the Best Western Conference Center in Ticonderoga, NY at 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Geraghty advised the next agenda item pertained to the report by the Chairman of the Board. He reported that he had attended many Committee meetings during the past month, as well as some of the Budget Group meetings, all of which were outlined in the written Chairman's Report provided to the Clerk of the Board; *the Chairman's Report is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting.* Chairman Geraghty commended Supervisor Thomas, Budget Officer, for his efforts in developing the 2014 Budget proposal and extended his appreciation to the Department Head staff who had done a great job of developing reasonable Departmental budget requests. He said he had also attended the press conference announcing the Hacker Boat Company's plans to move their production facility to the Queensbury Industrial Park. Chairman Geraghty advised the press conference was well attended and he predicted this would be a positive economic development for Warren County. Finally, he noted that Supervisor Montesi was absent from the meeting due to illness and he wished him a speedy recovery.

Continuing, Chairman Geraghty called for the reports by Committee Chairmen on the past month's meetings or activities and the following were given: Supervisor Taylor, Support Services, Personnel and Economic Growth & Development; Supervisor Kenny, Occupancy Tax Coordination; Supervisor Bentley, Public Works; Supervisor Merlino, Tourism; Supervisor Strainer, Human Services; Supervisor Sokol, Health Services; Supervisor Thomas, Budget; Supervisor Wood, Public Safety; Supervisor Conover, Finance; Supervisor Monroe, Gaslight Village Ad Hoc, Park Operations & Maintenance and Real Property Tax Services; and Supervisor Girard, County Facilities and Extension Services.

Mr. Taylor reported the Support Services Committee had met on August 27th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 482 - 484 and 528; he noted that proposed Resolution No. 528 sought to introduce a new local law authorizing the use of best value award methodology for purchase contracts. The Economic Growth & Development Committee met on August 26th, Mr. Taylor said, to discuss Planning

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& Community Development business. He advised proposed Resolution Nos. 486 - 488 were approved and he proceeded to provide a brief outline for each resolution. Mr. Taylor expounded upon Chairman Geraghty's prior statements regarding the Hacker Boat Company, confirming that their production division would be moving to Warren County and this action had been prompted by the efforts of EDC (*Warren County Economic Development Corporation*). He said the Hacker Boat Company intended to construct a 90,000 sq. ft. facility and would hire approximately 80 people. With respect to other EDC related developments, Mr. Taylor reported a ground breaking ceremony was being held for the new Price Chopper building in the Town of Lake George, and he said Ed Bartholomew, EDC President, had scheduled a meeting of the Adirondack Gateway Council to discuss the announcement made by GE (*General Electric*) that they were considering closing their Fort Edward, NY factory which would result in the loss of 200 jobs. Mr. Taylor said Mr. Bartholomew intended to suggest the creation of a task force to try and develop alternatives intended to stave off factory closure and keep GE local. Finally, Mr. Taylor advised the Personnel Committee had met on September 11th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 519 - 527, most of which pertained to the filling of vacant positions. He specifically noted proposed Resolution No. 527, *Appointing Charles Wallace as Administrator of Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement and Authorizing the Filling of any Vacancies Resulting from Promotion*, advising that Karen Putney, former Administrator, had retired after doing a fantastic job running the Department for the County.

Mr. Loeb advised that while he had nothing to report relative to the Social Services Committee, he would like to comment on proposed Resolution No. 486, *Adopting the 911 Address Policy and Procedure for Obtaining a 911 Address for Warren County*. He suggested that the resolution be approved, but then returned to the Economic Growth & Development Committee for review and revision, specifically as it pertained to how one would identify the right and left sides of the roads; he added that an amendment indicating how the left and right sides of a roadway would be determined based on north/south or east/west orientation would help the success of this policy. In closing, Mr. Loeb noted the completion and opening of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 773 training facility in Queensbury. He stated this was a fantastic building which allowed individuals in the plumbing and pipefitting trades field to receive top notch training and he encouraged his fellow Board Members to visit the site.

