

Warren County Board of Supervisors

ORGANIZATION MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2013



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 11:00 a.m.

Board called to order by Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Kenny.

Mrs. Sady advised the first order of business would be to administer the Oath of Office for Ronald S. Montesi. *Note: Mr. Montesi was appointed to fulfill the unexpired elected term of Daniel G. Stec who had resigned from his position as Supervisor for the Town of Queensbury in order to assume his elected position in the New York State Assembly.*

Pam Vogel, County Clerk, administered the Oath of Office for Mr. Montesi, following which a round of applause was given.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Bolton	-Ronald F. Conover
Chester	-Frederick H. Monroe
City of Glens Falls	
Ward 1	-Daniel J. Girard
Ward 2	-Peter V. McDevitt
Ward 3	-Harold G. Taylor
Ward 4	-William Loeb
Ward 5	-William H. Kenny
Hague	-Edna A. Frasier
Horicon	-Ralph W. Bentley
Johnsburg	-Ron Vanselow
Lake George	-Dennis L. Dickinson
Lake Luzerne	-Eugene J. Merlino
Queensbury	-Ronald S. Montesi
	-David J. Strainer
	-William Mason
	-Mark Westcott
	-Matthew D. Sokol
Stony Creek	-Frank E. Thomas
Thurman	-Evelyn Wood
Warrensburg	-Kevin B. Geraghty

Mrs. Sady announced the next order of business would be the selection of a temporary Chairman.

Mrs. Wood nominated Mr. Monroe as Temporary Chairman, seconded by Mr. Westcott.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Strainer moved that the nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for Mr. Monroe as Temporary Chairman, seconded by Mr. Loeb and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sady requested that Messrs. Girard and Taylor escort Mr. Monroe to the Chair.

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Mr. Monroe said it was a pleasure to be here on the day the Board selects a new Chairman. He noted that newly sworn in Assemblyman Daniel G. Stec was present and he welcomed him to the meeting. Mr. Monroe stated that he had known Mr. Geraghty for seven years, since he was first elected as Supervisor for the Town of Warrensburg; he said he had been immediately impressed with Mr. Geraghty's business and financial experience and knew that this would serve Warren County well, as evidenced by the way in which the budget development process was handled over the past couple of years during a recession period. Mr. Monroe said the Board of Supervisors had worked together as a group with a lot of guidance from Mr. Geraghty, as Budget Officer, always taking the approach of finding things that could be done to make Warren County a better place to live and visit. He advised that everyone recognized Mr. Geraghty's deep understanding of financial matters, and although some might say he was a bit "tight" with County dollars when considering potential expenditures, Mr. Monroe did not feel this was necessarily a bad thing, especially when recovering from a deep recession. In closing, Mr. Monroe stated that he was pleased to call Mr. Geraghty a friend, and even more pleased that he would be the new Chairman of the Board and on behalf of the entire Warren County Board of Supervisors, he wished Mr. Geraghty the best of luck in his position as Chairman.

Mr. Monroe called for nominations for the selection of a permanent Chairman.

Mr. Merlino nominated Mr. Geraghty, advising that he had also known Mr. Geraghty for seven years and had developed a strong friendship with him during that time. He said he felt that in light of Mr. Geraghty's financial knowledge and his experience in running a company, he was a good choice for the position and he was proud to make this nomination. Mr. Thomas stated that it was his pleasure to second the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Bentley moved the nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for Kevin B. Geraghty as Permanent Chairman. Mrs. Frasier seconded the motion, and it was carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Monroe, Temporary Chairman, requested that Messrs. Sokol and Thomas escort Mr. Geraghty to the Chair. The Board members responded with a round of applause.

With his wife, Kathy, by his side, Mr. Geraghty subscribed to the Constitutional Oath, as administered by Mrs. Vogel, following which another round of applause was given.

Chairman Geraghty presented the following remarks:

"State of the County
January 4, 2013

"Thank you to my wife for her continued support while I serve as a Town Supervisor, County Budget Officer and now Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Thank you to my fellow Supervisors for the confidence that you have placed in me by electing me to serve as your Chairman. It is truly my privilege to serve in this capacity.

