

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018**



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. Ronald F. Conover presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Merlino.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Leggett, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Driscoll, Frasier, Simpson, Hogan, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Beaty, Magowan, Thomas, Geraghty and Conover- 16 ;Supervisors Loeb, Dickinson, Sokol and Hyde absent- 4

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Conover noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of the June 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Hogan and carried unanimously.

Continuing with the Agenda review, Chairman Conover declared the Public Hearing on the proposed Tentative Budget for Adirondack Community College (*SUNY Adirondack*) for Fiscal Year 2018-19 open at 10:02 a.m. and he requested the Clerk of the Board read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud. Following the reading of the Notice of Public Hearing by Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, Chairman Conover offered privilege of the floor to any member of the public wishing to speak on the proposed Tentative Budget for SUNY Adirondack, but there was no one wishing to speak. He advised that they would leave the Public Hearing open while they proceeded with the Agenda review to allow time for the Dr. Kristine Duffy, *President, SUNY Adirondack*, to arrive and respond to any questions on the Budget.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Conover extended privilege of the floor to Stephen Danna and Linda Fusco, *of SUNY Plattsburgh at Queensbury*. Mr. Danna advised they were present today to ensure everyone was aware of the upcoming Fall 2018 Conference- Adirondack Communities: Planning for and Responding to Climate Change, which would be held on October 27, 2018 at the Silver Bay YMCA. He informed the focus of the Conference would be on the Adirondacks, the changing climate and what opportunities and challenges were presenting themselves as a result of a wetter, warmer Adirondack Park. He referred to the two handouts that were distributed to the Board members, the first of which included a list of some of presenters at the Conference and the other was a letter to sponsors with the goal of raising money to reduce the cost of attending the event to make it more affordable for anyone who had concerns or interests on the subject matter to attend; *copies of the handouts are on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting*. He said the website would be going live in about a week and a half. He apprised that Supervisor Strough was going to be a member of their panel and he outlined some of the guest speakers who were all knowledgeable about the topic and what could be done about it. He concluded by stating he hoped the Supervisors, as the leaders in the region, would attend.

Ms. Fusco advised she envisioned this Conference as a unique, one-time event; she noted the new William Boyd Center could host up to 500 people. She said they were looking at a turnkey situation to

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allow the attendees to report on what they learned to their organization. She added it was imperative for those involved in everyday life such as school districts, churches, clubs, shelters, elder care, etc. to commence with networking and talking to one another about what was occurring to come up with solutions to these issues.

Chairman Conover thanked Mr. Danna and Ms. Fusco for sharing the information pertaining to the Conference and he advised the Town Supervisors would bring the Conference to the attention of their Town Board's. Mr. Danna informed a letter would be distributed to the individual municipalities within the next few weeks with more information regarding the Conference. Ms. Fusco added the website would be live within the next week and a half.

Moving along to the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Conover reported that he had attended the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup> in Fulton County. He stated he had attended the annual luncheon sponsored by the Economic Development Corporation on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Great Escape Lodge where Dr. John E. Kelly III, *IBM Senior Vice President, Cognitive Solutions and IBM Research*, was the keynote speaker. On July 7<sup>th</sup>, he apprised he had attended the annual meeting for the Fund For Lake George at the Sagamore Conference Center was presented to where information regarding the work being performed relative to the Lake George Watershed. He mentioned the Towns of Hague, Queensbury, Lake George and Bolton were all recipients of grant awards for the environmental work they were completing which covered an entire range of subjects. With regard to the Shared Services Panel meeting that he had attended on July 9<sup>th</sup>, Chairman Conover remarked he believed the County was moving forward in the right direction. He said the Town of Bolton was interested in partaking in a few of the initiatives that were discussed. He voiced his pleasure with the discussion that occurred at the meeting of the Working Group for Health Insurance on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Conover reported on the meeting he had attended on July 18<sup>th</sup> regarding salt reduction at the LGA's (*Lake George Association*) Office, along with Supervisors Frasier and Strough. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to provide an update regarding the progress they had made with the Salt Reduction Program and what action was required going forward. He mentioned Assemblyman Stec and Senator Little were hopeful they would be called back into session to allow them to address the Warren County's Home Rule Request to extend the additional mortgage tax, as well as same from other Counties requests throughout the State.

Chairman Conover then called for the reports by Committee Chairmen on the past months meetings or activities.

Supervisor Merlino stated the Tourism Committee had met on June 8<sup>th</sup> during which they learned the Smith Trend Report for Warren County reflected an increase of 6.5% for April and occupancy tax collections had increased 2.4% for the month of May. He added according to the data he reviewed this morning occupancy tax had increased 4.1% in the month of June and year to date there was an increase of 7.6% as compared to the same time last year. He remarked he was pleased that sales tax collections were about \$900,000 more than for the same timeframe last year. He encouraged anyone interested in participating in the Governor's Adirondack Challenge from July 27-29, 2018 to contact Joanne Conley, *Director of Tourism*. Supervisor Merlino apprised the Park Operations & Management Committee had met on June 19<sup>th</sup> where one of the topics discussed pertained to an issue that had been brought forward regarding a lack of funding that would need to be made up through revenue acquired from the events held at the Festival Commons.