Mr. Kenny reported that during the August 27th meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee meeting it had been announced that the Radonnée Cycliste Tournament scheduled for September 28-29, 2013 had ben cancelled and the occupancy tax funding award of \$31,500 was returned to the Special Event Fund. He stated that an application had been received from The Hyde Collection seeking \$30,000 for their Ansel Adams Photo Secession Event scheduled for January 25 - April 20, 2014, but the Committee had decided to delay approval on the request until the 2014 funding applications were received in November. Lastly, Mr. Kenny advised the Committee had approved a request from Adirondack Race Management for an additional \$10,000 in Special Event funding for their Lake George Triathlon and Flashlight 5K Run event; however, he added, since that meeting they had discovered the Flashlight 5K Run was a one-day event which would not qualify for Special Event funding. Therefore, he concluded, the matter would be returned to Committee for further discussion at their next meeting.

The Public Works Committee had met on August 22nd, Mr. Bentley advised, approving proposed Resolution No. 497, *Accepting Donation to Up Yonda Farm and Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Send a Letter of Appreciation*. Additionally, he pointed out proposed Resolution Nos. 507-514, all of which were Public Works related resolutions approved by the Finance Committee, and proposed Resolution No. 524, *Authorizing the Superintendent of Public Works to Fill the Vacant Position of Naturalist #2 due to Resignation*, which was approved by the Personnel Committee.

Mr. Merlino advised the Tourism Committee had not met during the past month, but noted that the

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fall/winter advertising for the region was in full swing with television ads for the fall season that would run through the end of September. He reported that at the close of the month of August, information inquiries had increased by 10% and he noted that 1,300 people from the United States, Canada and Asia had signed in at the satellite Tourism Office located in the Adirondack Outlet Mall; he added that this figure did not include those people who had picked up information when the Office was closed. Finally, Mr. Merlino apprised a meeting had been held between himself, Frank Morehouse, Superintendent of Buildings, Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of Public Works and members of the DPW Engineering staff, to look at a certain property located near the Outlet Mall. He advised another meeting would be held with a Town of Queensbury Zoning Officer to gather more information on the property and he said he would be able to provide a more extensive update at the next Board Meeting.

Mr. Strainer reported that the Human Services Committee had met on August 27th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 489 - 492, all of which were included in the resolution packet. He advised that after many weeks of trying, he was finally able to schedule a meeting between the Warren County Court Judges, the State Veterans' representative and Denise DiResta, Director of Veterans' Services, to discuss the proposed Veterans' Court.

Mr. Strainer noted that the Adirondack Balloon Festival had begun on the prior evening and he thanked everyone who had or would be volunteering to help with the event. He proceeded to read portions of an email he had received from Mark Donohue, President of the Adirondack Balloon Festival Board of Directors, which highlighted the values of the occupancy tax funding that had been contributed to the event. Mr. Donohue's email advised that on the first evening of the Balloon Festival, 20+ hot air balloons had inflated and flown before a crowd of approximately 7,500 attendees; additionally, it noted that at least 6 charter busses had transported attendees to the event which was not typical for the Thursday evening launch. It also announced QVC, a cable television shopping channel, would be attending the event, with a crew that would be staying in the area for four nights, using nine rooms at the Queensbury Hotel. The email noted that the QVC television crew would be flying in the media flight held Friday morning to start filming coverage for the weekend, with live broadcasts beginning on Friday evening at 4:30 p.m. and continuing throughout the day on Saturday. Mr. Strainer commented that the purpose of the occupancy tax distributions was to raise awareness about Warren County and draw tourists to the area and he noted that QVC's daily viewership included 93 million people in the United States and 250 million Worldwide, which was a larger promotional exposure than the region had ever received. From Mr. Donohue's email, Mr. Strainer read that the American Bus Association's naming the Adirondack Balloon Festival as one of North America's Best 100 Events had definitely impacted the number of bus charters traveling to the event, as the volume of calls and correspondence from bus companies had soared, not only for the 2013 but for the 2014 Festival, as well. Mr. Strainer advised that media coverage for the Balloon Festival had been phenomenal and he said confirmations had been received from all five Albany new stations that on-site broadcasts would be made from the Warren County Airport on Friday evening. He stated that informal phone surveys to regional hotels indicated a significant number had already been booked to capacity for the weekend, with many others that expected to reach full occupancy, as well. As per Mr. Donohue's email, other exposure was provided by Price Chopper Supermarkets through advertisement of the Balloon Festival in their weekly circulars for the entire supermarket chain, which stretched from New England to the mid-Atlantic States, and additional promotion via their internet radio station played in the stores. Additionally, he noted that TD Bank had distributed the Balloon Festivals calendars and events information to all of their branches on the east coast of the United States. Based on the information provided by Mr. Donohue, Mr. Strainer surmised that the Adirondack Balloon Festival was a wise investment for the Occupancy Tax Special Event funding. He further noted that posters advertising the Adirondack Balloon Festival had been placed in New York City which provided great exposure for the area in general, and he recalled that the event had also been featured on the cover of the New York State Tourism magazine. Mr. Strainer stated

