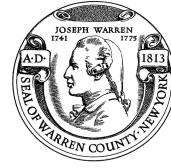


Warren County Board of Supervisors

**ORGANIZATION MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2015**



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 11:07 a.m.

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

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Geraghty.

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	-James Brock
Hague	-Edna A. Frasier
Horicon	-Matthew J. Simpson
Johnsburg	-Ron Vanselow
Lake George	-Dennis Dickinson
Lake Luzerne	-Eugene J. Merlino
Queensbury	-John F. Strough
	-Rachel E. Seeber
	-Matthew D. Sokol
	-Douglas N. Beaty
Stony Creek	-Frank E. Thomas
Thurman	-Evelyn Wood
Warrensburg	-Kevin B. Geraghty
<i>City of Glens Falls Ward 5 Supervisor William Kenny - Absent</i>	
<i>Town of Queensbury Supervisor Mark Westcott - Absent</i>	

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

Supervisor Frasier nominated Supervisor Wood as Temporary Chairman, and Supervisor Vanselow seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, Supervisor Seeber moved that the nominations be closed and the Clerk cast one ballot for Supervisor Wood as Temporary Chairman; the motion was seconded by Supervisor Strough and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sady requested that Supervisors Dickinson and Merlino escort Supervisor Wood to the Chair.

Supervisor Wood said it was her pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2015 Organization Meeting. She then requested a moment of silence to acknowledge the recent passing of former Governor Mario Cuomo. A moment of silence was held.

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Resuming her remarks, Supervisor Wood stated it was an honor to serve as Temporary Chairman. She continued that upon joining the Warren County Board of Supervisors, she had the privilege of being seated next to Supervisor Geraghty, then serving as Budget Officer, which had turned out to be one of the luckiest things that could have happened to her, in light of the sage advice he had provided. Supervisor Wood apprised that Supervisor Geraghty was able to see both the small and large problems facing the County and offered not only guidance and insight, but also good advice, which was especially helpful for a new Supervisor who did not know the procedural goings-on of the County; she added that he always had time to provide counsel to not only herself, but any others that approached him. Supervisor Wood recalled the goals Supervisor Geraghty had set at the start of 2014 when commencing his Chairmanship and she advised that most of those goals had been achieved, which was actually quite remarkable. She noted that Supervisor Geraghty was very result-driven and liked to see the goals he set achieved, but was not afraid to delegate special tasks to other Supervisors in order to transfer these goals into something that was good and moved the County forward. Supervisor Wood commended these ideals, stating that this was the kind of forward progress Warren County needed. She concluded that while she was thankful to everyone for listening to her comments, she was quite sure they were all eager to learn what goals would be set for 2015; Supervisor Wood then called for nominations for the selection of a permanent Chairman.

Supervisor Conover nominated Supervisor Geraghty as permanent Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and Supervisor Simpson seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, Supervisor Monroe moved the nominations be closed, and the Clerk cast one ballot for Kevin B. Geraghty as permanent Chairman; Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Wood requested that Supervisors Taylor and Sokol escort Supervisor Geraghty to the Chair.

With his wife, Kathy, by his side, Chairman Geraghty subscribed to the Constitutional Oath, as administered by Pam Vogel, *County Clerk*, following which a round of applause was given.

Chairman Geraghty thanked the members of the Board of Supervisors for selecting him as Chairman of the Board and he welcomed everyone in attendance; he also thanked his wife for her support, noting that it was sometimes difficult to be the wife of an elected official. He then presented the following remarks:

“STATE OF THE COUNTY
JANUARY 5, 2015

“Members of the Board of Supervisors; County officers and staff; honored guests and visitors:

“It is an honor and privilege to be elected to continue as chairman of the Warren County Board of Supervisors.

“This Board is charged with the important and sometimes daunting responsibility of providing leadership in the development of and carrying out of plans, policies and activities important and vital, not only to County government itself, but to our city, towns, village, residents and visitors.

