

Warren County Board of Supervisors



**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Loeb.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Monroe, Girard, McDevitt, Taylor, Loeb, Kenny, Frasier, Bentley, Vanselow, Dickinson, Merlino, Montesi, Mason, Strainer, Westcott, Sokol, Thomas, Wood and Geraghty - 20.

Chairman Geraghty welcomed everyone in attendance; he acknowledged the presence of Assemblyman Dan Stec, as well as Dr. Kristine Duffy, President of SUNY Adirondack, who he noted was in attendance to make a presentation on SUNY Adirondack's new NSTEM Initiative. Chairman Geraghty congratulated the newly elected members of the Board of Supervisors who would take Office on January 1st and stated that he and the rest of the members of the Board looked forward to working with them.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bentley, seconded by Supervisor Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of October 18 and November 1, 2013 Board Meetings, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Chairman Geraghty stated the Board would like to recognize two retiring employees, the first of which was Karen Putney, former Administrator of Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement, who had retired on August 15th. Chairman Geraghty and Supervisor Wood, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, presented Mrs. Putney with a Certificate of Appreciation for her efforts on behalf of Warren County. A round of applause was given. Chairman Geraghty advised the second retiring employee was Rob Metthe, former Director of Information Technology. He noted that Mr. Metthe was not present, but commended him for his efforts in transforming the Information Technology Department into its current stature. Chairman Geraghty apprised that Mr. Metthe had retired following ten years of service to Warren County. A round of applause was given.

Commencing the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty declared the Public Hearing on the Warren County Sewer District (Industrial Park) Assessment Roll for 2014 open at 10:06 a.m. and he requested that Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud, which she proceeded to do.

While there was noone immediately wishing to speak on the Sewer District Assessment Roll for 2014, Chairman Geraghty advised the Public Hearing would remain open for a bit longer. Privilege of the floor was extended to Dr. Duffy who proceeded to make a powerpoint presentation regarding the SUNY Adirondack NSTEM initiative. *A printed copy of the powerpoint presentation is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting.*

Following the presentation, Mr. Westcott noted that a portion of the powerpoint presentation indicated that SUNY Adirondack was only able to accommodate half of its students based on current programs

and facilities and he questioned how SUNY Adirondack was addressing this issue. Dr. Duffy responded that they were serving all current students; however, she added, the Space Assessment performed indicated that if they were to fully accommodate all of the students they felt SUNY Adirondack could serve, expansion would be necessary. Dr. Duffy continued there were about 240 students in the science and nursing programs right now, but there were many more that would take the courses, if space allowed. She concluded that the space available was not sufficient to support the growth SUNY Adirondack would like to see.

Mr. Montesi noted that chargebacks were paid by Warren County to other schools when a resident chose to travel outside of the County for their schooling. He questioned whether a study had been performed to determine what schools SUNY Adirondack was losing students to and Dr. Duffy replied affirmatively, noting that many were attending Hudson Valley Community College for advanced manufacturing and health care programs. She advised that the number of students attending alternate schools was not as large as one might think and she pointed out that for NSTEM related programs, it appeared only 30-40 students had chosen this path.

Mr. Taylor questioned the funding for the NSTEM Building and Dr. Duffy replied that SUNY Adirondack could potentially apply for up to \$20 million in State capital construction grant funds and they intended to request the full amount. She noted that they also intended to work closely with local industry to try and raise additional funds for the project, which they estimated would total approximately \$30 million. Dr. Duffy advised there were also Federal grant opportunities to consider, such as USDA grants. She stated that SUNY Adirondack intended to pursue all of the alternative grant and funding opportunities available to them before seeking County support.

Chairman Geraghty thanked Dr. Duffy for her presentation. He offered a last opportunity for public comment on the Sewer District Assessment Roll for 2014, and there being none, he closed the Public Hearing at 10:25 a.m.

Continuing the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty declared the Public Hearing on the 2014 Tentative Warren County Budget open at 10:27 a.m. and he asked Mrs. Sady to read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud, which she did. Chairman Geraghty called for public comment, and there being none, he announced that the Public Hearing would remain open throughout the Chairman and Committee Chairmen's reports.

