

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 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 Merlino.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, McDevitt, Taylor, Loeb, Kenny, Frasier, Bentley, Vanselow, Dickinson, Merlino, Stec, Mason, Strainer, Westcott, Sokol, Thomas, Wood and Geraghty - 18.

Supervisors Monroe and Girard absent - 2.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously, to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2012 and November 2, 2012 Board Meetings, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Commencing with the agenda review, Chairman Stec declared the Public Hearing for the Warren County Sewer District (Industrial Park) Assessment Roll for 2013 open at 10:03 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 2013 Sewer District Assessment Roll, Chairman Stec closed the Public Hearing at 10:05 a.m.

Chairman Stec declared the Public Hearing for adoption of the 2013 Tentative Warren County Budget open at 10:06 a.m. and he requested that Mrs. Sady 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. Chairman Stec noted that a powerpoint presentation regarding the 2013 Tentative County Budget was made by Mr. Geraghty, Budget Officer, at the November 2nd Special Board meeting, at which time a resolution setting the public hearing for same was approved.

As noone present wished to comment on the 2013 Tentative Warren County Budget, Chairman Stec closed the Public Hearing at 10:07 a.m.

Proceeding with his report, Chairman Stec thanked the Budget Officer, Budget Team and the support staff that had assisted in developing the 2013 Tentative County Budget and he said that although it had been difficult, they had been successful in delivering a budget well within the State imposed tax cap. He pointed out that there were not many members of the public in attendance and no comments had been made about the Tentative Budget; Chairman Stec said he did not feel this conveyed a lack of interest in the budgetary situation, but rather indicated that County residents and taxpayers understood that a tremendous effort had been made to develop an acceptable budget while working within the confinements imposed by the State of New York and the local economy. He advised that throughout 2013, individual purchases and expenses would be considered through the typical Committee review process, allowing opportunities for debate as to how budgeted funds should be spent. With respect to his recent election to the New York State Assembly, Chairman Stec thanked the members of the Board of Supervisors for their

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012

support and he said he was proud of the things Warren County had accomplished during his tenure and the bipartisan manner in which decisions were typically made in the best interest of Warren County. Chairman Stec then offered condolences on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to Mr. Strainer on the loss of his sister, Patricia Ann Strainer, who had recently passed away. He said he had known Ms. Strainer for many years and was saddened by her passing. Mr. Strainer responded with appreciation and said that one of his sister's last wishes had been to cast her vote for Chairman Stec in his State Assembly bid and he had been able to fulfill that wish on her behalf; Chairman Stec replied that he was very touched to hear this.

Chairman Stec called for reports by Committee Chairman on the past month's activities or meetings and the following gave verbal reports: Supervisor Merlino, Tourism; Supervisor Sokol, Health Services; Supervisor Thomas, Finance; Supervisor Wood, Public Safety; Supervisor Geraghty, Budget; Supervisor Conover, Personnel; Supervisor Taylor, Economic Development; Supervisor Kenny, Occupancy Tax Coordination; and Supervisor Dickinson, Inter-County Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks.

Mr. Merlino advised the Tourism Committee had met on October 24th and approved proposed Resolution No. 631, Accepting Proposal and Authorizing Agreement with Benchmark Printing, Inc. to Print the 2013 Whitewater Rafting Brochure. He advised the Committee had also discussed the possibility of introducing a satellite Tourism promotion booth at the Adirondack Outlet Mall in Lake George, NY using monies from the occupancy tax reserve fund. He further advised that the matter had been referred to the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee to consider the expenditure of funds for this purpose, following which proposed Resolution No. 665, Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the Occupancy Tax Reserve to the Tourism Budget; Amending 2012 Warren County Budget, was approved to provide \$10,000 to establish the satellite location. Mr. Merlino said they would begin construction of the Tourism location at the Adirondack Outlet Mall in December and they intended to keep it in place for one year to determine if the additional promotion would provide a positive effect on area tourism.

