

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2012**

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. Daniel G. Stec presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Bentley.

Roll called, the following members present:

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

Absent: Supervisor Merlino - 1.

Motion was made by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2012 Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Before commencing with the agenda review, Chairman Stec recognized City of Glens Falls Councilman At-Large Dan Hall who was in attendance to make a presentation to the Board of Supervisors. Councilman Hall presented the Board of Supervisors with a framed panoramic photograph of the interior of the Glens Falls Civic Center hosting a sold out crowd in attendance for the Hometown Classic Jimmer Fredette basketball game held on December 8, 2010 which had subsequently been signed by Mr. Fredette who now played basketball at the professional level. He said the photo was being presented in appreciation for all of the efforts the County had made to assist both the City of Glens Falls and the Civic Center. A round of applause was given. Chairman Stec thanked Councilman Hall and the City of Glens Falls for their thoughtful gift and their kind words recognizing Warren County for its contributions. He said the current members of the Board of Supervisors, as well as their predecessors, had been as supportive as possible of the Glens Falls Civic Center and he noted that although the expenses associated with the facility were frequently scrutinized, as was typical with any facility of similar size, they recognized the tremendous economic impact it posed to the region. Chairman Stec continued that the County had partnered with the City of Glens Falls and private donors over the years to make several purchases for the Civic Center including new seats, video boards, sound systems and their most recent acquisition, an NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) tournament played basketball court floor. He noted that the slightly used floor was essentially in "like-new" condition, but purchased for half the price of a new floor in unused condition, and would last for 20-30 years. Chairman Stec stated both the County and the City of Glens Falls were very pleased and proud of the accomplishments made by Mr. Fredette in achieving his status as a professional NBA (National Basketball Association) player, as well as the notoriety he had brought to his hometown of Glens Falls. Chairman Stec thanked Councilman Hall once again for the City's recognition of the County's efforts and advised that the photo presented would be hung prominently in the Board Room.

Commencing with the agenda review, Chairman Stec declared the Public Hearing for the proposed tentative budget for SUNY Adirondack for fiscal year 2012-13 open at 10:06 a.m. and he requested that Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, read the Notice of Public Hearing for the Record; Mrs. Sady read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud, a copy of which is on file with the meeting minutes.

There being no comment on the proposed tentative budget for SUNY Adirondack, Chairman Stec closed the Public Hearing at 10:07 a.m.

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Proceeding with his report, Chairman Stec advised the preliminary budgeting process was proceeding very well with meetings being attended by many members of the Board of Supervisors. He said a multi-year budgeting plan was being developed in a transparent manner allowing for thorough review, concurrently with a more specific plan for the 2013 County Budget. Chairman Stec advised several difficult decisions would have to be made through the budgeting process to maintain acceptable budget figures and he noted there was not much discretionary spending included in the preliminary budgets as they consisted mostly of funding for mandated programs. He pointed out one area of particular concern was Public Works budgets which although not mandated, were necessary for maintenance of the County's infrastructure, but represented a considerable cost. Chairman Stec concluded that the County had successfully faced more difficult budget situations in the past and he was confident they would do the same for the 2013 Budget.

Chairman Stec called for reports by Committee Chairman on the past month's activities or meetings and the following gave verbal reports: Supervisor Bentley, Public Works; Supervisor Strainer, Human Services; Supervisor Westcott, Mandate Relief; Supervisor Sokol, Health Services; Supervisor Thomas, Finance; Supervisor Wood, Public Safety; Supervisor Geraghty, Budget; Supervisor Conover, Personnel; Supervisor Monroe, Real Property Tax Services and Gaslight Village Ad Hoc; Supervisor Girard, County Facilities and Extension Services; Supervisor McDevitt, Mental Health; Supervisor Taylor, Support Services; and Supervisor Loeb, Social Services.

Relative to the Public Works Committee, Mr. Bentley advised five resolutions had been approved. He pointed out proposed Resolution Nos. 487, Authorizing Supplemental Agreement No. 5 with Barton & Loguidice, PC for Additional Design Work Relating to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Owned Portion of Beach Road (CR 51/6) Reconstruction Project (PIN 1757.28), and 488, Authorizing the Implementation, and Funding in the First Instance 100% of the Federal-Aid and State "Marchiselli" Program-Aid Eligible Costs, of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project, and Appropriating Funds Therefore - Beach Road (CR 51/6) Reconstruction Project, which essentially allowed the engineering work for the NYSDEC owned portion of Beach Road to be included under the County's current engineering contract, as well as to provide appropriate grant funding reimbursements for the work so that there will be no cost to the County. Mr. Bentley also noted proposed Resolution No. 493, Approving and Authorizing Fourth Amendment to County of Warren, Town of Corinth, and Saratoga and North Creek Railway, LLC Railroad Licensing and Operating Agreement, which would allow the Saratoga and North Creek Railway to discontinue the Thomas the Tank Engine Event in favor of two others.

Mr. Westcott advised the Mandate Relief Sub-Committee had met and agreed to submit the first request for a mandate waiver; he then commended Paul Dusek, County Administrator, and his staff for the research work provided on this issue. He continued that the Committee had asked all of the Department Heads to identify any mandates associated with their respective Departments that were unnecessary or over-regulatory and could be submitted to the State through the mandate review process. Mr. Westcott explained the suggestions received from the Department Heads had been reviewed and narrowed down to the one chosen for submission, as represented by proposed Resolution No. 510, Requesting that New York State Mandate Relief Council Review Executive Law §§832 and §833, State Finance Law §98-b and County Law Article 18-b Concerning the Funding of Mandated Local Indigent Legal Services and Restrictions on the Manner in which the Services are Offered. He advised the proposed resolution sought a change to the current regulatory statutes so that the County would not be forced to spend money for services that were not necessary to the Public Defender's Office, allowing those funds to be transferred to other areas. Mr. Westcott concluded that although the mandate was well intentioned, it was not very well executed and its elimination could save the County up to \$200,000.

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Relative to the Health Services Committee meeting held on July 27<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Sokol advised the installation of the new fire and sprinkler system at the Westmount Health Facility was nearing completion. He noted proposed Resolution No. 469, Authorizing Chairman of the Board to Execute an Amendment Agreement with North East Fire Protection Systems, Inc. for Change Order No. 1 due to Changes Discovered Relative to the Construction Services for Installation of Automatic Fire Sprinklers, Fire Alarm Panel Replacement and Carbon Monoxide Detectors at Westmount Health Facility (WC 32-11), and advised that the items listed therein consisted of the final work necessary to complete the installation. Mr. Sokol advised proposed Resolution No. 469 had been amended to increase the amount of the change order by approximately \$1,900 to include the installation of a mag lock system and he further advised that the costs of all the work, including Change Order No. 1, would be covered by grant funding. With reference to proposed Resolution No. 470, Authorizing Agreement with Clinical Resources, LLC to Provide an Interim Director of Nursing at the Westmount Health Facility, Mr. Sokol apprised the person serving as the Director of Nursing had recently submitted her resignation and they were currently seeking another candidate to fill the position. In the meantime, he continued, the agreement with Clinical Resources, LLC would provide for the State mandated Director of Nursing position until it could be filled. As for the Public Health division, Mr. Sokol advised the resolutions proposed addressed typical contractual issues and he noted a recent newspaper article reporting on Warren County's recent efforts to assist Washington County by providing intravenous services which had been very positive.