Chairman Geraghty proceeded with a review of his report of meetings attended over the past month, a copy of which is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting. He congratulated Supervisor Thomas, Budget Officer, and the Budget Team on the 2014 Tentative Budget and he thanked them for all the work they had done in preparing it; Chairman Geraghty stated that they had done a remarkable job and he felt the County was headed in the right direction. With regards to the Warren County Bicentennial Banquet held on October 26th, Chairman Geraghty said the event had been well attended and he extended his appreciation to both the members of the Bicentennial Committee and volunteers and staff from the County and towns who had assisted with this and other Bicentennial events held throughout the preceding year. Pursuant to the October 30th APLGRB (*Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board*) meeting, Chairman Geraghty advised it appeared the APA (*Adirondack Park Agency*) intended to be more lenient in approving installation of cellular phone towers to address pressing communication needs in the Adirondack region. Mr. Monroe interjected that although the APA was more willing to approve the 40 ft. cellular towers, many trees were of the same height which obscured the signal, causing them to not work as well; he added that in some cases the APA was willing to approve higher towers in areas where they would not become prominent fixtures on the horizon and he acknowledged that the Agency was becoming easier to work with. Chairman Geraghty encouraged

other Supervisors of towns located within the Adirondack Park to try and work with the organization more.

Chairman Geraghty called for reports from Committee Chairman on the past months meetings or activities and the following were made: Supervisor Dickinson, Invasive Species; Supervisor Merlino, Tourism; Supervisor Strainer, Human Services and Community College; Supervisor Sokol, Health Services; Supervisor Thomas, Budget; Supervisor Wood, Public Safety; Supervisor Conover, Finance; Supervisor Monroe, Park Operations & Management, Gaslight Village Ad Hoc and Real Property Tax Services; Supervisor Girard, County Facilities; Supervisor McDevitt, Mental Health; Supervisor Taylor, Economic Growth and Personnel.

Mr. Loeb announced that the Social Services Committee had not met during the prior month, but said he wished to make a few comments on other matters. With regards to his not being re-elected to serve as City of Glens Falls Ward 4 Supervisor for a third term, he stated that he had enjoyed working with the other members of the Board of Supervisors as well as the County Department heads and staff and he noted that the County had a great group of people working for them; he also thanked the City of Glens Falls Ward 4 citizens for giving him the opportunity to serve them for two elected terms. Mr. Loeb advised that as his time to speak as a member of the Board of Supervisors was fleeting, he wanted to bring to the Board's attention a study which indicated the negative effects improper nutritional balance had on brain development. He noted the rising obesity epidemic in the United States and advised that although the populous appeared to be well fed, that did not mean that proper nutritional values were being incorporated. Mr. Loeb stated that the Board of Supervisors should support programs aimed at providing proper nutrition for children to promote brain development to generate more quality students and productive citizens for all of the communities in Warren County. He then apprised of the nationwide Healthy Families America program which was designed to help expectant and new parents incorporate proper nutrition for their child, beginning in utero and continuing throughout childhood. Mr. Loeb stated that the Healthy Families America program was supported by Senator Little, Assemblyman Stec and many other area representatives and he advised a joint program with Washington County was being considered. He cited one solidly documented outcome of this program had been a significant decrease in the number of low birth weight babies and he noted that the cost of assisting a family through this program was far less than the medical costs incurred in association with the resulting care required for a low weight baby and this factor alone provided a tremendous incentive to support the Healthy Families America program. Finally, Mr. Loeb noted the need for additional space by the Courts located in the Municipal Center Building. He commented that because the Board Room was rather large and was typically only used for the monthly Board Meetings, he would suggest that the Room be remodeled and designed with moveable furniture that could be reconfigured for use as a Court Room when not being used by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Loeb advised that because the Board Room would be used by the Court system, the State of New York would pay for the renovations and he noted that the associated costs would be far less than those incurred by the construction of a new Court building.

