

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011**

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 Conover.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Girard, McDevitt, Taylor, Loeb, Kenny, Belden, Goodspeed, McCoy, Merlino, Stec, Strainer, VanNess, Sokol, Thomas, Wood and Geraghty - 17.

Absent: Supervisors, Monroe, Bentley and Champagne - 3.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Goodspeed and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2010 Board Meeting and the January 4, 2011 Organization Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Chairman Stec commenced the meeting by extending privilege of the floor to any Supervisors. Mr. McDevitt referred to the recent press regarding he and his son and said he wished to make a few statements relative to the topic. First, he said, it was an honor to serve as a member of the Warren County Board of Supervisors and all members brought a sense of integrity and honesty to the political process. He noted that two weeks ago he had recused himself for the first time from voting on a matter pertaining to pharmaceutical litigation due to personal reasons. He added that he felt it was appropriate that any appearance of personal gain or bias on his part, even indirect, was the standard for which he should be judged. He stated that it had been suggested that he should recuse himself from voting on any issue related to the Department of Probation, and he agreed. Mr. McDevitt advised he respected the political process and the issue of recusal and personal trust was larger than any personal issues that he may have. He requested that in the future the Clerk of the Board make any Probation items a roll call vote and the Clerk acknowledged his request. Chairman Stec thanked Mr. McDevitt for his comments and added the steps he was taking were very appropriate to address that issue and he appreciated it.

Mr. Loeb announced that he was proud to be a member of the Board of Supervisors and praised the teamwork exemplified by the Supervisors. He apprised he was encouraged by Governor Cuomo's stance of bipartisanship and he suggested the Legislative & Rules Committee consider a resolution urging the State and the Federal government to work in a bipartisan manner in order to improve the strength of the country. Chairman Stec agreed and recommended that the matter be referred to the Legislative & Rules Committee for further consideration.

Mr. Geraghty reminded the Town Supervisors to attempt to get their property tax collections to the County Treasurer in a timely manner to assist with the cash flow situation.

He further recommended that another meeting be held in the near future in which a list of mandated programs could be provided that affected Warren County, said list to be prepared by the Department Heads and forwarded to the Administrator. He stressed the importance of the Supervisors understanding all of the mandated programs and how they affected the County. Paul Dusek, County Attorney/Administrator, acknowledged the request.

Mr. Kenny informed that he had attended the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks meeting that was held in Washington County and a representative from NYSAC (New York State Association of Counties) discussed the topic of property tax cap and mandate relief; however, he said, it appeared that the matter of property tax cap would be addressed first and mandate relief would be addressed at a later date. He opined that the two items needed to be discussed simultaneously. Chairman Stec agreed and noted if mandate relief was not coupled with a property tax cap there would be a mere shifting of costs and would be counter-productive.

Supervisor Champagne entered the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Loeb and carried unanimously to waive the rules of the board requiring a resolution be in writing. Clerk stated it would be Resolution No. 55 of 2011 for the record.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. McCoy to urge the Governor and State Legislators to address mandate relief and the property tax cap simultaneously and to forward the resolution to the Governor, State Legislators, NYSAC, the Association of Towns and Villages and the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks.

Mr. Goodspeed expressed his support of the resolution although he recognized the complexity of the issue. He apprised if and when the mandate requirements were lifted, the Supervisors would need to determine which programs were appropriate and which were inappropriate. He reminded the board members that many of the programs were mandated for good reasons. Mr. Goodspeed concluded that Albany should consider a one year hiatus on capital spending projects that could not be supported by a quantitative analysis of job creation.

Chairman Stec expounded one option relative to mandated programs available at the State level would be to change the threshold by which the mandate began or when someone became eligible. Another option, he said, would be to change the benefit level. In connection with this, Chairman Stec also discussed the issue of new interpretations by State appointed officials that were expanding the scope and applicability of the Prevailing Wage Law, which would significantly increase the costs of potential projects.

Mr. Goodspeed recalled that approximately eighteen months ago, the Board of Supervisors attempted to adopt a resolution opposing prevailing wage legislation; however, he noted, the resolution failed due to a number of Union representatives being present at a Board Meeting and discouraging the board members from doing so.

Following discussions, Chairman Stec called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to urge the Governor and State Legislators to address mandate relief and the property tax cap simultaneously and to forward the resolution to the Governor, State Legislators, NYSAC, the Association of Towns and Villages and the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks. Clerk added it would be Resolution No. 56 of 2011 for the record.

Chairman Stec referred to the recent meeting of the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks and apprised the NYSAC representative reported a \$1 billion budget gap to fill for this fiscal year and a projected \$10 billion gap for next year. He reiterated that providing a list of the County's mandated programs to NYSAC could assist in making the necessary fundamental changes at the State level.