Mr. Thomas apprised that during their August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Finance Committee had approved proposed Resolution Nos. 466, 467, 503 - 508 and 520, all of which were included in the resolution packet. He briefly outlined each resolution, placing special emphasis on proposed Resolution No. 506, Resolution Establishing a Capital Reserve Fund to Finance a "Type" Capital Improvement; Authorizing Transfer of Funds and Amending Warren County Budget for 2012, which sought to create an Environmental Testing Fund to finance the costs of environmental restoration investigation projects with the source of funding for the Reserve to be proceeds from the annual tax foreclosure auction, as per the terms indicated in the proposed resolution. Respective to Resolution No. 508, Opposing \$50 Million Expenditure of State Funds to Purchase the Former Finch Pruyn Forest Lands, Mr. Thomas proposed an amendment to the included verbiage to properly indicate the Finance Committee's request for the \$50 million in funding earmarked for the land purchase to instead be appropriated for economic development of the various communities within the Adirondacks. Mr. Dusek questioned whether the intent of the amendment would be to continue opposition to the \$50 million expenditure of State funds for land purchases, as well as to request that the \$50 million in funds intended for this purchase be re-appropriated to communities located within the Adirondacks and Mr. Thomas replied affirmatively. Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, pointed out that in its current state, the resolution opposed the \$50 million expenditure for land purchases and requested that Governor Cuomo authorize a study of the economic and social impact of State land acquisitions in the Adirondacks before any additional purchases were made. Mr. Thomas responded that while a study was nice, funding for economic development would be more appropriate, in his opinion. Chairman Stec noted that the paragraph reading "RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors hereby strongly opposes the Fifty Million Dollar (\$50,000) expenditure of New York State funds to purchase forest lands, and hereby requests that New York State provide funding to local governments to offset reductions in State funding programs" could be amended to appropriately incorporate the revisions suggested by Mr. Thomas and he said he recalled the discussions held by the Finance Committee had included this desire.

Mr. Monroe commented that in their reportings, several newspapers had indicated that the land purchase was already confirmed, but he said he did not believe this was the case because Governor Cuomo had announced a contract to make the purchase over a five year time period, dependent upon the State Legislature's annual

appropriation of the funds necessary to make the purchase. Given this information, he said, it was not a surety that the purchase was definitely going to occur. Mr. Monroe advised it was very clear to both the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board and the Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages that the State's purchase of the lands would cause a serious negative impact to the economy of the Adirondack region, causing 300 jobs to be lost, based on NYSDEC reportings and 200 hunting and fishing cabins to be eliminated, causing the municipalities to lose the assessed value for the cabins and building rights, which would be extinguished rather than transferred to the affected Municipality, causing further assessed value loss. Additionally, Mr. Monroe stated the purchase was contrary to the State's Master Plan which favored conservation easements over mass land purchases; he noted that since the Master Plan was adopted, the State had purchased 300,000 acres, not including the 69,000 acre purchase proposed. He said there was some indication that if the land purchases were realized, the State would provide for a mitigation plan to try and alleviate damages to the economy of those areas affected by the purchases; therefore he concluded, he felt it was entirely appropriate to request funding to provide mitigation efforts.

Mr. Merlino entered the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Mr. Geraghty said that the State was using the slogan "Open for Business" in an effort to attract new entrepreneurship to the State; however, he advised, this did not apply to the Adirondack Park region because State land purchases in that area would not allow for new businesses to settle there and would actually force out existing businesses through designations applied by the State which would change the lands from working forests to forest preserves. Mr. Geraghty continued that according to representatives of the International Paper Mill, the acquisition of property proposed by the State would cause them to travel much further from their Ticonderoga, NY mill to collect the type of timber used to produce paper products. He added that he assumed the same negative results would be encountered by the Finch Paper mill located in the City of Glens Falls. In closing, Mr. Geraghty said he found it odd that the State was embarking on the "Open for Business" marketing campaign when actually the opposite was taking place in the Adirondack region and he felt this point needed to be impressed upon Governor Cuomo and his staff. Chairman Stec interjected he had recently attended a meeting with representatives of the Finch Paper mill to tour their facility and he said he could personally attest to their concerns with the State's plans for land purchases and the increased difficulties that would be imposed if they came to fruition. Mr. Monroe commented that one of the factors contributing to the growth of the City of Glens Falls was the local forestry availability which allowed local paper mills to thrive.

Mr. McDevitt said he strongly agreed with Mr. Monroe's comments and questioned whether Senator Little or Assemblyman Brewer had expressed a position on the issue. Mr. Monroe responded that Senator Little had been heavily involved in facilitating meetings between Governor Cuomo's staff and NYSDEC representatives to try and change the direction of the transaction. Chairman Stec advised he had recently viewed the YNN interview given by Mr. Monroe and Brian Towers, Supervisor of the Town of Wells and President of the Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, concerning this topic which had been very professional and fairly presented counter arguments for the impending concerns, indicating that while some of the 69,000 acres slated for purchase were appropriate to be owned and protected by the State; however, a large portion of the acreage should be maintained as a working forest. Mr. Monroe apprised that as the result of a meeting with the Governor's staff and the Director of State Operations, they had been requested to develop a map detailing the sections of the 69,000 which were appropriate for use as a working forest as opposed to those areas housing truly unique features that should be purchased in fee by the State. He continued that through the Warren County GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Program, interactive maps had been produced to show various layers including wetlands, steep slopes, shallow soils, etc. which indicated that approximately 80% of the 69,000 acres was considered to be areas of working forest while the

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remaining 20% consisted of unique features which were appropriate for State ownership. Considering all of these factors, Mr. Monroe advised the goals of the State to protect the unique features could be accomplished for half the price currently anticipated for land purchases through the acquisition of conservation easements. Chairman Stec stated that there was a compromise available that would protect important forestry features while allowing the working forest to be maintained. Mr. Monroe responded that the final determination on the matter would essentially be dependent upon the decision of the State Legislature as to whether or not they were able to annually appropriate funds for the five-year plan to purchase the property.

Returning to the amendment to proposed Resolution No. 508 requested by Mr. Thomas, Mr. Auffredou suggested the resolution language be modified to include that the County "strongly opposes the \$50 million expenditure of New York State funds to purchase forest lands and hereby requests that New York State provide \$50 million in economic development funds to local governments". Mr. Monroe commented they were seeking substantial funding for a mitigation plan which would involve not only NYSDEC, but also Empire State Development and any other organization that could assist with the mitigation efforts. He said there was some indication that the State was willing to implement a mitigation plan and it was important that they be encouraged to provide funding for it. In response, Mr. Auffredou suggested that the resolution modifications include a notation that the funds would be used to mitigate damages to the local communities affected by the land purchase.