Chairman Conover apprised the tourism activity in the Town of Bolton had been strong due to the favorable weather they had over the past month.

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Supervisor Strough advised he had no Committee report, but he would like to report on a few events he had attended, the first of which was the public session of Governor Cuomo's Cancer Research Initiative that took place last night. He said the purpose of this initiative was to assist with determining what could be contributing to higher cancer rates in Warren County. He informed as mentioned by Chairman Conover he had attended the presentation regarding salt reduction given by the LGA. He remarked he believed the Board would be pleased with the changes being made to the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board. In conclusion, he apprised he had been participating in the surveys that related to the Shared Services Initiative, as well as working with Supervisor Dickinson on protecting the Lake George Watershed.

Supervisor Wild indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Beaty advised he had met with Julie Butler, *Purchasing Agent*, to brainstorm about new ways to save the County money through shared services. He stated due to a scheduling conflict he was unable to attend the meeting he had set up with Supervisor Strough and Mrs. Butler to discuss Fire Districts. He apprised he also attended the State Mandated Shared Services Panel meeting which he believed Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, would be going into more detail about during his report.

Supervisor Magowan indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Thomas informed sales tax collections were going well this year; he noted he could not recall a time when sales tax increased by 5% in one quarter. He apprised according to NYSAC (*New York State Association of Counties*) the inflation factor was 2% and he believed inflation was 2.9% ; therefore, he stated, he felt confident that the New York State Comptroller's Office would set the rate for this amount. He advised the Multi-Year Plan was almost finished with only a few minor changes to be made; he said it would be reported on at an upcoming Budget Committee meeting.

Supervisor Geraghty stated that the Personnel & Higher Education Committee had approved proposed Resolution Nos. 296-300, most notable of which was 300, which authorized the appointment of Supervisor Wild to the WWIDA (*Warren-Washington Industrial Development Agency*).

Supervisor Leggett reported the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee had met on June 20<sup>th</sup>, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 271-281 and he provided a brief overview of each.

Supervisor Diamond advised proposed Resolution Nos. 267-270 were approved at the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the County Facilities Committee which he requested support of. He encouraged everyone to attend the next Committee meeting scheduled tentatively for July 30<sup>th</sup>, as an interesting topic would be discussed there.

Supervisor McDevitt indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Braymer apprised she had no Committee report, but on behalf of Supervisor Dickinson she was requesting support on proposed Resolution No. 304, *Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the Environmental Testing Reserve Fund to the Real Property Tax Services Budget to Pay for Environmental Site Assessments for Town of Chester Tax Map Parcel No. 104.10-4-5 (10 Pine Street) and Town of Queensbury Tax Map Parcel No. 302.8-1-2 (275 Bay Road); Amending 2018 Warren County Budget*.

Supervisor Driscoll indicated he had no Committee report, but he had attended the Governor's Cancer Study Forum with Supervisors Frasier and Wild. He said he had requested that a copy of the agenda

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from that meeting be included in the Supervisors mail to allow them to review the powerpoint presentation and respond with any questions they may have.

Supervisor Frasier advised the Health, Human & Social Services Committee had met on June 18<sup>th</sup>, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 283-286. She added as previously mentioned she also attended the meeting pertaining to salt reduction on Lake George, as well as the Governor's Cancer Study Forum.

Supervisor Simpson announced it was not too late to sign up for Cornell Cooperative Extension's annual Golf Tournament and Silent Auction scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup>. He apprised he had attended the monthly meeting for Cornell during which they toured the new greenhouse, a ribbon cutting ceremony for which was scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup>, with the details to follow. Supervisor Simpson stated the Public Works Committee meeting was held on June 19<sup>th</sup> during which proposed Resolution Nos. 289-293 were approved and he provided a brief summary of each. He stated he would fill in for Supervisor Sokol, who was absent today and report on the June 26<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee meeting. He proceeded by providing a brief summary of proposed Resolution Nos. 301-305, the highlight of which was Resolution No. 305, *Adopting and Approving Adirondack Community College Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019*.

Supervisor Simpson advised as Chairman of the WWIDA, he would like to take a moment to address an email that was distributed by Supervisors Beaty and Braymer to the full Board yesterday regarding the organization that made some assertions which may be inaccurate. He explained each time the WWIDA issued a PILOT (*Payment in Lieu of Taxes*) the County and towns impacted were notified and a public announcement was placed in the local newspaper regarding where and when the public hearing on the PILOT would take place to allow the public to attend and comment if they so desired. He mentioned there was a sense in the email that the public and Supervisors were unaware that PILOT tax incentives were being granted without proper notification. He apprised their attorney, Michael A. Brandi, of the *Fitzgerald Morris Baker Firth, P.C.*, was present to answer any questions regarding the process the WWIDA followed.