"Five years ago when I became Budget Officer, the County was starting on a path that would lead us to some difficult financial times. We had a plan to get better and needed time to accomplish our goals. Sometimes things got testy but we as a group held together, made it through the hard times, and created a better future for the County as a whole. It was the County as a group, Employees, Department Heads, Administrator and his staff, and the Supervisors, that made it happen.

"Let's take a minute to look at some of the achievements we accomplished last year:

- No short term borrowing for cash flow purposes in 2012.
- Improved efficiency in Office of the Aging Meal Site program. Moving the Warrensburg site to Countryside Adult Home has increased utilization of that facility. The Towns have stepped forward to achieve more cost savings with the program and no senior was left without a meal.
- The IT Department and Purchasing departments undertook the copier/printer project which resulted in standardization of copiers and a reduction in costs and equipment which will lead to significant savings in the future.
- The Administrator's Office along with the Budget Team took on the task of multiyear financial planning. We now have a better picture of the County's future financial position. Our budget discussions have begun earlier than in the past and resulted in a more transparent budget process. We continue to meet the State goal of a 2% Tax Cap without depleting our fund balance in which many other communities are doing.
- We successfully purchased, installed and opened the Warren/Washington County Fire Training Facility.
- The Westbrook/Gaslight Village Project is starting to take shape with the Environmental Park on the south side of the parcel. Rebuilding of the Beach Road is another project that will protect Lake George for future generations.
- More special events, such as the Big Apple Circus, are starting to use the Gaslight Village property. With assistance of Occupancy Tax funds and co-sponsorship by the Town of Lake George, The Village of Lake George and Warren County we have made this event a success.
- We are looking to clean up tax delinquent properties with environmental issues with the use of Brownfield initiatives. This could possibly place these properties back on the tax rolls.
- Warren County took the lead on prohibiting the sale of synthetic marijuana which has had many devastating effects on our youth.
- Warren County has also partnered with the Environmental Groups to attack invasive species which are threatening Lake George's future.
- We continue to see growth in sales and mortgage taxes which are signs that the economy is slowly recovering.
- We successfully reached a collective bargaining agreement with CSEA which charts the course for the future of some of the County workforce while considering the public's ability to pay for these services.
- We are preparing for the County's Bicentennial celebration in 2013 which will be discussed later on in detail.
- The consolidation of dispatch services with the City of Glens Falls have been going

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smoothly which is a testament to the Employees of the Warren County Sheriff's Department Communications Center.

- I am proud to say that Warren County remains one of five counties in New York State that has not increased sales tax above 7%.

“Goals for 2013:

- Completion of the multi-year planning process to address projected deficits and develop cost cutting measures along with revenue generating initiatives.
- Continue to work with the Town of Corinth, Saratoga County and Iowa Pacific Holdings to open the rail corridor to carry freight on the railroad line. This relationship is greatly exceeding Iowa Pacific's initial expectations. North Creek is seeing a rebirth of some of its businesses. (Think Snow)
- Formation of an Employees Wellness Committee to improve the health of our employees and evenly produce reduced health insurance premiums to the employees and the County.
- Address the shortage of Court space within the Municipal Center.
- Continue to support, educate and develop regulations that will adequately address the threat of invasive species to our lakes and other bodies of water within the County.
- Work on allocating more funding for improvement of the County Road System.
- Continue to work on sustainable mandate relief from the State.
- Completion of negotiations with the remaining collective bargaining units in the County which currently do not have contracts.
- Finish privatization and expansion plans for the Westmount Skilled Nursing Facility.

“We welcome back Ron Montesi, a new Town Supervisor and former County Supervisor from Queensbury. Supervisor Montesi will find working with this group to be both rewarding and challenging. We have a great team here and we look forward to his contributions.

“I am appointing Stony Creek Supervisor Frank Thomas as Budget Officer, Bolton Supervisor Ron Conover as Finance Committee Chairman and Glens Falls Ward 3 Supervisor Bud Taylor as Personnel Committee Chairman.

“We are not without challenges for 2013. I know we will continue to work together as a team to find solutions to our problems regardless of party affiliation and make Warren County a better place to live and work. I can not do it alone. Our employees as well as the decisions made by this Board of Supervisors will make the difference.