Mr. Bentley noted that proposed Resolution No. 508 indicated that a copy should be forwarded to DEC Region 5 Director Betsy Lowe; however, he said, Ms. Lowe had been replaced by Robert Stegemann and the resolution should also be corrected to accurately reflect this.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Taylor to amend proposed Resolution No. 508 as outlined above.

Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Thomas for suggesting the amendment, stating that although it might not be intentional, the actions taken by the State seemed to severely hamper economic developments in upstate New York while available economic development funds were funneled to the more southerly portions of the State and he said he felt this resolution was a great effort to raise awareness on the issue.

Chairman Stec called the question and the motion to amend proposed Resolution No. 508 was carried by majority vote with Mr. Vanselow voting in opposition.

Resuming the reports by Committee Chairmen, Mrs. Wood stated that the Public Safety Committee had met on July 30<sup>th</sup> and approved proposed Resolution Nos. 489 - 491, all relating to standard business items. She apprised that she and other members of the Board of Supervisors had attended the Rural Heritage Festival and Youth Fair which was recently held in the Town of Warrensburg at the Warren County Fairgrounds property, participating in the Sticky Wicket croquet tournament in which she had finished last. Mrs. Wood said the event had been very enjoyable and she was looking forward to participating, and placing higher, next year and she thanked the event organizers for including the Board of Supervisors in the event.

Mr. Geraghty reported that meetings of the Budget Committee had been held on July 26<sup>th</sup>, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss the multi-year budgeting plan with some of the larger County Departments. He advised that during the following week they would begin meeting with each Department Head to formulate the 2013 County Budget and he said he was confident that favorable results would be achieved. Mr. Geraghty advised that the Department Heads

were all aware of the challenge ahead to reach an acceptable budget figure and would assist with the effort.

With reference to the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Personnel Committee, Mr. Conover advised that proposed Resolution Nos. 494 - 502 were approved to address standard business matters. He pointed out proposed Resolution No. 501, Providing for Background Checks of Candidates for Managerial Level Employment with the County of Warren, which would authorize background checks for Department Head, Deputy Department Head or other positions of similar managerial status.

Mr. Monroe announced that the Real Property Tax Services Committee had met on August 13<sup>th</sup> to hold the "Last Chance" meeting where approximately 40 property owners were provided the opportunity to address matters pertaining to delinquent taxes owed. He said that many of the attendees had either paid their delinquent taxes on that day or arranged an alternate payment schedule to allow them to accomplish payment in order to avoid a foreclosure action. Mr. Monroe apprised that one large parcel with delinquent taxes totaling \$384,000 had been identified and it was noted that evidence of contamination on the property had been found and was in the process of being cleaned up. He continued there was some concern that if the County were to foreclose upon the property the associated clean up costs would be higher than the amount of delinquent taxes owed; therefore, he said, the Committee had voted in favor of extending the payment deadline for one year to allow the contamination to be addressed. Mr. Monroe advised that proposed Resolution No. 506, previously outlined by Mr. Thomas, was particularly significant as it would help to avoid these types of problems in the future by providing an available funding source for first phase environmental inspections for these properties so that the level of contamination present would be known in advance. With reference to the Gaslight Village Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on August 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Monroe apprised discussion had continued relative to proposed changes in ownership for the former Gaslight Village Property in order to allow the Town of Lake George to regain ownership interest in the property. He summarized that although there had been a desire on the part of the County and Town of Lake George to redistribute the ownership shares to allow the County, Town and Village of Lake George to each have an identical one-third ownership stake, the Village was not willing to reduce their share; therefore, he continued, the initiative had changed to reduce the County's 62% ownership by half, allowing the Town of Lake George to re-join the project by purchasing 31% of the County's shares.

Mr. Dickinson asserted that Mr. Monroe's assessment of the situation was correct and the Town was interested in purchasing half of the County's property shares to resume their participation in the project. He noted that although he had publicly stated that he believed the Village would eventually concede to the notion that the ownership shares should be distributed evenly between the County, Town and Village, following conversations with Robert Blais, Mayor of the Village of Lake George, he reluctantly agreed with their position that there was no incentive for the Village to participate as the action would actually cost them more money; Mr. Dickinson stated that were he in the same situation, he would likely make the same decisions that Mayor Blais had. He advised that one of the points made by Mayor Blais in their discussions was that the Village of Lake George had developed and maintained a festival program which they relied upon to bring a considerable amount of revenue into the Village's budget; he added that the Village was willing to transfer the festivals from their own property to the former Gaslight Village property, and in doing so would suffer the loss of associated revenues. Because of this loss of potential revenue, Mr. Dickinson advised, the Village was interested in maintaining their 38% property ownership interest. Additionally, he said Mayor Blais had pointed out that when the Town of Lake George had previously decided to sell their property shares and had essentially stalled the progression of work on the property, the Village had stepped up and found the means to purchase the shares so that the project could resume. Mr. Dickinson said this decision had not been easily made by the Village, but the point was that when they were needed, they came through for the good

and advancement of the project. At this point, Mr. Dickinson advised the Town of Lake George was very happy to be negotiating the purchase of 31% of the County's ownership shares and looked forward to re-joining the project and assisting with future efforts.

Chairman Stec observed that while he was not surprised that they were in the process of reaching an agreement, he was happy that the matter was being resolved. He said he understood the standpoint adopted by the Village of Lake George and was glad that the Town did, as well, especially in light of the unique relationship between the two municipalities. Chairman Stec stated that although it might have been a bit easier if all three parties carried the same ownership interest, it was not a necessity as the percent of ownership had no bearing on the voting process which required all decisions be made by unanimous vote of the interested parties. He noted there had been some indication that a considerable portion of the Board of Supervisors was interested in significantly reducing, or eliminating, the County's participation and ownership of the property, but there were legal issues with ownership and grant funding that would have to be addressed if the County left the project which were likely unsurmountable. Additionally, Chairman Stec stated that, practically speaking, the County's DPW staff was in the best position to complete the engineering for the property on behalf of the three municipalities who had fiduciary responsibilities to their overlapping constituents. He concluded that it was important for the County to maintain some property ownership for these reasons and although no official action was slated to be taken at the current meeting, he asked if there was anyone opposed to the County splitting its ownership shares with the Town of Lake George.