“While we have not always been in complete agreement as a Board during this past year, I can say that I believe that each and every member of this Board takes their responsibilities seriously and has the best interest of the County and its residents at heart. As a Board we have found ways to come together and should be proud of some very noteworthy accomplishments in 2014:

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- * We were able to continue a stable financial outlook for the future of Warren County.
- * We authorized, as a Board, an additional one million dollars towards improving the County roads and bridges, a vital infrastructure benefitting not only transportation needs but our economy as well; this could have only happened as a result of good financial planning and I thank the Budget Officer, *Frank Thomas*, and the County Administrator, *Paul Dusek*, for their work in this regard.
- * We established a Human Resources Department.
- * We saw the fruits of our long-term planning and strategies with regard to lowering the costs of a very significant employee benefit; our health insurance premium rose only four percent this year compared to previous and projected ten percent increases. While still increasing, this change shows the results of long-term planning and I recognize the work that was put into this by our broker, Capital Financial Services and County Administrator Dusek as well as the contribution made by the employees of Warren County in agreeing to changes that ultimately made this a success.
- * We took significant steps to address the shortage of court space working through various options in a cooperative manner with the court system and in a very transparent way. I thank (*County Facilities*) Committee Chair Dan Girard for his leadership in this matter as well as Supervisor Strough for his involvement and Jeff Tennyson, *Superintendent of Public Works*, for the services provided by the Department of Public Works in connection with this, as well as our engineers Clark Patterson Lee.
- * We approved the contract for the sale of the Westmount Health Facility that not only will provide fiscal relief to our County Budget, but will benefit the Facility's residents and County residents. We have negotiation assurances that the Facility will continue to operate for a number of years and for a study exploring further elderly services on adjacent property. I thank Supervisor Sokol for his leadership in bringing this about and County Administrator Dusek for originally putting together the plan of action that brought us to this point and County Attorney Martin Auffredou and Special Counsel Larry Paltrowitz for all the work they put in to get us to this point.
- * We began video recording Committee Meetings for the first time and provided access to these videos on our County website; we're fortunate to have TV-8 record a number of our Board Meetings which likewise were also made accessible through our County website. I thank those Supervisors instrumental in making this happen, particularly Supervisors Taylor, Seeber, Westcott and Beaty. I also want to thank Mike Colvin, *Director of the Information Technology Department*, for his technical experience in putting this together and at a low cost.
- * We improved availability of resolutions for consideration, documents and other information being presented at Committee Meetings and Board Meetings. I want to recognize Mrs. Sady and her staff for the initiatives they have taken in this regard.
- * We modified our Board Agenda to allow comments by interested members of the public on resolutions before they are voted upon.
- * We began an effort to fix Committee Meeting dates so that the Supervisors and the public could be able to plan for these Committee Meetings and help to assure opportunities for input.
- * We changed accounting methodologies and established a new Occupancy Tax spending plan to provide additional funds to municipalities for purposes of encouraging more tourism events to bring more visitors to our County. I want to thank Supervisor Conover, Supervisor Kenny, Budget Officer Frank Thomas, Supervisor Merlino, Treasurer Swan, Deputy Treasurer Lynch, County Administrator Dusek and the Assistant to the County Administrator, *JoAnn McKinstry*, for their work in making this happen.
- * We significantly increased our payment to towns for highway snow and ice removal. I

want to thank Supervisor Simpson, Supervisor Conover, Supervisor Merlino, Mr. Tennyson and County Administrator Dusek for their assistance in developing the new formula providing for the increase.

- * We made considerable progress in the development of the (*Wood Park*) Festival Space and former Gaslight Village property. I want to thank Supervisor Monroe, Mayor Blais (*Village of Lake George*) and County staff members for bringing this project closer to conclusion.
- * While it is still being looked at, we began the process of examining the possibility of consolidating the (*Warren County*) Sheriff and City of Glens Falls Police Departments. I want to thank the Sheriff (*Bud York*), Supervisor Wood and Supervisor Brock for their interest in and support of this study.
- * We have seen continued progress in the battle against invasive species in our lakes and I want to thank (*Invasive Species Sub-Committee*) Committee Chair Dennis Dickinson for leading the fight on this front.
- * We saw continuity in services provided by our (*County*) Clerk's Office, Department of Motor Vehicles, Offices of Employment and Training, Office for the Aging and Veterans' Services. I want to thank Committee Chairs Frasier (*Human Services Committee*) and McDevitt (*County Clerk-Motor Vehicles Committee*) for their leadership as well our County Clerk, *Mrs. Vogel*, and County staff.
- * We authorized a new credit card this past year called the p-card which should provide a financial return to the County for the use of the same. I particularly want to thank our Purchasing Agent, *Julie Butler*; County Attorney Auffredou; County Administrator Dusek; Treasurer Swan; and other involved County staff for making this happen.
- * We held our first meeting regarding the Emergency Services issues faced throughout the County and began an important dialogue towards the development of potential costs saving solutions that will also improve services; I would like to see this continue in 2015. Thank you to Supervisor Vanselow for his input and past experience in this field.

