

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COMMITTEE: REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES**

**DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2008**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS BENTLEY  
THOMAS  
MERLINO  
GOODSPEED  
STRAINER

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

MICHAEL SWAN, DIRECTOR, REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES  
FREDERICK MONROE, CHAIRMAN  
HAL PAYNE, COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FISCAL  
SERVICES  
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD  
SUPERVISOR GERAGHTY  
SUPERVISOR SOKOL  
SUPERVISOR. STEC  
SUPERVISOR TAYLOR  
TOM RANDALL, *THE ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*  
SARAH MCLENITHAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

SUPERVISOR BELDEN

**VACANT:** TOWN OF  
THURMAN

In the absence of Committee Chairman Belden, Supervisor Bentley, as Vice-Chair, called the meeting of the Real Property Tax Services Committee to order at 9:32 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Strainer and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2008 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Michael Swan, Director of Real Property Tax Services, who distributed copies of his agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Swan advised that Agenda Item 1 consisted of a correction to the tax rolls from the County Treasurer's Office, which would require a Board resolution. He pointed out that the correction pertained to a parcel of property located in the Town of Thurman and a discrepancy in the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services (ORPS) assessed value.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. Strainer and carried unanimously to authorize the correction to the tax rolls from the County Treasurer's Office as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 19, 2008 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Swan informed the Committee that Agenda Item 2 pertained to the following requests to fill vacant positions:

- Real Property Information Specialist, Employee No. 11420, base salary of \$31,351, due to termination; and,
- Real Property Clerk, Employee No. 11437, base salary of \$24,059, due to promotion.

On an inquiry by Mr. Strainer, Mr. Swan stated that the positions were included within the Real Property Tax Services Budget. He noted that at one point the Office had employed seven individuals; however, he added, due to budget restraints the staffing had been reduced to five

positions. Hal Payne, Commissioner of Administrative & Fiscal Services, questioned whether there was a listing of Civil Service tested individuals available to select a qualified candidate from and Mr. Swan replied affirmatively.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Goodspeed and carried unanimously to approve the two requests as outlined above and refer same to the Personnel Committee. *Copies of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position forms are on file with the minutes.*

Continuing, Mr. Swan stated that Agenda Item 3 referred to the County-owned surplus land that had been approved to be sold at auction pending County Attorney review. He reported that the County Attorney's Office would be sending the list of the properties approved for sale to the Committee in January to determine the manner in which the properties would be sold.

Mr. Swan informed the Committee that Agenda Item 4 was in reference to the remainder of the parcels of land from the Last Chance meeting that had taken place on August 11, 2008. He stated that the property owners had made payments on the back taxes and their tax bills were now current. He commented that this would be the first time that all attendees of the Last Chance meeting had been able to satisfy the back taxes due on their properties.

Mr. Swan informed the Committee that the remaining properties on the foreclosure list had been sent to the Court System for the appropriate signatures and he estimated that the remainder of the foreclosure process would take thirty to forty-five days. He proposed that the property auction be postponed until Spring of 2009, as he felt that the financial climate would be more conducive to property sales at that time. Mr. Swan also requested permission to secure the dwellings on any foreclosed properties.

Motion was made by Mr. Goodspeed, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to postpone the Real Estate auction until the Spring of 2009 and to take the necessary steps to secure the dwellings on any foreclosed properties.

Moving along, Mr. Swan stated that Agenda Item 5 pertained to the portion of Tax Map Parcel No. 279.-1-61, located in the Town of Queensbury that had been acquired by the State of New York for road construction. He advised that the original parcel had been split to create two separate parcels, and noted that it was necessary to delete Queensbury School Tax Bill No. 279.-1-61.2 in the amount of \$22.31, due to the State being exempt from having to pay school tax bills.

Motion was made by Mr. Strainer, seconded by Mr. Goodspeed and carried unanimously to delete Queensbury School Tax Bill No. 279.-1-61.2 as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 19, 2008 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

As there was no further business to come before the Real Property Tax Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Strainer and seconded by Mr. Thomas, Mr. Bentley adjourned the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah McLenithan, Legislative Office Specialist