Mr. Brandi informed IDA agencies in New York State were created by Article 18A of the General Municipal Law and the WWIDA was specifically founded by Section 890C. He apprised the powers of the IDA originated directly from the statute and they were subject to the ethical and legal guidance of the NYS ABO (*New York State Authorities Budget Office*) which promulgated policy guidance and conducted reviews of agency policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the law and NYS ABO's guidance. He continued, the WWIDA was subject to FOIL (*Freedom of Information Law*) and Open Meetings Law. He advised Section 859A of the General Municipal Law, which was within Article 18A, regulated IDA's and set forth the prerequisites required for the IDA to provide financial assistance for any project in excess of \$100,000. He stated prior to the IDA providing financial assistance they must hold a public hearing on the Project with at least ten days published notice in newspaper which he believed was typically *The Post Star*, as well as written notice to the CEO (*Chief Executive Officer*) of each taxing jurisdiction within which the proposed project was located. He said typically these written notices were sent to the Chairman of the Board, the Superintendent of a school district, Mayor of a City, Mayor of a Village, etc.

Supervisor Braymer requested that Chairman Conover forward the written notices from the WWIDA as soon as he received them to allow the Board members to have timely notice of the public hearings rather than reading them in the monthly correspondence at the Board Meetings which was typically after the public hearing had taken place. Chairman Conover apprised the notices were also incorporated into the Board Meeting minutes, however, he noted, going forward he would forward them on to the full Board.

Supervisor Simpson remarked the WWIDA was willing to take whatever steps necessary to notify any party that would like to be informed of any action the WWIDA was considering, as it was a transparent organization. As previously stated by Chairman Conover, Supervisor Simpson apprised that every notice of a public hearing as required by law was read into the minutes at the monthly Board Meetings which, he noted, required approval from the Board and as far as he was aware in the past five years there had never been a time where a Supervisor voted in opposition of them. He remarked he believed they were all aware of what the WWIDA was; however, he noted, the WWIDA was not opposed to providing notification to others such as the Treasurer's Office, individual Supervisors, etc.

Supervisor Beaty stated he believed they all supported the WWIDA for the great work they did on projects such as the Hospital Bond Tax Exemption, the Prospect School and a number of other outstanding affairs; he added that no one had ever accused them of not doing terrific things. He informed his concern in this day and age of transparency, stemmed from the \$750,000 tax break given to one hotel which few people were aware of and that the Board was not given the opportunity to discuss at their Board Meeting in light of the fact that the County's revenue was so dependent upon the taxes it received. He pointed out they were known to debate about small amounts of money which was why he was so bothered that they were not even provided with the opportunity to discuss this \$750,000 tax break. He apprised he wished Supervisor Simpson, as a member of their organization, had brought to this Board's attention that the WWIDA was providing a significant tax break which would result in Warren County losing \$750,000. He reiterated his statement from earlier that he believed the WWIDA did great work and was a very transparent organization; however, he noted, as a result of some information not being transmitted to this Board he was requesting that going forward that Supervisor Simpson, as Chairman of the WWIDA, notify the Board when tax breaks which would impact the County were being considered prior to approving them to allow the Board the opportunity to discuss them. He added another request he had was for the WWIDA to videotape their meetings when they had the capability to do so, such as when they were held here at the Warren County Municipal Center Building, as this would add another level of transparency. He remarked the point he was trying to make was that the Board required more notice than two sentences in the paper about a public hearing concerning significant tax breaks that would impact the County.

Supervisor Simpson responded that he had reported on the activities of the WWIDA at the June 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, following which Supervisor Beaty sent him an email chastising him for doing a report he did not need to hear about at the Board Meeting. He apprised he had complied with the General Municipal Law that governed the organization and he was open to suggestions from any Supervisor, as his goal was to be as transparent as possible. He commented he believed the email from Supervisors Beaty and Braymer was not carried out for the best interest of the taxpayers, but rather was politically motivated, based on the fact it had also been sent to *The Post Star*. He said he felt it was best for him to report to all twenty Supervisors on the actions of the WWIDA at the Board Meeting; however, he stated, he was open to reporting in a different manner if that was how they would like him to proceed. He added if there was another layer of notifications required other than the public notices released he would bring this to the WWIDA Board's attention. He announced the WWIDA was going to consider notifying the County Treasurers in Warren and Washington Counties and their respective Boards in advance of any action they were contemplating at their next meeting. Chairman Conover advised he believed the proper place for discussion and debate about any proposed action should be at the public hearing and Supervisor Simpson and Mr. Brandi concurred.