Mr. Kenny advised the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee had not met, but he asked the Committee members to stop by the Tourism Office following the meeting to pick up their packet of applications for occupancy tax special event funding which were to be reviewed at the upcoming December 3rd Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee workshop meeting. He noted 52 applications totaling \$810,000 in funding requests had been received and narrowed down to \$350,000 in requests. When reviewing these applications, Mr. Kenny asked the Committee members to keep in mind that there was a limited amount of funding available and if an increase in funding was desired for one event, a commensurate decrease in funding for another event would be necessary.

Mr. Dickinson began by offering his condolences to Supervisor Loeb for his loss in the recent elections and stating his disappointment that Supervisor Loeb had not been re-elected. He continued that Supervisor Loeb had played a significant role on the Board of Supervisors and he had enjoyed having him as a member of the Invasive Species Sub-Committee. Mr. Dickinson advised the Invasive Species Sub-Committee had met on October 29th where they had discussed matters relating to how the \$300,000 in 2014 funding to be provided by Warren County would be expended. He said the general consensus of the Committee had been in favor of a suggestion made by Supervisor Bentley to split the invasive species eradication funding to provide \$150,000 to Lake George and divide the remaining \$150,000 evenly (\$25,000 each) amongst Lake Luzerne, Lake Sunnyside, Glen Lake, Loon Lake, Brant Lake and Schroon Lake. Mr. Dickinson apprised they had also talked about expanding the interest of the Invasive Species Sub-Committee to include terrestrial invasive species and they had invited Brendan Quirion, Terrestrial Invasive Plant Coordinator for the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), to speak on this topic. He stated Mr. Quirion's presentation had been very informative and he said the Committee appreciated the information he had provided and looked forward to receiving additional information of this nature in the future. With respect to the RFP (*request for proposal*) released relative to consultant services for a local law that would require mandatory boat washing for all bodies of water in Warren County, Mr. Dickinson reported that four proposals had been received and they were currently under review.

Concerning the Tourism Committee, Mr. Merlino advised the 2014 Travel Guide had been received and he noted copies had been distributed to each member of the Board of Supervisors; he added that the winter television commercials would begin airing on December 1st.

Mr. Strainer apprised the Human Services Committee had met on October 24th and approved proposed Resolution Nos. 518, *Authorizing Extension of Service Agreement with Synergy Software Technologies, Inc. to Maintain a Mandatory Ombudsman Site for the Office for the Aging*, and 582, *Authorizing the Warren-Hamilton Counties' Office for the Aging to Submit the Annual Implementation Plan for the 2014-2015 Year to the New York State Office for the Aging*. He stated that the Community College Committee had met on October 30th, where Dr. Duffy had initially made the presentation shown today. He noted that due to a lack of quorum, the Community College Committee had not been able to approve the two SUNY Adirondack related resolutions included in the resolution packet, and therefore the items had been referred for review by the Finance Committee who had subsequently approved proposed Resolution Nos. 620, *Supporting the SUNY Adirondack Capital Improvement Plan for 2014-15*, and 621, *Authorizing Letter of Support for SUNY Adirondack NSTEM Initiative*. Mr. Strainer concluded that he hoped his fellow Board Members would support the aforementioned resolutions.

The Health Services Committee had met on October 25th, Mr. Sokol announced, to review an agenda requesting several personnel-related items which would achieve a savings of approximately \$55,000. He highlighted proposed Personnel-sponsored Resolution Nos. 607, *Amending Table of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2013*, and 608, *Authorizing the Administrator of Westmount Health Facility to fill Vacant Positions of Admission Screener, Laundry Worker/P #4, CNA/PT #45-#60 and Westmount Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds Due to Creation at Westmount Health Facility*, noting that he hoped the Board would support both.

Mr. Thomas said he had nothing to report, but would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who had assisted with the preparation of the 2014 Budget, as well as the Board of Supervisors for their support.