Mr. Westcott stated that he was in favor of minimizing the County's ownership in the Gaslight Village property to as small an amount as possible, if not altogether, and he questioned whether the Town of Lake George might be interested in purchasing a larger share of the County's portion; Mr. Dickinson responded with an indication that the Town would not be financially able to purchase any more of the County's share than the 31% they were currently negotiating. Mr. Monroe noted that the Town's purchase would take some time to complete as there were legal issues to address, as well as the need to obtain the consent of the 3E's (Environmental Groups - *Fund for Lake George, Lake George Association and Lake George Land Conservancy*)

Mr. Girard reported that the efforts to develop a plan to collect parking revenues during the upcoming Adirondack Balloon Festival continued in order to cover the DPW overtime expenses incurred by the County. He said a meeting of the involved parties, including Mark Donohue, President of the Board of Directors for the Adirondack Balloon Festival; Ross Dubarry, Airport Manager; Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of Public Works; and Mr. Dusek had been held during which a not-for-profit firm had tentatively been named to collect parking revenues and donations and they were now working to set up a schematic plan for how the parking plan would be implemented. Mr. Girard stated that it appeared their efforts would be successful and that the County would collect sufficient monies to cover overtime expenses, provide an anticipated 10% share to the not-for-profit agency and possibly to provide a revenue source for the Adirondack Balloon Festival to cover revenue deficits if they experienced a year with inclement weather. He advised the plan being developed would provide guidance for future events.

Mr. Girard noted that earlier in the year the Airport Division had been removed from the Public Works Committee and placed in the County Facilities Committee providing a lot of new issues and information to be reviewed by the County Facilities Committee which included two members that were new to the Board of Supervisors and did not have a lot of knowledge about previously approved projects. He said that with the financial constraints being faced by the County, it was only natural that these new Supervisors would question the ongoing projects due to their associated costs, namely the Runway Extension Project planned for the longer runway and the plans to acquire additional property and avigation easements to mitigate penetrations to protected airspace as identified by

the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) for the shorter runway, both of which were part of the Airport Master Plan that had been in place for the past ten years and were intended to address safety concerns. Mr. Girard advised that while both projects would incur considerable costs, FAA funding would be provided to cover the majority, and he cited the proposed Runway Extension Project, which would incur a Local Share of approximately \$400,000 for the proposed Runway Extension Project which was estimated to cost \$8 million, as an example. Regardless of prior Board approvals and the availability of grant funds to cover the majority of the projected costs, Mr. Girard said there was still some reluctance on the part of the new Supervisors, Messrs. Mason and Westcott, to provide necessary approvals for grant applications to keep these projects moving along in a timely fashion due to the considerable costs involved and their commitment to ensure that taxpayer dollars, whether they be for the Local Share or State/Federal grant funds, were being spent appropriately. He added there was also some question as to whether the grant funds would have to be re-paid if the projects were not completed as anticipated. In order to alleviate some of the concerns identified, Mr. Girard requested a brief discussion on the background of the projects and the prior approvals granted.

Chairman Stec noted that while it was possible to alter decisions previously made by the Board, it was important to remember that at some point those actions might become financially difficult, especially in matters concerning grant funding that might have to be repaid. He added that given the opportunity, some members of the Board of Supervisors may not have voted in favor of the runway projects if they had been in office when the decisions were made; however, he continued, due to the current factors, most felt it was best to keep the projects moving forward, similar to the way in which the railroad was viewed. Mr. Monroe suggested the best way in which to address the issue at the Committee level would be for Messrs. Westcott and Mason to make a motion to stop the runway projects and if sufficient support was available, a resolution would be brought to the full Board. Mr. McDevitt stated that every member of the Board wanted to be educated on the issues at hand, as well as to ensure efficient use of Federal dollars in projects such as this. He said it was his understanding that the County's Local Share for these projects would be 2.5%, with the remainder being funded by the type of FAA grant that was only provided for airport projects and was contributed to by surcharges collected for airline fares. Mr. McDevitt opined that it appeared the intent of the FAA's support of the Airport's Master Plan which included the two runway projects was to enable a rural community to be competitive in a global economy while providing the safest possible conditions. He concluded that based on those concerns, he felt the projects were an efficient and effective use of Federal and State grant dollars and he fully supported both of them.

In response to Chairman Stec's questioning as to the County's obligations for grant repayment if the projects were not continued, Mr. Tennyson advised multiple contracts and grant agreements were underway for the projects and responses to FAA grant applications recently submitted should be received in the near future. He continued that he believed capital projects had been established for both runway projects in anticipation of receiving the funds applied and he said he assumed that requests would be presented at the next County Facilities meeting to accept the aforementioned grant funds. Mr. Tennyson stated that if the County Facilities Committee did not approve the receipt of grant funds, they ran the risk of facing project delays and bid expirations. Generally speaking, he said, the County would be at risk for repayment of FAA grant funds if a project was cancelled, especially on a project as large as the Runway Extension Project which the Board had committed to through several resolutions, including one establishing the Airport Layout Plan that was updated every five years and served as the basis for what the County, State and FAA foresaw as the future of the Airport facility. As was previously mentioned, Mr. Tennyson confirmed the FAA grant funds awarded were contributed to by airport specific user fees that could only be awarded for airport projects and were not general tax dollars. He continued that the FAA used these funds to develop smaller rural airports, as well as to increase the overall network of airports in an effort to improve the system. Mr. Tennyson stated he did not foresee any emergency issues arising before the September Board meeting, but reiterated approvals would



be necessary to accept grant funding to continue the progression of the projects under their current schedule.

Mr. Westcott apprised the issues at hand had arisen following the July 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting when Resolution No. 413, Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to Federal Aviation Administration/New York State Department of Transportation for Avigation Easement/Land Acquisition for Five Parcels in the Runway 30 Approach, was approved by majority vote with only himself voting in opposition. He said that following the meeting, he had been unexpectedly contacted by at least eight pilots based at the Warren County Airport, who wished to state their agreement with his opposing vote, leading him to meet with them personally to tour the Warren County Airport and fly to the Saratoga County Airport to view the manner in which their facility was operated. Mr. Westcott apprised that these activities had led him to perform further research on the Warren County Airport and the runway projects, following which he had developed a report that was presented at a recent County Facilities Committee meeting; he added it was his understanding that a follow-up meeting would be held to discuss the information presented in the report and that until the issues and questions identified therein were addressed, the runway projects would be put on hold and he said he was still waiting for an advisement as to when that follow-up meeting would be held. Mr. Westcott stated he had further recommended a public hearing be scheduled to present findings so that everyone, including the pilots that had approached him and other citizens of Warren County, as well as members of the Board of Supervisors, would be provided with the facts associated with the projects in order to make proper decisions on the matter. He said he had also proposed that a task force be assembled to review the Airport Master Plan which had initially been approved in 2002 and was now 10 years old, as many things had changed and he said he would like to see some of the pilots based at the Airport become involved, as well as Warren County residents. Mr. Westcott advised that he was still in the fact finding stage himself and was not ready to propose a resolution of any sort. He explained he had been exposed to enough information causing him to question the wisdom of the Runway Expansion Project and leading him to vote against the resolution presented at the prior Board meeting and develop his own report on the initiative.