Supervisor Beaty interjected that he concurred the debate should occur at the public hearing; however, he noted, the full Board should also be aware and discuss any significant tax breaks that would impact the County such as the \$750,000 provided to one hotel. He commented he was appreciative of the fact that Supervisor Simpson was open to new ideas and requested that going forward, Supervisor Simpson,

as Chairman of the WWIDA, bring up any proposed agreements at the Board Meeting and ensure they were informed of any possible tax implications for the County.

Supervisor Leggett informed he was also a member of the WWIDA Board; he commented it appeared the complaint was that the County was giving away money, when in reality the philosophy was based on who owned the money in the first place, most of the time this being the private individual. He continued, the costs and benefits were considered when these decisions were made and he asked Mr. Brandi to explain the process the WWIDA used to make their determination. Mr. Brandi advised the application for any requests that came before the WWIDA was rather involved and called for a substantial amount of information pertaining to the incoming project, such as what their investment was and what it was comprised of, the number of part-time and full-time jobs they anticipated creating as a result of the project, etc.; he continued, this information used to calculate the PILOT amount based on what sales and mortgage exemptions might exist, as well as what other financial assistance might be considered by the agency. He explained any action the agency took had to be in compliance with the Uniform Tax Exemption Policy which they adopted in consultation with the County in 1999. He apprised when they deviated from that policy they were required to send a separate notice to all of the taxing jurisdictions notifying them of this deviation. He informed the Uniform Tax Exemption Policy should detail every exemption unless its being deviated from; therefore, he said, the scope of that Policy should cover the majority of the projects the agency would consider.

Supervisor Simpson reminded them he spoke about a project the WWIDA was currently working on in his Committee report a few months ago regarding a proposed PILOT application. He said the time and place of the public hearing held in the Town of Queensbury during that report, but no one attended.

Chairman Conover surmised the best way to handle questions pertaining to economic development would be to request that Supervisor McDevitt, who chaired the Economic Growth & Development Committee, place the matter in question on the Committee meeting agenda and to request that the individuals who were knowledgeable on the subject attend to answer questions in the appropriate manner. He added it was not that these matters could not be taken care of at the Board Meeting or through general communications, but that he felt the most appropriate way to manage these matters was through the Board's Committee structure. He added he was not implying these matters had to be addressed through the Economic Growth & Development Committee, as it could be any Committee they chose; he noted it was imperative for them to maintain the decorum of their processes.

Chairman Conover acknowledged Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, who remarked he would like to respond to a couple of the comments that were made concerning the WWIDA. He stated he disagreed with Supervisor Beaty's comment that the WWIDA was transparent, as he felt they were following the legal process, but he did not believe it was transparent. He apprised what occurred when \$1.4 million in sales tax and several hundred thousand dollars in mortgage tax abatements were granted to one motel project in the Town of Lake George on February 18, 2015 was that a notice was printed in the paper for one day under the Legal Advertisements section in tiny print that there was going to be a public hearing on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. He continued, that public hearing convened at 10:00 a.m. during which the lawyer representing the developer spoke for a few minutes regarding what the project entailed following which public comment was called for; however, he noted, since no public were present, no comments were made and the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m. which was only four minutes after it had commenced. He said although they may be meeting their legal obligations by putting a notice in the paper that no one read, he did not feel the process was transparent. He surmised it was typical for no one to show up to these public hearings, informing it was more than likely an exception when discussion did take place. He added he thought the public had a right to know about these public hearings, this one in particular since following this occurrence two more hotels were given

the same benefit which exempted them from paying sales and mortgage tax thereby setting a precedent which would likely result in the next hotel applying to expect the same benefits be offered previously. He pointed out the Board would have to deal with the ramifications of these decisions since they were not involved in the process, nor were they were of it. He advised he had attended a significant number of Committee meetings at the County, more so than some of the Board members, and yet he was never made aware of the significant tax exemptions being given to these three motels while their competitors were still required to pay them. He surmised new hotels did not bring in more tourists, but instead took away potential guests from the existing facilities that paid their taxes and yet they were not asking for this same benefit. He remarked that these were all matters that should be discussed in this forum and yet neither he nor the Board was aware of them and he opined they should all be ashamed of this, himself included.

Supervisor Geraghty inquired whether these hotels were exempt from paying any taxes ever and Mr. Simpson replied in the negative. He said the exemption was based upon what was included in their PILOT agreement. Mr. Brandi clarified the exemption was dependent upon the project based upon the Uniform Tax Exemption Policy unless they deviated from it, but he was unfamiliar with those particular projects. Supervisor Geraghty stated there were certain rules they had to follow, as he was aware in his community when they granted these requests from certain businesses to do a projects there was a timeframe following which they had to commence paying them. He said while he understood Mr. Whitehead's concern, he did not want anyone to get the wrong impression that these businesses would never be required to pay sales and mortgage taxes.