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that the event was organized and managed by a volunteer staff using approximately \$160,000 per year which he felt was far less than the amount of revenue received in association.

Mr. Mason stated that he had been honored to attend the Fund for Lake George's Annual Meeting on August 17th, where he had received an award on behalf of the Board of Supervisors for excellence and development in stewardship for the Beach Road permeable pavement project; he added that he had been very proud of this honor because this was a forward thinking and progressive project that was good for all waterbodies. Regarding proposed Resolution No. 500, *Resolution Establishing "Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport Advisory Committee"*, Mr. Mason stated that he had written this resolution based on his feelings that it was the right thing to do based on the considerable expertise available in the community. He said the resolution would enable the Board of Supervisors to bring these experts together in order to receive much needed community advice regarding the Warren County Airport. Mr. Mason continued that they had targeted marketing because there was agreement that developing a marketing plan for the Airport could be very beneficial to the County. In closing, he stated that the announcement of new business from Hacker Boat Company was a clear sign of better things to come and he asked his fellow Board Members for support of this proposed resolution so that they could harness the economic development capabilities that the Airport could provide.

Mr. Westcott stated that he had nothing to report, but expressed his support for proposed Resolution No. 500 and his appreciation to Mr. Mason for his part in drafting it as he felt this was a step in the right direction for Warren County.

Mr. Sokol advised the Health Services Committee had met briefly on August 23rd to discuss typical housekeeping business. He stated that he was continually impressed with how the Public Health and Westmount staff were able to manage their budgets and identify areas where expenses could be reduced. Mr. Sokol stated that he was very proud of the Departments that reported to the Health Services Committee, as well as the other Department Heads and staff that were making similar efforts. In closing he noted that the a review of the Annual Financial Report of Westmount Health Facility was supposed to be provided by Michael McCarthy, of McCarthy & Conlon, LLP, at the August 23rd Health Services Committee Meeting; however, he said, since Mr. McCarthy had been unable to attend the meeting, that review had been postponed.

Speaking as Budget Officer, Mr. Thomas advised the 2014 Budget process continued and he thanked all of the County Department Heads and staff for their cooperation. He said he had met with representatives from every Department and believed the budget was in a relatively good place, looking much better than it had in prior years. Mr. Thomas thanked his predecessor, Chairman Geraghty, Paul Dusek, County Administrator, and the rest of the Budget Team for their assistance in bringing the budget to its current state.

Mrs. Wood advised the Public Safety Committee had met on August 26th to address some typical housekeeping issues. She said they had met again on September 11th, where, following interviews of a number of qualified candidates, the Committee had suggested the appointment of Charles Wallace as Administrator of Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement. Mrs. Wood stated that pending the Board's approval of proposed Resolution No. 527, she would welcome Mr. Wallace to his new position. Mr. Conover announced the Finance Committee had met on September 11th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 502 - 518 and 531, all of which pertained to typical County business. He made note of proposed Resolution No. 518, *Resolution Authorizing Intermunicipal Agreement with the Village of Lake George as the Governmental Sponsor of Program Funding for Asian Clam Infestation Eradication Project 2013-2014 Fall and Winter Project*, which would allow the \$150,000 contribution previously approved by Resolution No. 451 of 2013 to be completed.