Mr. Taylor noted that Mr. Westcott was working with a group of constituents to make recommendations to the Board and he did not feel this process should be discouraged as many good ideas could come of it; however, he said, the situation was somewhat like the one presented in the movie A Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street where the judge had a difficult decision to make regarding the delivery of mail to Mr. Kringle and his official decision had been that if the United States Post Office believed in Santa Claus, his Court would not rule against it. Mr. Taylor expounded that the FAA had studied the facility and determined that the Warren County Airport had a need for a runway extension and they should not take that decision lightly. He pointed out that if Warren County ceased its Airport projects, the FAA grant funds would be awarded to other regional airport facilities and noted that the Airport Master Plan had been established and approved some time ago and he did not feel they should change their direction quickly on proceeding with its implementation. With regard to the pilots that had contacted Mr. Westcott, Mr. Taylor advised there was a group of small aircraft pilots that did not require a longer runway and were not in favor of it and he believed the majority of the issues cited stemmed from the groups displeasure over the County's decision to name Rich Air as the FBO (Fixed Base Operator) for the Airport facility; Mr. Taylor said he felt the members of the Board should keep this fact in mind when considering the future of the expansion projects. In conclusion, Mr. Taylor stated that if the County had to fund a few hundred thousand dollars for an \$8 million project, he did not think that would be a bad deal for the County.

Mr. Merlino said he was sorry that Mr. Westcott was not present when the same group currently soliciting him had been in attendance encouraging the Board to refrain from expanding the Airport and he assumed their efforts had been in favor of maintaining a smaller, more private, facility. He stated that the Board had made their

decision in favor of the Runway Expansion Project based on considerable review of information presented, as well as FAA findings, and he felt they should continue along the pre-determined path to bring it to fruition.

Mr. Mason commented that the information provided in the discussion had been helpful in answering some of the questions he had regarding Airport projects. He added that he now felt pretty well educated on the matter and was confident that future issues could be appropriately addressed by the County Facilities Committee without stalling progress. Mr. Mason advised that he had voted in favor of the resolution presented at the July Board meeting which Mr. Westcott had voted against, and he said that having a better understanding on the issue, he would not have changed his vote; however, he said, his concern about the Airport was based upon the current budgetary situation the County faced and the considerable amount of money spent at the facility. Mr. Westcott stated that while he was not in favor of closing or considerably reducing funding to the Airport, he felt that they needed to carefully review all of the expenses funded in the Budget and the amounts by which those expenses had increased.

Chairman Stec stated that he hoped these were the types of issues that would be discussed at the next County Facilities Committee meeting and he noted that although it was not impossible to change the course determined previously by the Board of Supervisors, it was important to note the consequences of doing so which might entail repayment of prior FAA grant funds received. Mr. Westcott requested that copies of his report be distributed to all members of the Board of Supervisors so that each would have an understanding of the information he had developed, as well as those he had spoken with to garner it.

Concluding his report, Mr. Girard apologized for not being able to attend the most recent Cornell Cooperative Extension meeting and he noted their annual fundraiser would be held at Cronin's Golf Course in the Town of Warrensburg on August 25<sup>th</sup>. He said this was a very pleasurable event that helped a good cause and he noted that if any members of the Board were interested in attending, Cornell Cooperative Extension would appreciate their attendance.

With reference to the Mental Health Committee, Mr. McDevitt advised the City of Glens Falls had been subject to a favorable outcome in that Conifer Park, a private substance abuse counseling and treatment program, had withdrawn their application to operate a methadone treatment center within the City limits. He noted this decision had been made by Conifer Park pursuant to their studies reflecting the greatest need for these services to be in Saratoga County and he said he hoped they would consider their options in the future; he thanked Supervisors Girard and Loeb for their efforts in gaining this conclusion. Pursuant to the recent meetings of the Budget Committee, Mr. McDevitt stated his belief that expenditures for maintenance of safe roads in Warren County were not discretionary, but rather mandatory as they added to the County's competitive situation as far as economics were concerned. He continued that during these meetings he had stated his position that the County should modify its contractual arrangement with Siemens Industry, Inc. relative to the co-generation facilities and he hoped that a meeting would be scheduled with them to see if this was possible. Specifically, Mr. McDevitt identified the \$2,500 cost of annual energy efficiency studies performed by Siemens as being an unnecessary expense as the studies were predicated based on conditions that existed in prior years but were no longer present. He said these studies were a waste of County dollars and he hoped there was some way that the contract could be amended to remove these expenses. Chairman Stec said Mr. McDevitt had spent a lot of time reviewing this matter and had repeatedly requested action; he said he was not opposed to further review by either the County Facilities or Health Services Committees where the studies were typically presented. Mr. Dusek interjected there had been extensive exploration of the co-generation project over the past years and he advised that a meeting had been held with representatives of National Grid to determine whether there was a more cost effective way of addressing power needs, following which

it had been found there was not. He continued that exploratory measures had been implemented to determine whether the electricity provided by the co-generation facility at the Westmount Health Facility could be extended beneath the adjacent highway or sold to other energy providers, but neither option was found to be viable. More importantly, Mr. Dusek noted recent discussions about the possible privatization of the Westmount Health Facility needed to be resolved because if they decided to move in this direction, the co-generation issue would be addressed; however, he said, if Westmount remained under the County's purview, further review on the surplus of energy generated by the co-generation facility would need to be performed to determine the options available. Another means for possible cost reductions which had been explored with Siemens that they had indicated a receptiveness to implement, was the possibility of reducing the service contracts held by the County in order to lower the associated costs; however, he added, the problem with doing this was that the County would no longer have the services provided by these contracts and a conscious decision needed to be made as to whether this action was in the best interest of the County. In conclusion, Mr. Dusek advised the privatization issue should be addressed and a determination made before any further studies or actions were taken. Mr. McDevitt advised he was involved in the discussion held with National Grid representatives and felt a positive outcome had arisen from the meetings as power efficiency measures had been suggested and subsequently implemented for the Warrensburg DPW Garage. He reiterated that he did not feel there was any value in the costs of the annual studies performed by Siemens with respect to efficiency of the project which were predicated on conditions that no longer existed. In response, Mr. Dusek advised that the annual studies identified by Mr. McDevitt were included in their contractual commitment to the County and did not incur any additional cost; their was to prove that the system was working. He added that while he concurred the reports were not beneficial because the co-generation facility was not being used as identified in the original Siemens contract, they did not incur additional costs to the County. Chairman Stec stated that if the reports were no longer valued, it might be possible to discuss the possibility of lowering Siemens' contract costs based on contractually alleviating them from providing those services and he asked Mr. Dusek to set up a meeting with Siemens representatives, to include Messrs. McDevitt and Girard, as well as any other pertinent staff, to discuss this possibility.