Chairman Conover suggested anyone with further questions attend the WWIDA meeting or send their inquiries to Supervisor Simpson or the Committee Chair so they could entertain the matter within their Committee structure.

Supervisor Simpson offered privilege of the floor to Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, to provide the monthly update regarding the County's finances. Mr. Swan advised he was pleased to report that sales tax collections had increased by 5%. He said typically he was skeptical of these spikes because in previous occurrences the State had indicated their figures were inaccurate and they provided Warren County with too much sales tax revenue; however, he noted, in this case he was confident the figures were accurate. He added another factor contributing to his certainty that these figures were accurate was the fact that occupancy tax collections as of June 30<sup>th</sup> were up by 11%. He said the July figures appeared to have increased substantially, but he wanted to wait it out to determine whether this related to a surge with a few of the payments. With regards to proposed Resolution No. 303, *Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Execute Correspondence Approving a Change in Payments of Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation Surcharges to Counties from Quarterly to Annually*, Mr. Swan advised he was in favor of this being approved, but he wanted to forewarn them as a direct result of casinos and sports betting, etc. being offered online the revenue received from the Capital District OTB would be decreasing. As an example he stated \$102,000 in revenue was received from them in 2016 and in 2017 only \$57,000 was received resulting in the organization becoming cash strapped. Chairman Conover pointed out comparable resolutions had to be adopted by every one impacted. Mr. Swan apprised he thought resolutions were required from seventeen Counties. Mr. Moore added he believed following the adoption of the resolution today by the Board, four more Counties had to adopt same. Mr. Swan informed the concern he had with regards to this was the manner in which the revenue would be distributed; however, he apprised, following some research by Mr. Moore his concerns were alleviated.

Supervisor Hogan indicated she had nothing to report on.

Chairman Conover inquired whether Ms. Hogan would like a status update regarding the removal of

equipment from the County Railroad and Ms. Hogan responded that Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, had done an excellent job keeping her informed.

Chairman Conover extended privilege of the floor to Mr. Hajos, who advised as of this morning SNCR (*Saratoga & North Creek Railway*) had not moved any of the coach cars out of the rail yard. He said their deadline to remove all of their equipment from the County property was next Wednesday; he informed they had commenced slowly moving some of the equipment in the parking lot by truck taking pieces here and there. He apprised the FRA (*Federal Railroad Administration*) would not allow them to travel across the rails with some of the remaining equipment because it was not up to the required standards. He added if they were able to make the necessary repairs they could finish removing the remaining equipment within forty-eight hours, but he had not observed them doing any significant work on the equipment. He added he was aware that Ed Ellis, *President, Iowa Pacific*, had notified Supervisor Geraghty that they were working diligently to remove their remaining equipment. He said one of their engines had been brought up to standard to be able to travel across the tracks today.

Supervisor Magowan inquired whether it was true that some of the cars were not up to the required standards to travel across the Canadian Pacific tracks and Mr. Hajos replied in the affirmative. He explained since some of the flanges on the wheels had been worn down to the point that if they were to go around a corner they would more than likely derail, the FRA would not permit them to travel along the tracks to cross over Canadian Pacific's line. He added some of the cars had reached a state where they should not be moved at all until they were repaired.

With regards to Mike Kelly, who had leased cars to Upper Hudson River Railroad when they were the operator, Mr. Hajos informed Mr. Kelly had a locomotive and coach car remaining on the property. He said he had contacted Mr. Kelly to inquire when he would be moving his equipment; he apprised Mr. Kelly had indicated that due to issues with the flanges on the wheels the earliest he could remove them would be November 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Hajos apprised he had indicated to Mr. Kelly that this was unacceptable and he needed to respond as to how he would resolve this, but as of yet no response was received. Chairman Conover advised the directive was that all property was to be removed from all buildings, lands and rails unless otherwise approved by this Board.

Supervisor Leggett apprised a constituent of his had requested that he pass along their request that the Supervisors speak directly into their microphone, as it was difficult to decipher what they were saying in the videos of the meetings.

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

- \* Tammy Moon for 30 years of service to the Countryside Adult Home; and
- \* Laurie Durkin for 30 years of service to the Probation Department.

Mr. Moore apprised on June 19<sup>th</sup> he had attended a meeting with the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board Governance Committee and he recognized Supervisor Strough for his work as a member of that Committee. He stated anyone who planned on attending the next meeting of the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board, which would be held here in the Board Room next Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., would be able to observe the results of the work of the Governance Committee and the Regional Planning Board staff. He mentioned by-laws, incorporation papers, membership lists for the Regional Planning Board, Development Corporation and Loan Committee, State Law and past resolutions adopted by the five member Counties were considered during the significant overhauling done by the Governance Committee. He informed he spoke daily with the Dave O'Brien, *Washington County Supervisor and Chairman of the Regional Planning Board*, to provide



information and assistance from Warren County as requested.