Mr. Monroe advised the Gaslight Ad Hoc Committee held their last meeting on August 23rd, during which they approved proposed Resolution No. 506, *Increasing Capital Project No. H388.9550 280 Lake George Environmental Park; Authorizing Transfer of Funds and Amending Warren County Budget for 2013*, which would allocate an additional \$395,000 in grant funding to complete the reinforced turf work in 2013. Additionally, he pointed out that the Committee had approved proposed Resolution No. 531, *Authorizing Intermunicipal Agreement with the Village of Lake George for Cost Sharing of Grant Related Expenses and Reimbursements for the Lake George Environmental Park*, which would implement an agreement between the County and Village of Lake George to share the costs of grant related expenses according to percentage of ownership (*County 62%, Village 38%*); he added that the agreement would ensure that grant reimbursements were shared based on the same percentage breakdown so that both parties were reimbursed for all of the costs incurred in connection with this project, which was to be 100% grant and donation funded. Mr. Monroe explained that this agreement had become necessary because the Village had expended all of the \$400,000 in bonded funds secured for cash flow purposes and had not yet recouped those expenses due to slow grant reimbursements. He further explained that the resolution sought to implement this agreement retroactive to the initial award of the grants so that the County would be returning funds for expenses already covered by the Village so that those monies could be used for their future cash flow needs; he added that the source of funding for the County's share of the cash flow costs would be General Fund Unappropriated Surplus. Finally, he noted that the Gaslight Village Ad Hoc Committee had discussed the status of the Land Swap arrangement and he said subsequent to the meeting he had been advised by Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, that the closing for the Land Swap was scheduled for October 8th.

With reference to the August 23rd Park Operations & Maintenance Committee meeting, Mr. Monroe reported that maintenance costs had been discussed, as well as a proposal from the Village of Lake George to perform said maintenance. He said they were doing well in collecting fees for events and parking and expected to have a revenue balance of about \$70,000 by the close of the year. Mr. Monroe apprised that bids for the Park construction work had been advertised, with responses due that day, and he said they expected to advertise the construction bids for the portion of the project funded by TEP (*Transportation Enhancement Project*) grant monies later that month. He relayed information provided by Robert Blais, Mayor of the Village of Lake George, which indicated that attendance at the 2013 Big Apple Circus had been down and the decrease in patronage was attributed to a lack of signage; therefore, he continued, they had applied for a grant which was intended to purchase and install LED signs, if awarded.

Mr. Monroe advised that following the Real Property Tax Services Last Chance Committee Meeting held on August 12th, many of the property owners who had set up installment agreements had offered to make payment in full for their delinquent taxes, leading Ms. Delurey and Mr. Auffredou to contact him and request his authorization as the Committee Chairman to approve such request, which he had done. Mr. Auffredou confirmed that they were down to 63 delinquent properties identified for possible foreclosure action and he said they expected another 10 property owners to redeem and pay their taxes in full before the motion for foreclosure judgement was submitted in preparation for the property auction; he added that in these cases, Mr. Monroe's authorization, as Committee Chairman, was necessary to accept the payments and remove the properties from foreclosure status. Mr. Monroe commented that, historically, the Board of Supervisors had made every attempt to allow property owners to make payment and retain their property, rather than entering into final foreclosure status. Mr. Auffredou agreed and noted that a good working process had been established between the County Attorney, Treasurer and Real Property Tax Services Offices to implement a flexible process aimed at helping property owners to maintain their properties and he said he hoped more of the property owners in foreclosure status would take advantage of it.

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Mr. Girard advised that on September 22nd the County Facilities Committee had met and approved proposed Resolution Nos. 499, *Amending Resolution No. 90 of 2013; Authorizing Agreement with Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival, Inc., and Authorizing Use of Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport - Warren County, New York for 2013 Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival*, and 500, *Resolution Establishing "Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport Advisory Committee"*. Mr. Girard noted that Supervisor Mason had been responsible for the plans to develop the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport Advisory Committee and he thanked Mr. Mason for his diligence. He said he had consistently maintained that the economic development component was missing from the Airport and he believed this Advisory Committee would be a step in the right direction to address this need. Mr. Girard noted that at the County Facilities Committee, this resolution had narrowly passed by a vote of three to two, showing that there were some strong opinions on this issue. He said he did have some reservations with respect to the introduction of an advisory committee because he had been elected to make decisions on behalf of his constituents, but said he believed the presence of the advisory committee might resolve many arguments before they came to the Committee level. Mr. Girard reported that a second meeting of the County Facilities Committee had been held on September 11th; he advised the meeting had been very brief and was held only to approve proposed Resolution No. 501, *Ratifying the Actions of the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works and Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Regarding the Execution of a Grant Application and the Execution of the Grant Agreement to Federal Aviation Administration/New York State Department of Transportation for Environmental Assessment for Off Airport Obstruction Removals and Miscellaneous Improvements*. With respect to Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), Mr. Girard advised CCE had recently held their annual fundraising golf tournament at Cronin's Golf Course and said it was one of their most successful events. He commented that there were a lot of issues occurring on a State-wide basis that were hampering the funding received for CCE programs and he commended CCE for maintaining a survival-mode mentality in terms of funding strategies.