With respect to the Health Services Committee, Mr. Sokol apprised that during their October 26th meeting proposed Resolution Nos. 632 - 638 were approved, all of which pertained to typical business matters. He advised that a special Health Services Committee had been held earlier that morning to discuss the future of the Westmount Health Facility. Mr. Sokol continued that several scenarios had been discussed before the Committee determined the best course of action for the taxpayers of Warren County, as well as for the patients in residence at Westmount, was to pursue the sale of the Facility. He pointed out proposed Resolution No. 680 of 2012, Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Request for Proposals for the Sale of the Westmount Skilled Nursing Facility and the Retention of Consulting Services in Connection with the Development of the Request for Proposals and/or Analysis of Responses, Selection of the Successful Proposal and Assistance with Transfer, and said he hoped the Board members would support the resolution.

Mr. Thomas apprised that during the November 7th Finance Committee meeting, several resolutions had been approved as represented by proposed Resolution Nos. 659-672, 677 and 679, which he proceeded to briefly outline. With respect to proposed Resolution No. 667, Amending Resolution No. 506 of 2012; Resolution Establishing a Capital Reserve Fund to Finance a "Type" Capital Improvement, Mr. Thomas stated that he did not feel the resolution correctly reflected the intentions of the Finance Committee and should be changed.

Referring to the Public Safety Committee meeting held on October 26th, Mrs. Wood advised Brian LaFlure, Fire Coordinator/Director of the Office of Emergency Services, had provided an extensive update on Hurricane Sandy which had been forecast to affect the area. She said that Warren County had been lucky to avoid any serious

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012

damage from the storm, but others had not been as fortunate and she relayed her sympathy to those areas. Mrs. Wood commented on discussion held at the Finance Committee meeting regarding separate requests made by the Sheriff's and Treasurer's Offices for software maintenance contracts with New World Systems. She apprised that due to the costs projected for the Sheriff's contract, which were significantly higher than the ones indicated for the Treasurer's Office, the Committee had tabled the request and asked that the County Attorney's Office contact New World Systems to determine if a lesser contract price could be negotiated in light of the fact that the County was seeking out multiple software maintenance contracts. Mrs. Wood noted that Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, had been able to secure a savings of approximately \$10,000 through his negotiating efforts, which was a significant amount. Mr. Auffredou confirmed that working jointly with C. Shawn Lamouree, Undersheriff, he had been able to negotiate a lower rate for the Sheriff's New World Systems contract, as reflected in proposed Resolution No. 670, Authorizing Agreement With New World Systems to Provide Software Maintenance Package for the Sheriff's Department. Mr. Auffredou stated that no changes to the cost of the software maintenance contract for the Treasurer's Office had been made.

Speaking as Budget Officer, Mr. Geraghty reiterated the Comments made by Chairman Stec, thanking the Budget Team for all of the hard work and dedication they had put into the process to develop the 2013 Budget. He noted that the spending plans submitted by the Department Heads for 2013 had been especially helpful because they were already very fiscally prudent and did not require a lot of revision and he said he appreciated those efforts, as well. Mr. Geraghty advised that the development of the 2013 Budget had been challenging and he anticipated that future budget years would be difficult also. He thanked all of the support staff at the County who had helped with the budget process and he said their assistance had been invaluable; he also thanked the members of the Board of Supervisors for their approval of the 2013 Budget.

Mr. Conover advised the Personnel Committee had met on November 7th and approved proposed Resolution Nos. 651 - 655. He pointed out proposed Resolution No. 651, Implementing a Hiring Freeze Until Further Resolution of the Warren County Board of Supervisors and Requesting that all Department Heads Review and Evaluate their Staffing in Preparation for Position Abolishment Either Through Attrition or Layoff, noting that the hiring freeze imposed would apply to the filling of all positions involving new staffing. He said this action was necessary because there were currently no labor agreements in place for Union employees and therefore they had no way to determine or plan for future employment costs. Mr. Conover noted that the proposed resolution indicated it was "requesting" that all Department Heads review their staff and he questioned whether this was actually a request or a directive. Paul Dusek, County Administrator, replied that the review of positions by Department Heads had already taken place and a draft plan for position layoffs had been developed.