Mr. Moore informed at the direction of the Public Works Committee he had been working diligently in an attempt to obtain letters of interest from potential railroad operators. He said the deadline for the submission of these letters was today; he advised he had received a few responses thus far and was in the process of working on trying to get more to provide the Committee with a few options to consider. He stated he hoped to have the information compiled for the Committee to discuss at their meeting next on Tuesday.

Mr. Moore apprised he had met with Paul Jenkins, *Superintendent, Glens Falls School District*, the Glens Falls School District Business Administrator and Mrs. Butler on June 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss shared services following which he and Mrs. Butler participated in conference calls with the Superintendents of the Warrensburg School District and Queensbury Union Free School District, as well as the Superintendent of the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton Essex BOCES to discuss an initiative for these school districts to be able to participate with the consolidated bidding process and piggy backing that Mrs. Butler had been working on to include the towns on. He explained the process was rather complicated, but he and Mrs. Butler were working hard on a solution so this could be included in the Shared Services Initiative. He apprised if they were able to come up with a solution it would be the tenth initiative on the draft version of the Shared Services Initiative, which, he noted, he had a statutory deadline of August 1<sup>st</sup> to complete. He added if they were unable to come up with a solution to be able to include the school districts in the draft version of the initiative then he hoped they would be able to do so before the deadline to submit the plan to the State of September 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Moore informed he met with representatives of the New York Power Authority on June 25<sup>th</sup> regarding the Smart Street New York Program which was one of the initiatives that many of the towns had expressed interest in; he added this was one of the initiatives that would be part of the County's Shared Services Initiative. He stated on June 26<sup>th</sup> he had a meeting with Dan Hall, *Mayor, City of Glens Falls*, to discuss Mr. Hall's ideas for shared services, as well as regular contact with the town supervisors and Robert Blais, *Mayor, Village of Lake George*. He advised it had been a busy month for him with regards to compiling all of the information and procuring it into its final format as required by the statute. Mr. Moore advised the State Mandated Shared Services Panel meeting which occurred on July 9<sup>th</sup> was well attended; he said during the meeting they provided an overview of the nine initiatives they had in place thus far, as well as discussing the requirements going forward such as the timelines. He apprised there would be three public hearings sometime between the submission of the draft report and the final meeting of Panel to adopt the plan. In conclusion, he informed upon the request of Ed Bartholomew, *President, Economic Development Corporation*, he had attended their annual luncheon meeting on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Moore announced Tammie DeLorenzo would be joining his staff on Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup> as the new Assistant to the County Administrator. He said she would be replacing JoAnn McKinstry and although Ms. McKinstry was a hard act to follow he was certain Ms. DeLorenzo would exceed expectations in this position. He informed Ms. DeLorenzo was a twenty-one year veteran of the County during which she had served in management roles for both the Health Services and Information Technology Departments. He continued, Ms. DeLorenzo was known and respected around the County by employees and Department Heads alike. He mentioned he was thankful she applied for the position due to her vast experience which consisted of serving as a fiscal manager, doing budgets and forecasts and being intimately familiar with the County's payroll systems.

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

Supervisor Dickinson entered the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

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

Reports from:

1. Capital District Regional OTB Financial Reports for March 31, 2018 and April 30, 2018.
2. Warren County Clerk's Office Annual Report for fiscal year January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017.
3. Crandall Public Library 2017 Annual Report
4. Warren County Department of Weights & Measures Monthly Report for June 2018

Minutes from:

1. Warren & Washington Counties Civic Development Corporation May 21, 2018 Meeting and June 13, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting.
2. Warren & Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency May 21, 2018 Meeting and June 13, 2018 Executive/Park Committee Meeting.

Letters/emails from:

1. North Creek Business Alliance - relaying their concerns with regard to the removal of the railroad tracks between the Town of Corinth and the Town of North Creek - *letter was emailed to the Board of Supervisors on June 26, 2018*
2. Kevin Hajos, Superintendent of Public Works - appointing Joan Wolfe to the position of Deputy Superintendent of Public Works/Administration effective retroactive to March 21, 2018.

Other:

1. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp. May payment in the amount of \$4,692.
2. Washington County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 174 of 2018, appointing Nicholas Caimano to the Warren and Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency and Civic Development Corporation.

Chairman Conover once again called for any comments on the Public Hearing on the proposed Tentative Budget for Adirondack Community College (*SUNY Adirondack*) for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

Dr. Duffy advised she was pleased to report that the SUNY Adirondack Budget was adopted by the Washington County Board of Supervisors at their meeting earlier today and she hoped that this Board would follow suit.