"This is a partial list of our accomplishments and by no means recognizes all the Supervisors and County staff who have participated in these achievements.

"With all that said and taking a moment to recognize and enjoy our accomplishments, we know that our work has really only begun.

"As I think about this past year, I realize that this was really a transition year for the Board and the County. For the years before 2014, the Board and Administration were focused on putting all of their efforts into the financial recovery of the County from the 2008-09 recession and also from the debilitating loss of revenues and diminished fund balances. While those years were hard, in some ways it was easier for everyone to be unified in approach and solutions since it was all about a single objective and goal of saving money, cutting costs and returning the County to a stable financial condition.

"With the County's condition stabilized, this past year we turned to other matters relating to capital projects, County government transparency, organizational operations, and allocation of resources. We saw that with regard to these matters, there is often more than one correct or appropriate choice. Accordingly, there was more debate and disagreement.

"While this may have been uncomfortable to some extent, what we all must remember is it was okay. It's okay to debate. It's okay to argue over points. And yes, it's even okay to disagree. "But one thing that must not be lost - once a matter has been debated and a decision has been made by majority vote, it is incumbent upon all of us to move ahead and be respectful of the

process and of each other. Otherwise we will stagnate as a County and government. We will not be able to continue to accomplish the tasks and many important projects that still lie ahead for us to address.

“To facilitate healthy debates and assure that everyone is heard and has appropriate information, I will be calling for the Board, in this upcoming year, to begin to engage in strategic planning sessions where everyone will have an opportunity to have a say on the future agenda for the County. In addition, I will be calling upon the Administration and the Department Heads to assist us in assuring that we have resolutions, documentation and other information on matters that come before us in advance of all of our meetings. In a similar vein, I am also asking the Administration and Department Heads to cause all of this information to be posted on the County’s website in a timely fashion so that members of the public may likewise have access to the information and participate in the discussions and debate.

“If we are able to put these overall management operational tools in place, I believe it will help us deal with the issues in a way that is not only transparent but allows everyone a voice. With solid planning and procedures in place, I then want to challenge this board to take up and accomplish the following goals:

- * I believe we must work with other municipalities in the County to look for shared services or consolidation opportunities that will save taxpayer moneys and will meet the Governor’s one percent tax savings target. We should do this while sustaining, if not improving, services provided to our residents. To this end, I have requested at this organizational meeting, to modify the rules of the Board to provide for the creation of a new Shared Services Committee. I request that the Committee and County Administrator Dusek dedicate time and resources to accomplishing these goals.
- * I am also challenging the Budget Officer and Budget Team to find ways to include an additional five hundred thousand dollars for road and infrastructure improvements in the 2016 Budget and subsequent budgets.
- * I am asking the Board, Administration and appropriate Department Heads to take all action necessary to complete the Court Expansion Project by early 2016.
- * While he has done a remarkable job this past year, particularly in the face of the addition of a number of mandated positions, I am asking Sheriff York to continue to look for ways to cut Jail over-time costs and improve revenue.
- * I am asking County Administrator Dusek to develop a plan for the sale of County-owned property adjacent to Route 9 and follow through with the study of uses available for the property next to the Nursing Home (*Westmount Health Facility*).
- * I am asking the Board to continue to support, educate and pursue means that will adequately address the threat of invasive species to all of our lakes and bodies of water within the County.
- * I am asking the Board for their support in taking steps to improve radio communications in the County.
- * I continue to challenge all Departments to run their operations in a business-like manner, cutting costs where possible but also continuing to provide excellent service to our residents.