Resuming the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty called for the report by the County Administrator and Mr. Dusek advised he had nothing to report. Likewise, Mr. Auffredou indicated he had nothing to report when Chairman Geraghty called for the report by the County Attorney.

Chairman Geraghty acknowledged the presence of Assemblyman Dan Stec and asked if he would like to address the Board. Assemblyman Stec stated that the big news for the region was the possible closure of the GE factory in Fort Edward and the possible loss of 200 jobs. He said Mr. Bartholomew would be convening an EDC meeting that day at 1:30 p.m. at the Crandall Library to discuss this matter and determine whether there was a way that this factory closure could be avoided. Assemblyman Stec acknowledged that the County was in the middle of its 2014 Budget process and he wished the Board luck in this endeavor, noting that at the Assembly level he had tried to avoid transferring any additional costs to the County level and he wished the County a good "Balloon Festival" weekend.

Chairman Geraghty called for the reading of communication, which Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, read aloud, as follows:

Minutes from:

1. Warren/Washington Counties I.D.A and Executive/Park Committee
2. Community Services Boards Mental Health Subcommittee

Monthly Reports from:

1. Weights & Measures;
2. Probation

Capital District Off-Track Betting, July 31, 2013 Financial Reports as well as July and August

surcharge in the amounts of \$8,148 and \$12,893, respectively;

National Grid, Semi-annual PCB report;

The Hyde Collection, reference copy of the exhibition catalogue for Modern Nature: Georgia O'Keeffe and Lake George;

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, letter advising of nomination of St. James Episcopal Church in the National and State Registers of Historic Places;

Bob Huntz, President of Protective Association for Lake Sunnyside, request for \$20,000 from Warren County in 2014 to assist with their efforts to eradicate Eurasian Milfoil in Lake Sunnyside.

Moving on to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Sady announced that proposed Resolution Nos. 474 - 529 were mailed, subsequent to which proposed Resolution Nos. 503 and 513 were amended. She noted that a motion was necessary to approved both proposed Resolution Nos. 503 and 513, as amended.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve proposed Resolution Nos. 503 and 513, as amended.

Mrs. Sady stated that the resolutions relating to the filling of vacant positions were Resolution Nos. 521-527, and unless a roll call vote was requested, all would be approved in the collective vote. She advised a motion was necessary to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 473, 530 and 531 to the floor.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Strainer and carried unanimously to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 473, 530 and 531 to the floor.

Chairman Geraghty called for discussion on resolutions or roll call requests. Mr. Dusek advised an unnumbered resolution had been distributed at the start of the meeting which was entitled "*Authorizing an Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) Regarding New Employees and Regarding the Creation of a New Position with the Department of Social Services*". Mr. Dusek explained this resolution would address two issues, the first pertaining to the increased employee health insurance contribution of 20% for new employees, which had been previously negotiated and approved by the CSEA. He further explained the contract had included a provision defining how new employees would be determined which specified that if a person had worked for Warren County before, provided the lapse in employment had not been for more than 90 days, they would not be considered a new employee and would be eligible for the lower existing employee contribution rate. Mr. Dusek advised CSEA representatives had pointed out an unusual situation with an employee who had worked in various full time and temporary capacities for Warren County over the past ten years whose last employment with Warren County was only slightly longer than 90 days, disqualifying her for the lower employee health insurance contribution rate. He continued that the CSEA representatives had noted this person was more comparable to a full time permanent employee who had provided good and faithful service to the County for a number of years and it seemed unfair to require the person to pay the higher employee health insurance contribution rate based on being a couple days shy of meeting the 90-day provision. Mr. Dusek advised he had confirmed that this situation only applied to one County employee and he said that upon further consideration, it seemed appropriate to make an allowance for this person to maintain the lower employee health insurance contribution rate.