Supervisor Diamond thanked Dr. Duffy on behalf of the City of Glens Falls for selecting the downtown area of the City for the new location of the Colleges Culinary Arts Program. He mentioned any other area within Warren County could have been solicited for this Program and yet the City was chosen. He remarked that this would make a significant difference in the downtown area of the City. He added he believed they had done a stellar job putting together their Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

Dr. Duffy apprised they were pleased with the new location; she informed the anticipated ribbon cutting was scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup> with additional information to follow as it became available. She said they were working on unpacking and setting up to make the space available for the Fall Semester.

Chairman Conover called once again called for any comments regarding the Public Hearing on the proposed Tentative Budget for SUNY Adirondack; there being none, he declared the Public Hearing closed at 10:57 a.m.

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Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 264-305 were mailed. She stated Resolution No. 306 as developed after the mailing and a motion was required to bring them to the floor; the necessary motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Geraghty and carried unanimously.

Chairman Conover called for discussion and public comment on the proposed resolutions; there being none, he then called for requests for roll call votes.

Supervisor Driscoll requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 286, *Authorizing Continuation of Contractual Relationships for Special Delinquency Prevention Programs*, because it involved two small payments to his employer. He said although he was not directly involved in those projects the County Attorney advised him he should abstain from voting on the proposed Resolution.

Supervisor Braymer requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 267, *Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the Federal Aviation Administration/New York State Department of Transportation for the Environmental Assessment for Runway 1-19 Extension - Phase IV & Preliminary Design at the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport*.

Supervisor Wild requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 300, *Appointing Member of the Counties of Warren and Washington Industrial Development Agency and Civic Development Corporation*, which, he noted, he would abstain from voting on.

Supervisor Merlino advised he was unable to attend the June 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting due to health issues; however, he noted, had he been present he would have voted in favor of Resolution No. 233, *Amending Resolution No. 35 of 2018, Authorizing Temporary Agreement with Warren County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc., to Extend the Termination Date to July 20, 2018*, even though it still would have failed due to obtaining the lack of the majority votes required. He stated he believed more information should have been supplied to the Board members regarding what would occur, but he did agree that there were some valid concerns with the contract. He apprised what was not considered was what would happen when the organization went out of business thereby leaving the County and the majority of the towns with no animal control services. He informed of an incident which occurred in his Town where a Sheriff's Officer was dispatched to respond to a call from a resident who was bitten by a neighbors donkey when they tried to intervene with the donkey, who was bothering their horses. He remarked he felt bad for the Sheriff's Officer, who was not equipped to handle a donkey other than to shoot it. He informed he was not singling out the At-Large Supervisors; however; he advised, the Town Supervisors were receiving a number of calls for concerns with stray cats, chickens, etc, that had previously been handled by the SPCA. He stated had he known that the contract would not be renewed he would have taken the necessary precautions to be equipped to handle such calls. Supervisor Merlino apprised the only other comment he wanted to make pertained to the emails from the private sector relating to their personal problems which, he believed, should no longer be distributed to the full Board. He stated the public could reach out to the Supervisors through email with their concerns rather than sending them to Mrs. Allen and requesting that she forward it on to the full Board. He commented he did not feel it was politically correct for them to receive emails from certain individuals which contained a diatribe that was about six pages long because he believed it swayed many of their minds. He advised he concurred with Supervisor Beaty that it would be more appropriate for individuals to air their concerns at a Board Meeting to ensure they were all aware of them.

Chairman Conover stated in this day and age he was unsure what could be done. He apprised he felt the appropriate venue to discuss this matter at would be at a Legislative & Rules Committee meeting,

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but that would be to Supervisor Strough, as Chair of the Committee, whether this should be included on a future meetings agenda.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Conover called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 264-306 were approved as presented.

During the roll call votes, Supervisor Merlino commented that he had voiced his concerns at the Committee meeting regarding why he did not fully support proposed Resolution No. 304, *Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the Environmental Testing Reserve Fund to the Real Property Tax Services Budget to Pay for Environmental Site Assessments for Town of Chester Tax Map Parcel No. 104.10-4-5 (10 Pine Street) and Town of Queensbury Tax Map Parcel No. 302.8-1-2 (275 Bay Road); Amending 2018 Warren County Budget*; however, he noted, he would be voting in favor.

Supervisor Geraghty remarked he was fully supportive of proposed Resolution No. 304, noting he was appreciative of the efforts of Lexie Delurey, *Director, Real Property Tax Services*, as Warren County was one of the only Counties in the State who took the initiative to clean up properties so they could be sold and placed back on to the tax roll.