Mr. Taylor apprised the Support Services Committee had met on July 30<sup>th</sup> and had approved proposed Resolution Nos. 484, Authorizing Administrator of Self-Insurance Department to Serve as a Director of the New York State Association of Self Insured Counties, and 485, Accepting Proposal and Authorizing Agreement with TechHealth, Inc. for Pharmacy Network Vendor for Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Program (WC 39-12). He said he felt it was a great asset to Warren County to have someone on staff that a State Association had nominated to assist with their operations. Mr. Taylor then noted the Deputy Self-Insurance Administrator position had been filled and he asked Amy Clute, Self-Insurance Administrator, to introduce her new employee. Mrs. Clute announced that Jessica Burnham had been chosen to fill the position and had done a great job in the two weeks she had been on staff.

In relation to the Social Services Committee meeting held on July 27<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Loeb advised the Department of Social Services staff continued to provide an excellent level of service for the people of Warren County. He advised that at the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Budget Committee there had been some discussion about debt levels and he requested the development of a detailed spreadsheet listing the different areas of debt incurred and identifying when and why they were incurred, as well as their associated interest rate and when they were due to expire in order to provide each member of the Board with a better understanding on the matter. Additionally, Mr. Loeb requested an update on the status of invasive species in Lake George, noting they had not received any new information on the topic as to whether the issue was being addressed appropriately. In response, Chairman Stec asked Mrs. Sady to contact the appropriate parties and request that they make a presentation at the September Board meeting. He said

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that during the last week he, Mr. Conover and Mr. Dickinson had been contacted by the Lake George Association and the Fund for Lake George on the matter and there had also been a briefing for members of Senator Gillibrand's staff on the status of the eradication which had included presentations by representatives from many involved groups. Chairman Stec advised the presentation had indicated a considerable amount of the Asian Clam infestation had been addressed; however, he added, the species had not been completely eradicated from Lake George and therefore efforts must continue to ensure there was no resurgence. Mr. Conover requested that Dave Wick, Executive Director of the Lake George Park Commission, be invited to the meeting, as well.

Mr. Merlino, who had arrived at the meeting late, reported that the Tourism Committee had met on August 1<sup>st</sup> and approved four of the proposed resolutions being presented, all of which addressed typical matters pertaining to production of brochures for the fall and spring seasons. He said the summer commercial campaign had ended that week, receiving approximately 45,000 requests for information, and he noted that on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup> the fall commercial campaign would begin, running for six weeks. Mr. Merlino advised the fall print advertisements were in place and the fall brochures already printed were available for distribution. He then noted representatives of the Tourism Department were scheduled to meet with the Budget team on August 21<sup>st</sup> to present their 2013 Budget request. Relative to proposed Resolution No. 469, relating to a change order with North East Fire Protection Systems, Inc., as previously outlined by Mr. Sokol, Mr. Merlino commented that although State laws required that the lowest responsible bidder be chosen for municipal projects, it seemed that whenever the low bidder was used, change orders were necessary which essentially raised the total project cost to a higher level in the end. He said that although he would vote in favor of the resolution, he wanted to state his displeasure with the bid process.

Chairman Stec announced the next agenda item pertained to the report by the County Administrator and Mr. Dusek advised that he had nothing to report. Chairman Stec then called for the reading of communications and Mrs. Sady read them as follows:

**Minutes from:**

1. Warren/Washington Counties IDA and Executive/Park Committee;

**Monthly Reports from:**

1. Weights & Measures;
2. Probation

**Annual Reports from:**

1. Warren County Health Services

**Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp.**, May 31, 2012 Financial Report and June Surcharge in the amount of \$8,166;

**National Grid**, semi-annual PCB Report;

**Office of State Comptroller**, notice of audit focusing on inappropriate social welfare and other government funded benefit payments to Warren County Inmates;

Communications, resolutions and reports ordered placed on file.

Continuing with the agenda review, Chairman Stec called for the reading of resolutions and discussion.

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Mr. Dickinson noted a recent Supreme Court decision on a case in Lake George concerning a shoreline town's ability to review docks, boathouses and waterfront structures which had removed the Town of Lake George's right to use planning and zoning regulations to control such structures. He said that at the suggestion of the Town's attorney, they were embarking on an effort to petition the State Legislature to change the current Navigation Law and remove Lake George so that home rule regulations would prevail. In this respect, Mr. Dickinson advised, both the Towns of Lake George and Queensbury and the Village of Lake George had adopted similar resolutions seeking for the aforementioned action and he had discussed with Supervisors Conover and Frasier the possibility of similar resolutions being adopted by the Towns of Bolton and Hague, as well; he added that he intended to eventually visit all of the Towns surrounding Lake George to encourage their adoption of the resolution. Mr. Dickinson said he was requesting a County resolution supporting these efforts and advised of his intention to present all of the resolutions adopted to the State Legislature at the start of their fall session in representation of a united effort from all of the communities surrounding Lake George to reinstate prior regulatory measures.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to waive the Rules of the Board requiring that a resolution be presented in writing. Mrs. Sady advised this would be Resolution No. 521.

Mr. Girard questioned whether any research had been performed to ensure that changing the current Navigation Law would not have any negative repercussions and Mr. Dusek responded that he appreciated this concern and advised the County Attorney's Office would have to review the matter to ensure this was not the case. Chairman Stec advised similar special legislation had been requested and granted for other bodies of water and would not be unique to Lake George. He said he did not know if this action would have any negative side effects, but said he felt it was a good idea for the remaining towns surrounding the Lake to entertain resolutions similar to those adopted by the Towns of Lake George and Queensbury. Chairman Stec requested that Mrs. Sady forward the County resolution to Essex and Washington Counties for their review as both incorporate municipalities touching Lake George. He stated that he was unsure why any municipality currently regulating docks and boathouses would want to cease doing so and he said this was a very important issue to the Town of Queensbury and concluded that these were local issues that they were not comfortable turning over for State review.

Mr. Taylor said he also shared Mr. Girard's concern and questioned whether the suggested resolution could be approved contingent upon the County Attorney's review and assurance that it would have no negative effects. Mr. Dusek responded that passing the requested resolution would allow Mr. Dickinson to move ahead with his efforts to reach out to the other municipalities located around Lake George and he noted there would be another Board Meeting in September where the issue could be addressed if the County Attorney's Office determined the action would have adverse effects.

Mr. Dickinson read aloud the proposed resolution, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned resolution. Mrs. Sady advised this would be Resolution No. 522.

Mr. Loeb requested a roll call vote for proposed Resolution No. 470, Authorizing Agreement with Clinical Resources, LLC to Provide an Interim Director of Nursing at the Westmount Health Facility.

Mr. Vanselow requested a roll call vote for proposed Resolution No. 508, Opposing \$50 Million Expenditure of State Funds to Purchase the Former Finch Prunyn Forest Lands, and the amendment previously noted thereto.