Pursuant to the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee meeting held on October 31st, Mr. Taylor advised proposed Resolution Nos. 648 - 650 had been approved, all relating to GIS (Geographic Information System) services. He proceeded to briefly outline the resolutions, during which he noted that the GIS Coordinator previously employed by the County had decided to leave for another position, necessitating the extension of a contract with Fountains Spatial, Inc. to provide GIS services, as indicated by proposed Resolution No. 649.

In relation to the Social Services Committee, Mr. Loeb apprised that Deanna Park, Administrator of the Countryside Adult Home, had printed an advertisement for the facility which was distributed to all County employees with their paychecks. He said this was an inexpensive and effective way to market the services offered by Countryside Adult Home to a group of people who might have friends or relatives seeking care.

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012

Mr. Kenny stated that the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee had met on October 24th, during which they had discussed the use of occupancy tax reserve funding to support the introduction of a Tourism booth at the Adirondack Outlet Mall, as eluded to earlier in the meeting by Mr. Merlino. He noted that the original request had been to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$50,000 in funding from the occupancy tax reserve to sustain the satellite location for all of 2013; however, he said, they were only permitted to earmark funds for expenditure in 2012. Mr. Kenny continued that proposed Resolution No. 665 would provide \$10,000 in occupancy tax reserve funding to support the introduction of the satellite location and additional actions would be necessary to appropriate the funding necessary in the 2013 Budget, once adopted, to sustain anticipated expenses for 2013. He advised the Committee had also considered a referral from the Budget Officer to consider use of occupancy tax reserve funds to cover overtime costs incurred by the Sheriff's Office in relation to special events. Mr. Kenny said motions were made to this effect, but were defeated due to a lack of Committee support for the initiative.

Mr. Dickinson advised the monthly meeting of the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks had been hosted by Warren County earlier that week at the Inn at Erlowest in Lake George and he said the meeting was very informative. With respect to proposed Resolution No. 666, Establishing the Invasive Species Sub-Committee for Warren County and Appointing Members, Mr. Dickinson suggested adding Mr. Loeb to the Committee, as well as Village of Lake George Mayor Robert Blais as a non-voting member. He commented that Mr. Loeb was very interested in the invasive species initiative and he felt he would be a valuable member of the Committee, and as a Supervisor for the City of Glens Falls, he was able to provide the prospective of a person residing outside of the immediate Lake George area. When asked if he would like to serve on the Committee, Mr. Loeb responded that he would be honored to do so.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to amend proposed Resolution No. 666 to include Mr. Loeb as a member of the Invasive Species Sub-Committee for Warren County, as well as Mayor Blais as a non-voting member of the Committee.

Proceeding to the next agenda item, Chairman Stec called for the report by the County Administrator. Mr. Dusek noted that another meeting of the Budget Committee would be required in the near future to continue discussions on the multi-year budgeting plan and to approve a resolution outlining the plan they intended to employ to close the budget gap anticipated for future years. He explained that the multi-year budgeting plan was intended to consider anticipated budgetary issues and determine a plan of action as to how best to address them; he further explained that the plan could be modified as necessary. With respect to the New World software maintenance contract requested by the Sheriff's Office, Mr. Dusek commended Mr. Auffredou and the Sheriff's staff on their ability to continue negotiations with the software vendor to gain additional savings on behalf of the County. He apprised that although the members of the Board of Supervisors were not always aware of them, these types of cost savings initiatives were being sought out and implemented by the Department Heads and staff on a daily basis and he said those efforts were commendable and appreciated.

Chairman Stec called for the reading of communications and Mrs. Sady read them aloud as follows:

Minutes from:

1. Warren/Washington Counties I.DA Executive/Park, Civic Development Corporation and Audit & Finance Committees;

Capital District Off-Track Betting, Third Quarter Benefit Distribution in the amount of \$16,246., September 2012 Surcharge in the amount of \$7,677;

Warren/Washington Counties IDA and Civic Development Corporation, Proposed 2013 Budgets;

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012

City of Glens Falls Industrial Development Agency, Notices of Public Hearing and Contemplated Deviation from the Agency's Tax Exemption Policy with regard to two proposed projects in the City;

Continuing with the agenda review, Chairman Stec called for the reading of resolutions. Mrs. Sady advised that proposed Resolution Nos. 630 - 672 were mailed; however, she noted, proposed Resolution No. 639 had been corrected after mailing and a motion was necessary to approve the amendments made.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to approve the amendments to proposed Resolution No. 639.