Mrs. Wood advised that pursuant to the October 18th Public Safety Committee meeting, proposed Resolution Nos. 583, *Authorizing an Agreement with Oneida County for Security at the Central New York*

Psychiatric Center at Marcy for Inmates of the Warren County Jail who are in need of Psychiatric Care; 584, Authorizing Agreement with Black Creek Integrated Systems Corporation for Booking and Management Software and Hardware for the Warren County Correctional Facility and any Necessary Maintenance; and 585, Authorizing an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Queensbury for Animal Control Services for the Sheriff's Department, were approved. With respect to the Bicentennial events, Mrs. Wood commented that both the open house held at the Municipal Center on October 18th and the Bicentennial Dinner held on October 26th had been very nice and she said she appreciated all of the efforts contributed to each of them.

Mr. Conover announced that the Finance Committee had met on November 6th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 577, 578, 611-622, 625 and 627, all of which were included in the resolution packet. He thanked Mr. Strainer for bringing attention to the SUNY Adirondack NSTEM initiative and for referring the matter to the Finance Committee for consideration.

Mr. Monroe began his report by thanking Senator Little and Assemblyman Stec for their support and efforts in educating the public with respect to Propositions 4, *pertaining to Township 40 and the longstanding title dispute between the State of New York and many Raquette Lake, NY home and business owners which prevented them from mortgaging or selling property*, and 5, *concerning a land exchange in the State Forest Preserve with NYCO Minerals, Inc. that would allow continued mining operations and save many jobs*, both of which were approved.

Concerning the October 21st Park Operations & Management Committee meeting, Mr. Monroe reported the Committee had reviewed the draft brochure for the Park Festival Space and suggested some changes, which he believed had subsequently been made. He said they had also discussed the construction contract for the Festival Space and he apprised that the contract had been awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, VMJR Companies; he added that the bid total had been less than the estimated construction costs, which was a welcome surprise. Mr. Monroe advised the Committee had reviewed an invasive species issue on the wetlands portion of the Park property and, in light of the need for immediate attention, had authorized the Village of Lake George to address the issue and be reimbursed for the associated expenses. He reported that the parking revenues received for 2013 were somewhat lower than in 2012, but attributed this decrease to the fact that the Village had cancelled their fireworks display during one evening over the past summer. Mr. Monroe stated that the Gaslight Village Ad Hoc Committee had met on October 24th to talk about the Festival Space construction and paving of the County-owned West Brook Parking Lot. He advised that because a porous pavement surface application would be used for the Parking Lot, they intended to wait until the Festival Space construction was complete because the parking lot would be necessary for construction access and they did not want to spoil the porous surface.

Mr. Monroe advised that during the October 29th Real Property Tax Services Committee meeting, a report on the recent 2013 Property Tax auction had been provided which indicated that all but 4 of the 47 properties auctioned had been sold. He noted that the outstanding taxes for the parcels had totaled approximately \$167,000, while the proceeds of the auction had totaled \$377,000; he added it was unlikely that the 4 unsold parcels would be sold. Mr. Monroe advised Martin Auffredou, County Attorney, had reported on a parcel located in the Town of Queensbury with unpaid taxes totaling in the neighborhood of \$400,000, advising that it appeared a contract for sale of the property had been signed and the County would receive payments for the outstanding amount.

Mr. Girard reported that the County Facilities Committee had last met on October 25th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 592, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Kevin Downes Tree Service*

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Co., Inc. for Runway 1 End Obstruction Removal Project at Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport Queensbury, New York (WC 039-13), 593, Authorizing Agreement with McFarland Johnson, Inc. to Conduct an Environmental Assessment for Land Acquisition and Obstruction Removal in the Runway 12, 19 and 30 Approaches, and 594, Authorizing Agreement with C&S Engineers, Inc. to Provide Professional Engineering and Consulting Services for the Construction Observation and Administration Services for the Runway 1 Obstruction Removal Project.