“As we begin 2015 and consider all of the challenges and work that lie ahead of us, let us also consider the opportunity for success, positive relationships and outstanding service to our residents. Let us remember that we are not managing the County’s affairs just for today but that we will be accountable for our actions into the future. We must therefore, be good stewards of the County’s assets and resources that are available to us today.

“While we may debate and disagree, let us remember that we also will be judged on our ability to come together. We must not only operate and manage the affairs of the County today but also contribute to the success of the County tomorrow.

“I consider the State of the County to be healthy and well-managed. I believe this Board, as well as the County’s Administration and Departments, are ready to take on the new challenges that are before us.

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

At the conclusion of Chairman Geraghty’s address, another round of applause was given.

Chairman Geraghty commented that he hoped everyone would take to heart the goals set and he noted that the County would face some challenges in the coming year. He acknowledged and concurred with Supervisor Wood’s prior comments that he was results driven and liked to see goals achieved. Chairman Geraghty commented that he would like to achieve a Budget with a 0% increase and challenged Supervisor Thomas, *Budget Officer*, to achieve this goal; he opined that Supervisor Thomas was the right person for the Budget Officer position and to bring this goal to fruition. He stated that while he understood there would likely be disagreements on certain issues, he hoped all of the Board Members would come together and work cooperatively in 2015.

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

Minutes from:

1. Warren/Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency, Executive Park and Civic Development Committees

Monthly Report from:

1. Probation

Annual Reports from:

1. Warren County Department of Public Works for year ending 12/31/13
2. Adirondack Community College for fiscal year ending 8/31/2014

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp., November 2014 surcharge in the amount of \$4,900

Next, Chairman Geraghty called for the reading of resolutions. Mrs. Sady announced that a motion was needed to bring proposed Resolution Nos. 1-21 to the floor. The motion was made Supervisor Dickinson, seconded by Supervisor Simpson and carried unanimously.

Chairman Geraghty called for any discussion on resolutions or requests for roll call votes.

With respect to proposed Resolution No. 2, *Designating Official Papers*, Supervisor Seeber apprised she had received an email from a representative of *The Chronicle* newspaper asking whether they could be designated as an official paper and she questioned whether this resolution could be amended in the future if a decision was made to make such a change. Martin Auffredou, *County Attorney*, responded

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that a couple of weeks ago he had been approached by Mark Frost, of *The Chronicle*, about this matter, following which he and Mrs. Sady had met with Mr. Frost. Mr. Auffredou explained that each year the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution designating official papers as required by County Law which necessitated the identification of two newspapers. He pointed out that *The Post Star* had been one of the designations for many years, in addition to the *North Creek News Enterprise*, which according to information received from Supervisor Vanselow, was now known as the *News Enterprise*. Mr. Auffredou indicated there had been some question as to whether the *News Enterprise* met the legal definition of an official newspaper, but noted it was clear that *The Post Star* did qualify. He said he would prefer to discuss this matter at the next meeting of the Support Services Committee in order to expound upon the history of the designation of official papers, as well as the options available. Mr. Auffredou commented there had been some question as to whether a second newspaper designation was even necessary, and as per his conversations with officials at the Secretary of State's Office, it appeared that they could designate just one official newspaper; however, he added, there was some school of thought that the second newspaper designation made sense, especially for notifications to the northern Warren County residents. He recommended that the Board proceed to approve the designations, as presented in proposed Resolution No. 2, and allow him to bring the matter to the Support Services Committee for further discussion, possibly resulting in future revision to the resolution.

Supervisor Beaty requested clarification as to whether approving proposed Resolution No. 2, as presented, would prevent the Board from making a change to the designated newspapers later in 2015 and Mr. Auffredou replied in the negative, confirming that the resolution, and the designations, could be changed in the future if the Board desired to do so. Supervisor Beaty then questioned whether the objective in choosing the designated newspapers was to strategically reach as many residents as possible and Mr. Auffredou replied affirmatively; Mr. Auffredou added that further discussion and consideration on this matter was necessary to determine whether this objective was being achieved.

Chairman Geraghty called for any requests for roll call votes and none were made. He then offered privilege of the floor to any members of the public wishing to comment on resolutions.

Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, stated that just a few months ago the public was not allowed to make comments at this time and he commended the change made to offer the opportunity for public comment before a vote on resolutions was taken, adding that this was a positive step. He also commended Mrs. Sady for her efforts to ensure that resolutions were posted on the County website at least three days in advance of a Board Meeting to allow the public to participate in the meetings to a much greater degree than in the past. With reference to proposed Resolution No. 1, *Adopting the Rules of the Board of Supervisors*, Mr. Whitehead advised the Rules of the Board included a section pertaining to the provision of resolutions (*Section A(5)*), basically indicating that the Board cannot consider any resolutions not included in the packet mailed to the Board Members by the Clerk of the Board on the Tuesday before the Board Meeting without first obtaining a simple majority vote of the Board to do so. He opined that the second part of this clause, allowing for un-mailed resolutions to be considered following a simple majority vote, was problematic because it circumvented some of the transparency measures he had previously complimented. As an example of this situation, Mr. Whitehead cited proposed Resolution No. 21, *Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2015 and Authorizing Public Hearing Thereon*, which was approved at the Health Services Committee meeting earlier that morning and was not presented in writing for review by either the Board Members or the public in advance of the Board Meeting. He said while he could understand there were times when a resolution needed to come before the Board in a timely fashion, he would hope that they would all recognize this was not the best of circumstances and that it was better to have matters first considered by the appropriate Committee to approve a resolution that would be available for public review prior to being considered by the Board. In the case of proposed Resolution No. 21, which was necessary to

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circumvent County Law 215, Mr. Whitehead said this short-circuited public comment to a great degree, causing many concerns in his mind. He explained that County Law 215 required a super majority vote, while proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2015 would only require a simple majority vote for approval, which was a lesser standard. Additionally, Mr. Whitehead pointed out County Law 215 stated that the Westmount Health Facility must be declared not necessary for public use, which should have been done some time ago, and it also required that the highest bid be accepted, which had not been done; he noted that another bid, which was about 50% higher than the one accepted, had been received but was not accepted. Returning to his original point, Mr. Whitehead said he hoped the Board would consider amending the language of the Rules of the Board to make it a little more difficult to bring these last minute resolutions to the floor. Chairman Geraghty assured Mr. Whitehead that this issue would be referred to the Legislative & Rules Committee for their review and consideration.

Mr. Beaty requested that a roll call vote be taken for proposed Resolution No. 1, *Adopting the Rules of the Board of Supervisors*.

In regards to proposed Resolution No. 18, *Amending Resolution No. 69 of 2014 - Authorizing Amendment Agreements with Various Municipalities for Roadway Maintenance to Increase the Rate Paid by the County to Municipalities*, Supervisor Conover questioned whether the totals listed reflected the difference between the old and new rates of pay. Supervisor Wood explained that the chart included in the resolution provided a breakdown of the amounts paid for certain services and Chairman Geraghty pointed out that the information provided simply pertained to the new rates of pay and did not make comparisons to the previous rates. Supervisor Conover also pointed out proposed Resolution No. 17, *Authorizing Amendment Agreements Between Municipalities in Warren County and the County of Warren for Tourism Promotion and Tourism and Convention Development Services - Occupancy Tax*, which would authorize additional occupancy tax funding stipends to the individual towns, as envisioned.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Geraghty called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 1-21 were approved, as presented. One Proclamation (*Commemorating the Ninetieth Anniversary of the New York State Association of Counties*) and five Certificates of Appointment (*Appointing Members of the Warren County Labor/Management Committee; Appointing Member of the Quality Assurance Committee of the Westmount Health Facility; Appointing Representative to the Lake George Watershed Conference; Appointing Member of the Board of Trustees of the Supreme Court Library; and Appointing Members of the Warren County Youth Board*) were submitted.

Chairman Geraghty announced that the listing of Standing Committees for 2015 had been established and copies were distributed to the Board Members by Mrs. Sady. He noted that the list reflected three new chairmanships, specifically for Supervisors Simpson, Vanselow and Seeber. Chairman Geraghty thanked the previous Chairmen and said he looked forward to working with everyone in the new year.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Strough and seconded by Supervisor Merlino, Chairman Geraghty adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Allen, Deputy Clerk of the Board