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Mr. Dusek apprised the second issue this resolution would address pertained to the creation of a Grade 13 Senior Social Services Investigator and the addition of the new position to the schedule included in the CSEA contract. Mr. Dusek apprised that the position had been initially created in the CSEA contract at a Grade 14, and after a few years became inactive. He continued that the Department of Social Services now had a need for the position once again, but it had been determined the associated duties were more appropriate for the Grade 13 level. Mr. Dusek noted that as with all title/grade changes for collective bargaining positions, the County could determine what changes would be appropriate, but they would ultimately have to be approved by the CSEA; he added that this request had been approved by the CSEA, leading to the request to amend the CSEA contract documents.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to introduce the aforementioned unnumbered resolution. Mrs. Sady advised this would now be proposed Resolution No. 532.

Chairman Geraghty requested roll calls votes for proposed Resolution Nos. 487, *Authorizing Sub-Recipient Agreement with the Town of Warrensburg and Hudson Headwaters Health Network for the Administration and Bidding of the new Facility in Warrensburg*, and 507, *Declaring Wabash Semi Trailer Surplus and Authorizing the Sale of the Wabash Semi Trailer to the Town of Warrensburg*.

Mr. Kenny requested a roll call vote for proposed Resolution No. 500, *Resolution Establishing "Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport Advisory Committee"*. He commented that this seemed to be a benign resolution and he commended Mr. Girard for his patience and fairness on this issue. Mr. Kenny stated that advisory groups did not work because they became frustrated when they were only able to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and tended to lose members; as an example, he cited the Tourism Promotion Citizens Advisory Council (TPCAC) which had become defunct due to a lack of membership attendance. Mr. Kenny further stated that the Airport dissenters would not be satisfied until the Airport Advisory Committee was made up exclusively of others sharing their opinions and still not until the Board of Supervisors were mandated to follow their advisements. He commented that a Letter to the Editor of *The Post Star* had already been submitted complaining about the proposed makeup of the Advisory Committee and the resolution had not even been passed yet. Mr. Kenny said he had never seen a group so educated on an issue as the Warren County Board of Supervisors was on the Airport Runway Extension Project. He advised that he had attended both of the informational night meetings held regarding the Project and he had yet to hear a valid reason to continue discussion on this issue. Mr. Kenny stated that an advisory board could be established for every County Committee, but each Supervisor had been elected by their constituents to make decisions. He concluded that it was time to move on from this issue as the Airport Runway Extension Project was going to proceed. Mr. Dickinson stated his absolute agreement with Mr. Kenny's statements.

Mr. Loeb stated that he had been one of the members of the County Facilities Committee that had initially voted against the creation of the Advisory Committee, but after listening to Mr. Girard's positive comments, he had decided to vote in favor of the proposed resolution. In order to make the proposal more palatable, Mr. Loeb suggested that proposed Resolution No. 500 be amended to indicate that the Advisory Committee would report to the Economic Growth & Development Committee, rather than to the County Facilities Committee. He explained that this amendment was justified by the fact that the Advisory Committee would not be considering issues relative to the operation of the Airport, but rather those pertaining to increased promotion and economic development. Mr. Loeb said he had discussed this idea with both Mr. Girard and Mr. Taylor, Chairman of the Economic Growth & Development Committee, both of whom were amenable to the idea.

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Motion was made by Mr. Loeb and seconded by Mr. Westcott to amend proposed Resolution No. 500 of 2013, as outlined above.

Mr. Conover said he would like to hear comments from Supervisors Girard and Taylor before voting on the proposed amendment.

Mr. Girard noted proposed Resolution No. 500 included the rules for establishing the volunteer membership of the Advisory Committee, which would include one appointment by the Chairman of the Committee that the Advisory Committee would report to. He advised that he would have appointed Mr. Mason to serve in this capacity, and since Mr. Mason served on both the County Facilities and Economic Growth & Development Committees, he believed both would be kept well informed, regardless of which Committee was receiving advisements. Mr. Taylor stated that although his feelings about advisory committees mirrored the comments made by Mr. Kenny, he would not stand in the way of receiving recommendations from the public and had no issue with the amendments suggested for proposed Resolution No. 500. As the author of the proposal to establish the Advisory Committee, Mr. Mason indicated that he was flexible and agreeable to the changes as long as the Advisory Committee would be able to provide their reports to a County committee.