Mr. McDevitt apprised a meeting of the Warren-Washington Counties Community Services Board had been held on November 7th relating to drug enforcement efforts in Warren and Washington Counties. He stated that two outstanding presentations had been made, one by Jeffrey Murphy, Washington County Sheriff, and the other by Lieutenant Steven Stockdale, of the Warren County Sheriff's Office. Mr. McDevitt apprised of Lt. Stockdale's opinion that the most dangerous component of drug trade was a non-addictive sales person that brought drugs into the community from another state and this activity needed to be dealt with very harshly. He continued that observations had been made with regards to how addicts could be treated for addictions; however, there was no other treatment for the salesperson other than strict law enforcement activity that led to lengthy incarceration. Mr. McDevitt concluded that the drug corridor stretching from Route 149 in Vermont to the downstate area was still active, but it appeared as if local law enforcement had a handle on the situation and both Warren and Washington County officials should be thankful for these efforts.

Mr. Taylor noted that although the Economic Growth & Development Committee had not met, four proposed resolutions had been included in the resolution packet. He confirmed that he had authorized proposed Resolution Nos. 586-589, all of which pertained to the submission of applications for grant funding, to be presented through an out-of-Committee approval process in order to meet grant submission deadlines. Mr. Taylor stated that the four grant opportunities represented \$1.3 million in grant funding with no associated Local Share and he asked his fellow members of the Board of Supervisors to consider voting in favor of these resolutions. With regards to the November 6th Personnel Committee meeting, Mr. Taylor announced that proposed Resolution Nos. 607-610 had been approved, all of which were included in the resolution packet, and he proceeded to provide a brief explanation for each one. Finally, Mr. Taylor noted that, sadly, the Warren County Board of Supervisors had lost four Supervisors during the November elections, (*Supervisors Loeb, Mason, Montesi and Strainer*), and he advised that Supervisor Bentley would also be retiring and leaving the Board; he requested that the five new members of the Board of Supervisors, who would take office on January 1st, pattern themselves after their predecessors as they were all hardworking gentlemen.

As the reports from Committee Chairmen on the past months meetings or activities had concluded, Chairman Geraghty asked if there was anyone wishing to speak on the 2014 Tentative Budget.

Mr. Kenny commented on the sales tax estimates, stating that he believed the projections for the last quarter of 2013 reflected a 2.4% increase, and he asked Paul Dusek, County Administrator, whether this information was correct. Mr. Dusek responded that for 2013, the 4th quarter sales tax revenues had not been projected, because a projected amount for the entire year had been provided instead. He noted that a 4.2% projected increase had been assigned for the 3rd quarter of 2013, and in determining this figure they had reviewed prior year figures which indicated that the 3rd quarter increase figure was typically higher than the closeout for the whole year. In preparing the 2014 Budget, Mr. Dusek advised they had assumed that the closeout for 2013 would be less than the 3rd quarter increase figure and therefore a 3.5% increase had been assigned for the 2013 closeout. He continued that a recent reporting on sales tax revenues indicated promising figures, but he cautioned that they would not know how well they had done until the close of the year. Mr. Dusek advised that in developing the 2014 Budget, they

had moved to a new, more conservative, formula for determining sales tax revenues because the old formula had generated a significant surplus; he added that the sales tax revenues generated would be higher than anticipated and he said he expected that the formula would be revised again in future years depending on the results. Mr. Dusek commented that two factors had prevented him from suggesting a more aggressive approach to this formula for 2014, one being the effects of the economic downturn in prior years which had led to a \$2 million decrease in projected sales tax revenues. The second item considered, he said, was the fact that the County's Contingent Account was very low. Mr. Dusek advised that a County of this size should probably have a higher Contingent Account; however, he stated, they had felt comfortable with the low funding level due to the amount of surplus funding available, which was also not excessive by any means, and was only within the confines of the Board's desired projections. Mr. Dusek said that by taking a conservative approach for 2013 projections, it appeared that there might be higher than anticipated collections for 2013 which would allow the Board to undertake the Budget Officer's suggestion of allocating additional funding to address the County's highway infrastructure needs in early 2014.