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In response to a question posed by Mr. Monroe, Mr. Vanselow stated that he was opposed to the proposed resolution because he did not believe 100% of the residents of Warren County would be in support of it and he did not agree with the verbiage included in the first sentence of the resolution indicating that the State had already purchased the property, which it hadn't, and that the State would be acquiring 69,000 acres of productive working forest, which was not an accurate figure. He added there were other sections of the resolution which were also arguable and he advised that in light of the fact that a similar resolution had already been adopted by the Board of Supervisors, he was not happy with repeating action already taken. Chairman Stec said he agreed that the first sentence of the resolution was not accurately written and he suggested amending the document, once again, to accurately reflect the State was in the process of making the purchase and intended to purchase tens of thousands of acres of working forestry.

Motion was made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to further amend proposed Resolution No. 508 as suggested by Chairman Stec.

Mr. Vanselow noted that while he appreciated the additional amendment, he would still request a roll call vote as he maintained his opinion that it did not reflect the desires of all of Warren County's constituents.

With reference to prior discussion, Mr. Conover suggested another amendment to proposed Resolution No. 508 to indicate the County's willingness to develop a compromise that would allow for the State to purchase some of the property that should be protected while allowing a larger portion to remain working forestland.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to amend proposed Resolution No. 508, once again, as outlined above.

Mr. Loeb explained his request for a roll call vote for proposed Resolution No. 470 was attributed to his concern that the rates and allowances allowed therein were somewhat expensive and the contract term was open ended. He said there were talented people already working within the Westmount Health Facility that could sustain the Director of Nursing position, possibly with support from another nearby County, such as Saratoga County, to facilitate the services necessitated by the position at a lower cost. Mr. Dusek responded that the nature of the contract allowed for termination if an alternate solution were developed. He added the resolution would provide immediate services in light of State regulations requiring a Director of Nursing to be on staff at all times and he noted there was some concern on the part of the Administrator of the facility because there were upcoming surveys that she wanted to be sure they were ready for. At this point, Mr. Dusek stated, it seemed appropriate to proceed with the contracted Director of Nursing services, although they would be expensive, while looking at other options and possibly finding someone to fill the position on a permanent basis. In conclusion, Mr. Dusek stated that the adoption of proposed Resolution No. 470 would not preclude the suggested options cited by Mr. Loeb. Mr. Kenny questioned whether any member of the Westmount staff was qualified to assume the Director of Nursing position and Mr. Sokol replied in the negative, advising that two current staff members had been cited as possible candidates for the position but neither had been deemed appropriately qualified. Mr. Dusek advised that he had discussed and reviewed this situation on a couple of different occasions.

Mrs. Sady announced that proposed Resolution Nos. 467 through 508 were mailed and she noted proposed Resolution Nos. 469 and 507 were corrected subsequent to mailing; therefore, she advised, a motion was needed to approve both resolutions, as amended.

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Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve proposed Resolution Nos. 469 and 507, as amended.

The resolutions relating to the filling of vacant positions were Resolution Nos. 495, 496 and 497, Mrs. Sady apprised, and she noted that unless a roll call vote was requested, all will be approved in the collective vote. Mrs. Sady then noted that a motion was necessary to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 466 and 509 through 520 to the floor.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 466 and 509 through 520 to the floor.

Chairman Stec called for a vote on resolutions; Resolution Nos. 466 - 520 were approved.

Concluding the agenda review, Chairman Stec asked if there were any announcements to be made.

Mr. Geraghty advised he had recently attended a United Way meeting regarding the income tax outreach program they provided in connection with Cornell Cooperative Extension. He noted this was a very important and valuable program for County citizens and he said he hoped that each Supervisor would find a temporary site for the services to be provided within their respective townships if they were contacted with such a request. Chairman Stec advised he had also attended this meeting and agreed this was a valuable service and each Supervisor should be aware of its availability.

Mr. Strainer agreed with Mrs. Wood's prior indication that the Rural Heritage Festival and Youth Fair held at the Warren County Fairgrounds property had been a very nice event held in a beautiful setting. He stated that the Fairgrounds property was a lovely facility and he felt the County was losing potential revenue by not marketing it properly and he wondered how it could be better advertised. Mr. Strainer suggested that Cornell Cooperative Extension might be interested in assisting with the advertisement and marketing process, possibly receiving a portion of the rental fees received in return.

Mr. Vanselow said he concurred with statements made by Mrs. Wood and Mr. Strainer with respect to the Rural Heritage Festival and Youth Fair, adding that it had been a very enjoyable event. He then noted the annual Blue Grass Festival would be held at the Ski Bowl in the Town of North Creek during the upcoming weekend and he invited everyone to attend.

At Mr. Strainer's prompting, Chairman Stec announced the Town of Queensbury was celebrating its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012 and they would be holding an event at the Queensbury Town Hall on August 25<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3:00 p.m. where a number of family events and activities would be held and all were invited to attend.

Mr. Loeb noted the Summer Youth Employment Program would be holding their annual picnic on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon at Crandall Park.

Mr. Monroe apprised he had attended a meeting of the Adirondack Park Agency where a remarkable presentation had been made regarding an "End State Planning" project established by two individuals named Jim Herman and Dave Mason, which they had started about one year ago. He said that Messrs. Herman and Mason had performed similar services for major corporations and Federal Government offices for many years prior to their

retirement and subsequent relocation to Keene Valley, NY. He added that Messrs. Herman and Mason had donated a substantial amount of time and money to the project which included a series of two-day meetings throughout the Adirondack region and New York City where they had presented six scenarios pertaining to the projected state of the Adirondack Park 25 years in the future, as well as a series of 130 events that would have to happen, or not happen, to arrive at these scenarios. Mr. Monroe apprised that a portion of the presentation included polling the meeting participants to determine both the most desirable and most obtainable end results for the region; he continued that although Messrs. Herman and Mason had indicated that typically, the result deemed to be the most desirable was not the most obtainable, they had been very surprised to find that in the case of the Adirondack Park, a sustainable life and a usable Park were determined to be both the most desirable and obtainable outcomes named. Mr. Monroe advised Governor Cuomo's Environmental Secretary had attended the meeting, as well as the other representatives present for various environmental groups, local government, State officials, economic developers and other not-for-profit groups who had all generally agreed to work in the direction of achieving the outcomes deemed most desirable for the Adirondack Park area, which he felt was an amazing result. He apprised that a full copy of the report presented by Messrs. Herman and Mason could be viewed at the website [www.adkfutures.org](http://www.adkfutures.org).

Mr. Geraghty noted that members of the Board of Supervisors had also attended a presentation by The Nature Conservancy regarding invasive plant species. He advised The Nature Conservancy offered information on invasive species plants in every community, and provided various documents that could be distributed outlining them in order to raise public knowledge and awareness. Mr. Geraghty said the Town of Warrensburg had ordered some of these materials for distribution and he encouraged any other Supervisors interested in procuring information for their respective towns to contact Mr. Monroe for the information on how to reach The Nature Conservancy.