Mrs. Sady advised that the resolutions relating to the filling of vacant positions were proposed Resolution Nos. 652 and 653. She further advised that unless a roll call vote was requested, they would be approved in the collective vote. Mrs. Sady said that a motion was necessary to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 629 and 673 - 680 to the floor.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 629 and 673 - 680 to the floor.

Mr. Thomas requested a roll call vote for proposed Resolution Nos. 640, Authorizing Agreement with Hudson Headwaters Health Network to Provide Medical and Nursing Services to Inmates at the Warren County Correctional Facility, and 654, Ratifying Actions of the Chairman of the Board in Executing Agreements with Delta Dental of New York, Inc. And Blue Shield of Northeastern NY for Health and Dental Insurance Coverage for Certain Warren County Officers and Employees. Additionally, Mr. Thomas noted that he felt corrections to proposed Resolution No. 667, Amending Resolution No. 506 of 2012; Resolution Establishing a Capital Reserve Fund to Finance a "Type" Capital Improvement, were necessary. He said he believed the intent of the resolution was to maintain the \$100,000 threshold budgeted for the Environmental Testing Reserve Fund, with the source of funding to be revenues realized from the tax foreclosure auction after payment of outstanding taxes due to the County, and change the verbiage of the prior resolution to indicate that they would also retain an additional \$75,000 over the \$100,000 minimum in 2012. Mike Swan, County Treasurer, commented that the initial resolution had indicated that \$100,000 would be taken from the revenues received from the tax foreclosure auction to maintain the Environmental Testing Reserve Fund and that 50% of any revenues in excess of \$100,000 would also be retained in 2012 and 25% of any revenues received in excess of \$100,000 would be retained for future years. He advised that the amendment requested would indicate that a flat amount of \$75,000 would be retained for 2012, in excess of the \$100,000 budgeted. Since the matter seemed to be causing some confusion, Mr. Swan advised that the amendment was not critical to the course of business and the request could be tabled until the next Board meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mrs. Wood and carried unanimously to table proposed Resolution No. 667.

Mr. Conover commented that proposed Resolution No. 666, Establishing the Invasive Species Subcommittee for Warren County and Appointment Members, took yet another step in highlighting the seriousness of the invasive species issue in Lake George. He said this action followed a number of others already taken by the Board of Supervisors, including the allocation of over \$500,000 to fund eradication efforts in the past two years, underscoring the importance of the issue and the threat it represented.

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2012

Mr. Loeb questioned why Mr. Thomas had requested roll call votes for proposed Resolution Nos. 640 and 654 and Mr. Thomas replied that he had done so because he believed the premium amounts associated with the health care coverage were far too high for dental and medical coverage.

With respect to proposed Resolution No. 675, Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2013, Mr. Merlino commented that while there were some things in the budget that he did not approve of, he would vote in favor of it because it was good for the County. He then thanked the Budget Team and the Budget Committee for all of their hard work in developing the 2013 County Budget. Mr. McDevitt said he agreed with Mr. Merlino's comments.

Chairman Stec called for a vote on resolutions and Resolution Nos. 629 - 680 were approved, with the exception of Resolution No. 667, which was tabled. The following documents were submitted: Proclamation commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Big Cross Street School; Estimate of Sales Tax; Mortgage Tax Report; and the Report of Equalization and Apportionment of County Tax Levy.

Concluding the agenda review, Chairman Stec called for announcements. Mr. Kenny announced that on November 27th at 6:00 p.m. he and City of Glens Falls Common Council Member Bennet Driscoll would be holding their semi-annual Town Hall Meeting with the topic of discussion being the controversial development along the Feeder Canal.

There being no further business to discuss, on motion made by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Dickinson, Chairman Stec adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.