Mr. Kenny stated that he had no issue with the projections provided for years 2014 and beyond, but he did take issue with the 2013 projections. He continued that by including 2013 projections of 4.2% for the 3rd quarter and 3.5% for the year, they had essentially created a 2.4% increase for the last quarter of 2013; when translated to dollar figures, Mr. Kenny advised the 2.4% increase represented a difference of \$700,000. Mr. Kenny stated he found it highly unlikely that sales tax revenues would decrease in December and he felt it was appropriate to reduce the amount to be raised in the 2014 Budget from 1.5% to .75% by using \$300,000 in surplus funds to subsidize the budget, with those funds to later be returned from sales tax revenues.

Mr. Kenny made a motion to amend the 2014 Tentative Budget, as per the aforementioned recommendation, which Mr. Westcott seconded.

Mr. Mason stated that Mr. Kenny's suggestion was exactly the type of initiative he had been asking for and he expressed his support. Conversely, Mr. Bentley cautioned that this might not be a good idea because the fourth quarter sales tax revenues were still unknown and could potentially reflect a decrease, as they had in prior years. Mr. Thomas agreed with Mr. Bentley's statement, cautioning that while Mr. Kenny's suggestion was commendable, this type of action could cause problems in future years. He added that it was wiser to stay the projected course reflected in the multi-year budgeting plan.

Mr. Conover opined that the correct thing to do, if they were going to increase a revenue stream, would be to decrease allocations and unappropriated surplus. He noted that the 2014 Budget called for \$1.3 million in surplus funds to be used to subsidize the Budget; he added that the surplus funds were essentially the County's savings fund and not comprised of recurring revenues. Mr. Conover stated that by taking this route, they would be faced with the need to find \$2.3 million for the 2015 Budget, along with any increases in costs for general governmental expenses. He continued that it was entirely conceivable and likely that they would be looking for \$4 million to fill this gap, and this expense would be increased in future years. Mr. Conover said that the multi-year budgeting tool developed by the Budget Team addressed these concerns by hopefully achieving modest increases in sales tax and he reminded the Board Members that the County only retained half of the sales tax revenues received. Mr. Conover concluded that he was not supportive of the motion in its current form and felt if this was the path the Board would like to take, a more balanced approach, such as he had previously suggested, would be more appropriate.

Mr. Monroe stated that he was not supportive of the motion either. He advised that for many years the County's sales tax revenues had consistently increased, but then in 2008, when the economic downturn had begun, those revenues had suddenly decreased, causing many funding issues for the County. Mr. Monroe said at that time the Board had been required to make many painful choices to reduce the County workforce and adopt a conservative approach to get the budget back in the shape it was currently. Because of these experiences, Mr. Monroe stated that he was in favor of maintaining this conservative approach because sales tax revenues did not always increase and in some cases decreased.

Mr. Girard recalled the Budget Officer's plan was to use the additional sales tax revenues received to fund necessary road construction costs that the County had not been able to address in prior years. He said he was satisfied with the 2014 Tentative Budget presented by the Budget Officer and preferred to proceed in that direction.

Chairman Geraghty commented that the effects of the economic downturn were not something that could be quickly recovered from and he noted it had taken Warren County five years to get the budget back into good shape. He advised the County's highway infrastructure had suffered over the past five years due to a lack of funding and the Budget Officer's plan to use unanticipated sales tax revenues to address this need seemed to be a very good solution. Chairman Geraghty said that while it might sound very easy to use these funds to reduce the budget instead, they could not count on the economy remaining as it was and he cited concerns relating to unknown future health insurance costs which were projected to increase significantly in connection with the Affordable Health Care program. He recalled all of the tough decision the Board had to make beginning in 2008 to reduce the County Budget to a manageable figure and he reiterated that this was not a situation the County could easily recover from if it were to occur again. Chairman Geraghty concluded that although a decrease in the amount to be raised by taxes for 2014 would be nice for the taxpayers, it had the potential to cause larger problems in the future; he added that the Budget Team had developed a responsible multi-year budgeting plan which he felt they should follow.