Mr. Conover apprised that links had been added to the websites for both the Warren County Tourism Department and the Town of Bolton for a site providing direction as to the correct manner in which to clean, drain and dry boats to help stop the spread of invasive aquatic species and he requested that each of the Town websites be updated to include this link, as well, in order to provide additional outreach and education for residents and visitors, alike.

Chairman Stec extended privilege of the floor to any meeting attendees wishing to address the Board of Supervisors.

Dr. Fredd Sensor-Lee, PhD, provided an animated dissertation relative to the Blossoming on the Bikeway concept he had developed to cultivate flowers, plants, rosebushes, seeds and bulbs plantings along bikeways throughout the United States. He explained that in areas where the bikeways crossed various roadways, he proposed for neighborhood residents to join in the efforts to plant their own seeds/flowers and maintain them. Dr. Sensor-Lee said he had begun the project locally using the Warren County Bikeway due to the availability of a considerable amount of plantable land, and because he was a local resident who held the area near and dear to his heart and he wanted his home locality to be credited for the start of the concept. He advised the Blossoming on the Bikeway concept had been sanctioned in Saratoga Springs, NY and would eventually spread to other communities within the State of New York including Malta, Clifton Park, Albany, Mt. Vernon and on to New York City; he added that he envisioned the State of New York would become a model for the rest of the United States to follow. Dr. Sensor-Lee advised the flowers and plants placed along the Bikeway provided color and sculpture to the facility, garnering many comments from users of the Bikeway indicating the plant life provided an important aesthetic value that was previously missing. He noted that the program would provide children with the opportunity to plant flowers, plants or seeds which they and their respective family members could return to watch grow; he added that this idea also



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offered economic benefits as visitors were invited to bring their own seeds or plants to place along the Bikeway, providing them with an investment to return while benefitting nurseries and hardware stores where the plants and planting supplies were purchased. Dr. Sensor-Lee spoke sentimentally and with pride about his experiences in caring for the plantings along the Bikeway which included interactions with children and their interest in the beautiful plants and flowers, as well as with disabled persons being able to enjoy an outdoor adventure along the Bikeway. He concluded that the Blossoming on the Bikeway concept was a beautiful idea presented in the spirit of growth and he said he was proud of the concept's area roots and the fact that it would someday serve as an example for similar projects implemented across the United States. Dr. Sensor-Lee said he hoped that the members of the Board of Supervisors would support these efforts and he encouraged anyone with questions respective to the matter to contact him directly at 798-0234.

David Bulmer, Local Race Coordinator for the Centurion Cycling event, provided the members of the Board of Supervisors with an update on the results of the recent Centurion Cycling event which was held on June 22 - 24, 2012, based in the Village of Lake George. He apprised the event had included cycling race routes covering 175 miles during the three day event, incorporating races up Prospect Mountain in Lake George, a 25-mile race from Lake George to Lake Luzerne and back, and a children's race in the Village of Lake George, as well as the two longer 50 and 100 mile races. Mr. Bulmer stated the Centurion Cycling event had been deemed a tremendous success for its first year in Warren County, attracting approximately 900 riders over the course of the weekend. Following the event, he said the Centurion Cycling group had surveyed all of the participating riders and had, surprisingly, received over 200 responses within 2 weeks, 95% of which indicated that the event was excellent or very good and related that 92% of the participants intended to return for the 2013 event. Relative to the benefits the event presented in relation to the occupancy tax revenues received by Warren County, Mr. Bulmer advised of the responses received, 72% had traveled 1½ to 2 hours to reach the event, 70% had procured lodging at local facilities during the event and 35% had traveled from Canada; he added that of the percentage of Canadian visitors indicated, 60% were from the Toronto area and he further advised that of the total number of responses received, 70% had indicated this was the first time they had ridden a bicycle in the Adirondack area. Mr. Bulmer stated that it had been very exciting to review the results of the surveys and see the number of people drawn to the area. He said the Centurion Cycling group was committed to bringing their event back to the area and were expecting rapid growth results similar to those achieved for the Canadian event which had increased its attendance levels from 1,000 riders in year one to 5,000 riders in year three. Mr. Bulmer commented that the Centurion Cycling group had been holding events in one form or another for many years in different areas across the Country and in some cases organization of the event had been difficult due to a lack of cooperation from local municipalities and State agencies. He continued that the event organizers had been pleasantly surprised with the level of support and assistance received from every division, municipality and State agency they had worked with to plan the Lake George event, as all had been very welcoming. Mr. Bulmer said that on the third day of the event when the longer races were held, the Warren County Sheriff's Office had allotted more than 35 Officers to provide safety services, leading at least one survey responder to comment that the Centurion Cycling event based in Lake George had been one of the safest and most well organized events they had attended. He advised that the warm welcome received from the area, the beautiful scenery and safe riding conditions were just a few of the reasons that the Centurion Cycling group was committed to bringing their event back to the area for years to come. Mr. Bulmer also noted that 70 riders participating in the event were part of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation's charity group who had ridden in the race, raising approximately \$250,000 for their cause in the process. He further noted that the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation had brought 150-175 people to the area, renting 75 rooms at the Georgian Hotel in the Village of Lake George for 3 nights; Mr. Bulmer continued that the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation anticipated doubling participation in the 2013 Centurion Cycling event in Lake George which would officially become their annual charity event. In closing, Mr. Bulmer thanked the County Occupancy Tax Committee

and all of the other agencies, departments and municipalities that had worked with the event organizers for their assistance and he said they looked forward to interacting with them again for the following years of the event, which they had committed to providing for at least the next four years.

Mr. McDevitt commented that he had attended the Centurion Cycling event and agreed that it was one of the most well organized events he had experienced. He noted that he had been wearing a Centurion Cycling t-shirt during a meeting with Congressman Owen who had indicated his familiarity with the group and his strong support for the event and the benefits for local communities. Mr. Bulmer thanked Mr. McDevitt for his comments and noted that if anyone had suggestions for how the event could be improved for future years, they would welcome them. Mr. Taylor questioned whether updated information would be provided relative to the realized economic impact to the area and Mr. Bulmer responded that he had received this information and would translate it into a report that could be distributed for review by the Occupancy Tax Committee and the rest of the members of the Board of Supervisors. He said that on average, the responses received indicated that the non-local people participating in the event spent approximately \$400 - \$500 in the area during the weekend. Chairman Stec congratulated Mr. Bulmer and the Centurion Cycling group on their efforts, advising that although they had initially suspected the event was a success, these reports had confirmed it. He added that it was especially heartening to hear that everyone involved had been cooperative and helped make the event a success and he also congratulated the Occupancy Tax Committee and the members of the Board of Supervisors for making an investment of occupancy tax funding to assist in bringing the event to the area, positively affecting the budget and the quality of life for the residents of Warren County.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Stec adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.