Chairman Stec also informed that CBN Connect and the rural broadband initiative the County had been pursuing continues to progress. He advised a meeting would be held next week and Pat Tatch, Director of Planning & Community Development, would be attending. He added discussions had been held with Assemblywoman Sayward and Senator Little with regard to coordinating a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor's Office who was in charge of Economic Development, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) in order to revisit the issue of the fees being charged to Americade.

Chairman Stec called for reports by Committee Chairmen on past activities and the following gave verbal reports:

Supervisor McDevitt, Mental Health; Supervisor Taylor, Support Services; Supervisor Loeb, Social Services; and Supervisor Thomas, Finance.

Regarding the Mental Health Committee, Mr. McDevitt referred to Resolution No. 50 included in the Supervisors packets and noted the resolution would amend the Table of Organization and Salary Schedule to correct an error made during the budget process.

In connection with the Support Services Committee, Mr. Taylor expounded Resolution Nos. 45 and 46 in the packets were generated from the meeting and authorized additional insurance coverage for Hazardous Material liability and for flood and earthquake coverage, respectively. He added the Committee also discussed claims involving parachuting and skydiving at the Airport and it was determined that the County did have insurance coverage for those activities.

Pertaining to the Social Services Committee, Mr. Loeb reported Resolution No. 31 in the Supervisors packets authorized the Commissioner of Social Services to fill a vacant Keyboard Specialist position due to resignation. He added Resolution Nos. 27 and 29 authorized agreements with Hudson Headwaters Health Network (HHHN) for physical examinations and clinician services for Countryside Adult Home. Due to differing opinions regarding the agreements and associated costs for various services, he continued, it would be beneficial to secure one agreement with HHHN for all the County departments that currently contracted with them.

With regard to the Finance Committee, Mr. Thomas announced that although the Committee did not meet, there were several resolutions included in the packets for the annual renewal of contracts.

Chairman Stec announced the next item on the Agenda was a report by Mr. Dusek relative to the Gaslight Village Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Dusek referred to Resolutions Nos. 51 through 54 included in the packets which were resultant from the meeting. He stated Resolution No. 51 established 2011 usage fees for the Festival Space, as suggested by Robert Blais, Mayor of the Village of Lake George and the Lake George Visitor Center, and he reviewed the rates listed in detail. Resolution No. 52, he continued, established the procedure for the remittance of fees collected with regards to the former Gaslight Village property. He noted that Resolution No. 53 established the decision-making procedure pertaining to the property and appointed a representative to the Project Management Executive Committee and Resolution No. 54 approved the 2011 event parking procedure and fees for the property. Mr. Dusek added that the Committee also discussed the need for an Administrator-type person to monitor all the different actions of the property.

Chairman Stec called for reading of communications.

Clerk read communications, including the following:

Minutes from:

Warren/Washington Counties IDA.

Monthly Reports from:

Weights & Measures;  
Veterinarian;  
Probation.

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation, November and December Surcharge in the amounts of \$7,886 and \$6,272, respectively; October 31 and November 30, 2010 Financial Reports.

Warren/Washington Counties IDA - 2011 Adopted Budget.

Town of Hague and Town of Stony Creek, Resolutions requesting that the Board of Supervisors explore the formation of a group of municipalities within the County to share the cost of health insurance with hopes of reducing premiums.

Communications, resolutions and reports ordered placed on file.

Chairman Stec called for reading of resolutions and discussion.

Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, advised that Resolution Nos. 24 through 47 were mailed. She announced a motion was needed to bring Resolution Nos. 48 through 54 to the floor. Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Goodspeed and carried unanimously to bring Resolution Nos. 48 through 54 to the floor.

Chairman Stec called for a vote on the resolutions.

Mr. VanNess directed the board members attention to the resolutions concerning the Countryside Adult Home, Resolution Nos. 26 through 30, and expressed his opinion that the County should not be involved in this type of business and should continue exploring the sale of the Facility as a means of reducing the County's budget.

Resolution Nos. 24 through 56 were approved. Certificate of Appointments, naming member to the Warren County Youth Board; naming members to the Warren County Safe and Quality Bicycling Citizens Advisory Committee; and naming member to the Gaslight Village Management Executive Committee, were submitted.

Chairman Stec announced that if any Supervisors were interested in attending the upcoming NYSAC Conference, they should contact JoAnn McKinstry, Assistant to the Administrator, in order to confirm their registration. He added that an Emergency Management presentation would commence immediately following the board meeting.

There being no further business, on motion made by Mr. McCoy and seconded by Mr. Strainer, Chairman Stec adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.