Mr. Vanselow echoed Chairman Geraghty's comments, adding that postponing funding for highway-related projects would only exacerbate the County's current infrastructure needs; therefore, he said, he was not supportive of the motion to amend the 2014 Tentative Budget as suggested by Mr. Kenny. Mr. Montesi agreed with the statements made by both Chairman Geraghty and Mr. Vanselow, noting that he also intended to oppose the motion; Mr. McDevitt concurred with these sentiments, as well. Mr. Strainer stated that although it would be very easy to support Mr. Kenny's motion, he felt they were on the right track with the multi-year budgeting plan and should stay that course, especially in light of the fact that the estimated sales tax revenue levels were not guaranteed. He added his opinion that the Budget should remain as presented, with a 1.5% increase for 2014, in hopes that a 0% increase could be reached in the coming years.

There being no further discussion on the matter, Chairman Geraghty called the question and the motion to amend the 2014 Tentative Budget to appropriate \$300,000 from the surplus fund to lower the budget increase failed, with only Supervisors Kenny, Mason and Westcott voting in favor.

Mr. Montesi pointed out that Resolution No. 622, *Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2014 and Authorizing Public Hearing thereon (A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County)*, listed 16 top level, high salary positions receiving salary increases and he questioned why these had not been reviewed by the Personnel Committee. He said that from this resolution he was unable to discern whether the positions were receiving the standard 2% salary increase, or more, and it troubled him to think that such a decision was being made without Committee

review. Mr. Dusek reminded the Board members that two years ago they had started incorporating salary adjustments for non-bargaining unit positions and he said this was an effort to continue that process. He advised that some of the positions listed were receiving only the 2% increase, while others were receiving alternate amounts. Mr. Dusek confirmed that the salary adjustments had been included in the 2014 Budget package which had been presented and approved; he added that the Local Law before the Board members was necessary to officially set the salaries for the positions listed.

There being no further comment, Chairman Geraghty closed the Public Hearing on the 2014 Tentative Budget at 11:17 a.m.

Continuing the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty called for the report from the County Administrator. Mr. Dusek stated he had nothing to report, other than that a last minute change had been made to proposed Resolution No. 607, *Amending Table of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2013*, altering the version mailed to the Board members to remove two positions. He explained that the mailed resolution had listed a Clinical Manager and a Nurse Manager as positions to be deleted at Westmount Health Facility, but due to recent occurrences, they had decided to remove those positions from the resolution and refer the matter back to the Health Services Committee. Additionally, Mr. Dusek advised the original resolution had listed a cap on the number of hours the part-time CNA positions being created at Westmount Health Facility could work, but that verbiage had also been removed in light of concerns that limiting the number of possible work hours would create the need to hire contract workers, incurring additional costs to the County.

Moving on to the report from the County Attorney, Mr. Auffredou pointed out proposed Resolution No. 595, *Authorizing Grant of Easement over County Owned Property to National Grid for Electrical Distribution Relocation*, which he said had been included in the resolution packet based on his work with National Grid, but had not been approved by the Public Works Committee. He requested that this resolution be withdrawn and the matter referred to the Public Works Committee for further review and consideration. Chairman Geraghty announced that proposed Resolution No. 595 would be withdrawn.

Mr. Auffredou advised proposed Resolution No. 597, *Authorizing Amending Cooperative Agreement Between Warren County and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation with Regard to Snow and Ice Maintenance for the Portion of Beach Road Owned by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*, involved an amendment to the cooperative agreement between Warren County and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for snow and ice removal along the State-owned portion of Beach Road to alter the dates included in the agreement to read that it would commence on October 1, 2012 and terminate on April 15, 2018. He apprised a similar agreement had been approved in 2012 to allow for snow and ice removal services to be performed; however, he said, it had only been for a one-year term. Since they did not feel this was an agreement that needed to be renewed annually, he continued, proposed Resolution No. 597 of 2013 had been written to include a much longer term. Mr. Auffredou concluded that this resolution had not been reviewed or approved by the Public Works Committee, but had been included in the resolution packet by his authorization as he felt it was time sensitive given the time of year and likelihood of impending winter weather prompting roadway treatment.