“Respectfully submitted
Kevin B. Geraghty, Chairman
Warren County Board of Supervisors”

The Board members responded with a round of applause.

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Chairman Geraghty noted that the County Board and Committee meetings provided a sort of escape for Town Supervisors from the problems they have at their local offices, presenting a forum to discuss issues with other Supervisors in an effort to resolve them. He said the Board of Supervisors was comprised of a great group of men and women who worked hard to make the best decisions on behalf of their constituents and he said he hoped the residents of Warren County recognized the time and effort dedicated to this cause.

Continuing, Chairman Geraghty stated it was his privilege to formally announce the commencement of Warren County's Bicentennial celebration, and said it was an honor to serve as Chairman of the Board during this very significant and historic time. Not only would the County be celebrating its 200th birthday, but the Town of Warrensburg would, as well, Mr. Geraghty advised. He noted that the County, along with the individual towns, would be hosting several events during the coming year to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Warren County. Mr. Geraghty acknowledged and thanked the Bicentennial Citizens Advisory Committee for their efforts to date.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ann McCann, County Historian, to provide additional information on upcoming Bicentennial Celebration events. Ms. McCann noted that 100 years from now, our decedents would be celebrating a tri-centennial anniversary for Warren County; she noted that in this 200th anniversary celebration, participants were part of one long continuum in the history of the County. Referring to the Bicentennial Magazine produced by the Bicentennial Citizens Advisory Committee, she advised that descendants would learn the stories of each Town in the Bicentennial Magazine, learning the names of the Town Historians and the many others who labored diligently to record and preserve the County's history. Ms. McCann pointed out that the first few pages of the Magazine listed some of the upcoming Bicentennial events, for example, on February 15th recognizing the establishment of the Town of Warrensburg, and another event on March 12th at 2:00 p.m. when church bells around the County would ring together to celebrate the actual date that Warren County was formed. She asked that each Supervisor be aware of the Bicentennial website where events through out the year would be listed by Town. Ms. McCann noted the best way to access the webpage was from the Warren County website and she suggested that the site be visited often as it changed frequently. She apprised that the Bicentennial Citizens Advisory Committee, in cooperation with *The Post Star*, freely offered 60,000 copies of the Bicentennial Magazine to Warren County residents and visitors alike. Ms. McCann thanked all of the members of Bicentennial Citizens Advisory Committee for their hard work and she asked those present to stand and be acknowledged. A round of applause was given. Ms. McCann then proceeded to distribute copies of the Bicentennial Magazine and a commemorative pin to the members of the Board of Supervisors. *A copy of the Bicentennial Magazine is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Geraghty thanked the members of the Bicentennial Citizens Advisory Committee again, acknowledging their tireless efforts to make the Celebration a success and he opined it would be a good year for Warren County.

Chairman Geraghty called for a reading of communications and Mrs. Sady advised the only item to note was a letter from Daniel G. Stec advising of his resignation as Queensbury Town Supervisor effective December 31, 2012, due to his election to the New York State Assembly.

Chairman Geraghty called for a reading of resolutions. Mrs. Sady announced that a motion was necessary to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 1 - 22 to the floor. Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Girard and carried unanimously to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 1 - 22 to the floor.

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Chairman Geraghty called for a vote on resolutions and Resolution Nos. 1 - 22 were approved, as presented.

Copies of the 2013 Standing Committee list were distributed to the Board members; a copy is also on file with the minutes.

Chairman Geraghty asked if there were any announcements to be made. Mr. Merlino pointed out the large posters displayed along one wall of the Board Room, each of which represented one Town of Warren County. He asked that each Town Supervisor hang the poster in their Town Office Building and he noted that an identical copy would be placed at the satellite Tourism Office located in the Adirondack Outlet Mall, over a display offering brochures pertaining to the respective town. Mr. Merlino stated that the posters for the City of Glens Falls and the Village of Lake George had been distributed prior to the Organization Meeting.

Chairman Geraghty thanked everyone for attending the meeting and announced that a luncheon would be held immediately following the meeting in the Committee Room, which he encouraged all to attend.

There being no further business to address, on motion by Mr. Merlino and seconded by Mr. Bentley, Chairman Geraghty adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.