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

George Weinschenk, *Warren County Resident*, voiced his complaints concerning the traffic back up that occurred at the Household Hazardous Waste Day in the Town of Queensbury at the beginning of this month. He said he had made an appointment to drop off his waste at 9:30 a.m., but he ended up leaving because he was still waiting at 11:45 a.m. due in part to the fact that the contractor had arrived late and did not commence service until 10:30 a.m. He apprised when he called the Warren County DPW to complain the individual he spoke to indicated to him they were unaware that the contractor had been late. He said as a result of no supervision or traffic control the event became a calamity. Another complaint, Mr. Weinschenk apprised, pertained to the state of Coolidge Hill Road, which he lived on and was a County Road. He stated there was a significantly sized pot hole at the bottom of the hill that he had made repeated calls to the DPW about asking them to address it, but it had yet to be attended to even though he had been told it would be taken care of. He added the lines on the road were no longer visible resulting in it being difficult to determine where the lanes were and there was also a bush growing across the road which caused drivers to have to swerve into the other lane that needed to be addressed, as well. Mr. Weinschenk informed another grievance of his related to the lines that were painted on Quaker Road which were uneven and he suggested they mandate the contractor to take a sobriety test next year before they were permitted to paint any lines on County Roads to prevent this mishap from reoccurring. He voiced his criticism of the deplorable conditions of the County Roads which, in part, related to the fact that the money for the roads was allocated to build a new bridge in New York City so the Head of the NYSDOT (*New York State Department of Transportation*) would not have to be stuck in traffic on the way home from work every night. He mentioned he had been requesting that a traffic light be installed off of the southbound exit of Exit 20 of the Adirondack Northway for 20 years now because of how the traffic became backed up on the Northway during the summer season and yet no action had been taken to rectify this. He said since no action was taken he had gone from asking to demanding that a traffic light be installed. He pointed out all of the money that had been expended on multiple traffic studies over the years on the area surrounding Exit 20 of the Adirondack Northway could have been used to install the traffic light he was requesting, as the back ups were now occurring on both the north and southbound exits creating a safety hazard. Mr. Weinschenk apprised the oval located at Exit 22 of the Adirondack Northway needed an arrow directing the tourists to the correct lane to address the traffic issues there, as a few weeks ago his car was

drenched with the fluids from a port-o-johns that were being transported on a truck as a result of the truck swerving when a car cut them off because they were unaware that the lane was ending. He announced he would not be participating in next years Household hazardous Waste Day due to having to wait for several hours and the fact that he was unable to dispose of the items he had brought, as they informed him they were not accepting the items he had to dispose of.

Mr. Whitehead advised he concurred that improvements were being made with the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board, as he believed there was no other direction for them to go in, but he would encourage them to hold off on taking credit for those improvements since just six months ago it had been nearly impossible for him to get attention from anyone about the issues with this organization. He reminded them there were some Board members who would not admit the Board had any recourse over that organization. He acknowledged Don Lehman, *Reporter for The Post Star*, for taking the time to drive to Port Henry to investigate what appeared to be a bad loan resulting in the issue garnering some attention. He stated the County had appointed members to the Regional Planning Board since its creation and the Chairman of the Board had been a member since 2010 and yet it took many months to get anyone to admit there were any problems. He pointed out now the issues were rather obvious for everyone to be aware of. He concluded by stating he thought it was evident there was an issue from the lack of awareness of this issue, noting he believed there were more issues similar to those that no one was conscious of.

Chairman Conover called for announcements.

Supervisor Dickinson reported he had recently attended The Fund for Lake George gala meeting at the Sagamore Resort during which he accepted the prestigious Langmuir Award on behalf of the Town of Lake George DPW for embracing every aspect of the Salt Reduction Program. He pointed out the Lake George DPW was the first to step up and do the salt brining, as well as having two live edge plows. He mentioned they were rapidly approaching their goal of a 50% reduction in salt use; he added he hoped to reach this goal this year. Supervisor Dickinson concluded by informing how appreciative he was of the Town of Lake George DPW for their efforts with this Program.

Supervisor Geraghty commented this had been a rough week for first responders, and in particular in the Towns of Johnsbury and Queensbury with regard to a severe fire and car accident. He acknowledged the first responders who worked tirelessly overnight on their response to an accident in the Town of Johnsbury. He announced next weekend the Warrensburg Volunteer Fire Department was hosting their 56<sup>th</sup> annual Smoke Eaters Jamboree on the Warrensburg Recreation Field and he encouraged all to attend.

Supervisor Driscoll acknowledged the passing of former Warren County Supervisor Dan Hogan, who passed away last Wednesday and he thanked his family for sharing Mr. Hogan with the County.

Supervisor Frasier apprised she neglected to mention during her Committee report that the Summer Youth Ceremony and Picnic was scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup> at Crandall Park at noon. She encouraged all to attend following the conclusion of the Board Meeting,

Supervisor Leggett stated the Common Ground Alliance Forum took place yesterday in Lake Placid, notifying he and Supervisor Simpson were members of the core team for common ground. He said the meeting was comprised of eight break out sessions that dealt with issues impacting the Adirondacks. He informed a wide variety of individuals attended these meetings and made suggestions following which policies, programs and projects were offered. He added a record breaking 242 people attended the meeting yesterday.

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There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Dickinson and seconded by Supervisor Strough, Chairman Conover adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:20 a.m.