Continuing with the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty called for the reading of communications, which Mrs. Sady read aloud, as follows:

Minutes from:

1. Warren/Washington Counties I.D.A Executive/Park and Civic Development Corporation;

Monthly Reports from:

1. Weights & Measures;
2. Probation

Capital District Off-Track Betting, Third Quarter Benefit Distribution in the amount of \$8,417.;

Warren/Washington Counties IDA and Civic Development Corporation, Proposed 2014 Budgets;

U.S. Census Bureau, Notice of Suspension of the 2014 Boundary and Annexation Survey;

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, advising of the listing of the St. James Episcopal Church in Lake George on the State Register of Historic Places.

Chairman Geraghty then called for the reading of resolutions and discussion. Mrs. Sady announced that proposed Resolution Nos. 578-622 were mailed; she noted that proposed Resolution Nos. 607 and 608 were amended after mailing and she advised a motion was needed to approve these Resolutions, as amended.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Monroe and carried unanimously to approve amendments to proposed Resolution Nos. 607 and 608, as presented.

Mrs. Sady stated proposed Resolution No. 608 related to the filling of vacant positions and she said that unless a roll call vote was requested, all would be approved in the collective vote. She advised a motion was needed to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 577 and 623-628 to the floor.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 577 and 623-628 to the floor.

Chairman Geraghty asked if there were any requests for roll call votes and Mr. Westcott requested roll call votes for proposed Resolution Nos. 592, *Awarding Bid and Authorizing Agreement with Kevin Downes Tree Service Co., Inc. for Runway 1 End Obstruction Removal Project at Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport Queensbury, New York (WC 039-13)*, 593, *Authorizing Agreement with McFarland Johnson, Inc. to Conduct an Environmental Assessment for Land Acquisition and Obstruction Removal in the Runway 12, 19 and 30 Approaches*, and 594, *Authorizing Agreement with C&S Engineers, Inc. to Provide Professional Engineering and Consulting Services for the Construction Observation and Administration Services for the Runway 1 Obstruction Removal Project*, noting that he planned to vote against all three resolutions in light of his continued opposition to the work taking place at the Airport.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Geraghty called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 577-628 were approved as presented, with the exception of Resolution No. 595, which was withdrawn. The following documents were submitted: Estimate of Sales Tax; Mortgage Tax Report; and Report of Equalization and Apportionment.

Chairman Geraghty called for announcements, but none were made.

Concluding the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty offered privilege of the floor to any attendees wishing to address the Board of Supervisors.

Doug Beaty, Town of Queensbury Supervisor-elect, noted the impending departure of current Town of

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Queensbury Supervisors Montesi, Mason and Strainer and he thanked them for doing a good job of serving the Board of Supervisors during their elected terms.

Assemblyman Stec congratulated Chairman Geraghty, Budget Officer Thomas, the Budget Team and the other members of the Board of Supervisors, as well as the County's Department Heads and staff for successfully adopting the 2014 Budget. He said that as an Assemblyman, he was aware of how many other counties in the Adirondacks were approaching the complexities of the budget process. Assemblyman Stec pointed out that as of January 1, 2014, Warren County would be only one of three remaining counties in the entire State of New York that had maintained the minimum sales tax rate of 7%. Assemblyman Stec stated his delight that Proposition Nos. 4 and 5 had been approved during the November elections as both were very important to the Adirondack region and he thanked Supervisor Monroe, who also served as Executive Director of the APLGRB, for advocating both Propositions, as well as the many other organizations and local governments that had done the same. Assemblyman Stec noted that any issues relating to the Adirondack Region typically drew a lot of attention from environmental groups and it had taken a lot of compromise and cooperative efforts to bring these Propositions forth for approval and he thanked everyone who had participated. Lastly, Assemblyman Stec stated it had his been pleasure to work with all five of the departing Supervisors; he thanked them for their service and support, especially when he had served on the Warren County Board of Supervisors as one of their colleagues, and he wished them the best in all of their future endeavors. In closing, Assemblyman Stec wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Chairman Geraghty wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, noting that the County had a lot to be thankful for as it had been a good year financially with many positive results.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Mr. Montesi and seconded by Mr. Strainer, Chairman Geraghty adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.