Mr. Westcott stated he felt it was always helpful to see what people had to say and he said he believed Mr. Mason's proposal had stated that the Advisory Committee would remain in place for one year, following which the Board could decide whether to maintain or discontinue it. He recited financial figures regarding the Airport's 2012 operations, indicating that the facility had incurred over \$1 million in expenses, *\$880,000 for operations and \$160,000 for capital projects*, while collecting only \$100,000 in revenues, representing a 6% budget increase. Mr. Westcott stated that they had heard plans before that would attempt to decrease costs and increase revenues, which had not worked, and he said if there were other ideas as to how this could be achieved, he did not understand why they would not be entertained.

Mr. Dickinson commented that the County did not support the Airport in an effort to raise revenues, but rather to meet transportation needs, similar to the way in which they provided financial support for the highway infrastructure, as well as many other County funded programs which did not incur any return revenues but were implemented for the good of the public. Mr. Bentley commented that although \$880,000 had been appropriated in the 2012 Budget for Airport operations, the actual expenditures had been closer to \$600,000.

There being no further discussion on the matter, Chairman Geraghty called the question and the aforementioned motion to amend proposed Resolution No. 500 of 2013 was carried by majority vote with Supervisors Kenny, Dickinson, Merlino and Wood voting in opposition.

Regarding proposed Resolution No. 528, *Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 8 of 2013 and Authorizing Public Hearing Thereon; "A Local Law Authorizing the Use of a Best Value Award Methodology for Purchase Contracts"*, Mr. Monroe said it was his understanding that the new local law would change the process used to award purchase contracts and he questioned whether the change was driven by requirements relating to Minority and Women-Owned Businesses. He noted that if this were the case, the change might draw questions as to the fairness of the bidding process. Mr. Auffredou responded that the idea for the local law had been introduced by NYSAC (*New York State Association of Counties*). He said it was intended as another method for counties to use in their bidding process, but not to replace the current competitive bidding procedure. Mr. Auffredou explained the new local law would incorporate certain safeguards so that the best value award methodology could not be used on a regular

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basis, but would be available when it was determined to be the best course of action by the Department Head and Purchasing Agent.

There being no further discussion on resolutions, Chairman Geraghty called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 473 - 532 were approved as presented, with the exception of Resolution No. 500 which was approved in its amended form. Proclamations regarding COPD Awareness Month and National Youth Court Month were submitted, as well as a Certificate of Appointment naming members of the Warren County Youth Board.

Moving on to announcements, Chairman Geraghty recognized Mrs. Putney, recently retired Administrator of Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement, expressing appreciation for the excellent work she had done during her tenure. He also acknowledged Mr. Wallace, newly appointed Administrator of Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement, welcoming him to the position.

Mr. Girard recalled his announcement from the prior month regarding the increased interest in The Hyde Museum in light of the Georgia O'Keeffe Exhibit. He stated that the attendance levels had been phenomenal and it was great to see the museum so alive and active.

Mr. Strainer noted the recent passing of Michael Barody, former At-Large Supervisor for the Town of Queensbury. He noted that Mr. Barody had been a hard worker and a nice man, and he extended his condolences to the Barody family.

Chairman Geraghty announced that the World's Largest Garage Sale would be held in Warrensburg, NY on October 5th and 6th.

Mr. Vanselow announced the annual Gore Mountain Harvest Fest would be held at the Gore Mountain ski resort in the Town of North Creek on October 12th and 13th.

Mr. Monroe advised the November 2013 election ballots would include two Constitutional Amendments which were important to note as they would affect Adirondack communities. The first, he said, concerned NYCO Minerals, Inc. which employed about 100 people. He said they were running out of ore at their current mines and the land swap proposed would allow them to mine additional land that was currently under Forest Preserve designation. Mr. Monroe announced the second amendment pertained to the Township 40 and the longstanding title dispute between the State of New York and many Raquette Lake, NY home and business owners. He explained the amendment would allow the purchase of property necessary to resolve the dispute and set up a fund to which the property and business owners would contribute for the purchase. Mr. Monroe concluded that both issues were very important and he asked his fellow Supervisors for their support.

Concluding the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty offered privilege of the floor to any members of the public wishing to address the Board of Supervisors. There being none, on motion made by Mr. Strainer and seconded by Mr. Dickinson, Chairman Geraghty adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:35 a.m.