

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2016**



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 10:04 a.m.

Mr. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Leggett.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Leggett, Girard, McDevitt, Braymer, Brock, MacDonald, Frasier, Simpson, Vanselow, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Seeber, Beaty, Sokol, Thomas, Wood and Geraghty - 19; Supervisor Montesi absent - 1.

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of January 16, 2016 Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Vanselow, seconded by Supervisor Simpson and carried unanimously.

Continuing with the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty called for recognition of graduates of the Warren County Safety Certification Program. Amy Clute, *Self Insurance Administrator*, introduced Michael Needham, *of Needham Risk Management*, who had developed the Safety Certificate Program and would assist with the presentation of the certificates. She advised that she had provided each member of the Board of Supervisors with a schedule of upcoming safety training programs for 2016 and she explained that each of the Safety Certificate Program graduates being honored today had achieved a higher level of safety training than most employees, having completed three core credit courses, as well as three elective credits, for a total of six credits. Ms. Clute noted over the last few years more than 50 people had graduated from the Program. Proceeding with the Certificate presentations, Mrs. Clute and Mr. Needham recognized the following individuals on their achievement of completing the necessary requirements to earn their Warren County Safety Certificate:

- ★ Karin Badey, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ★ Derrick Hanchet, *Town of Warrensburg*
- ★ Amy Hirsch, *Office of Emergency Services*
- ★ Kathy Richardson, *Warren County Department of Public Works*
- ★ Joe Santolin, *Town of Warrensburg*

Chairman Geraghty stated that employees served as the biggest advocates for safety measures and he noted that the safety practices learned at work were traditionally used for both work and home.

Moving on to the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Geraghty read aloud the listing of meetings he had attended since the January Board Meeting; *a copy of the Chairman's report is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting*. He mentioned that the Kraft Foods manufacturing plant located in Lewis County was expanding their facility located there and would be creating an additional 150 jobs. He said that particular facility manufactured all of Kraft Foods Philadelphia Cream Cheese products for them. Chairman Geraghty advised he held a meeting with the Warren County Police Supervisors Benevolent Association on February 11th to discuss a proposed contract with them. He said he hoped to have a proposed contract ready for review at the February 29th meeting of the Finance,

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Personnel & Higher Education Committee. Chairman Geraghty apprised he had attended a meeting pertaining to Workplace Violence on February 17th which he found to be very informative. He indicated over the last two years there had been six to eight reports of workplace violence that occurred at the County. He said the incidents were both internal and external which was why additional steps had been taken to secure the Municipal Center Building and provide radios in cars for Probation Officers and Child Protective Service Case Workers who investigated complaints in the outlying areas of the County to ensure their safety. Chairman Geraghty informed he would continue to advocate for the much needed updates to the radio communication system.

Chairman Geraghty asked Amy Bartlett, *First Assistant County Attorney*, to come forward; he then proceeded to present her with flowers and a certificate of appreciation commemorating her twenty-one years of service to the County. A round of applause followed. Ms. Bartlett apprised she had thoroughly enjoyed her time working for the County. Chairman Geraghty advised that Ms. Bartlett would be returning as a temporary part-time Assistant County Attorney to assist the County Attorney's Office until their office was fully staffed.

Chairman Geraghty then called for reports from Supervisors on the past months meetings or activities.

Supervisor Leggett advised he had attended the Fish and Wildlife Management Board meeting on behalf of the County at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Office on February 4, 2016.

Supervisor Girard announced that Cornell Cooperative Extension was currently offering their VITA (*Voluntary Income Tax Assistance*) Program for residents. He explained the program assisted individuals or families who had a gross income of less than \$54,000 or were disabled with preparing their income tax returns at no charge. He mentioned the services were offered at their facility in Warrensburg on Wednesdays, as well as a number of different locations throughout the region on Fridays and Saturdays. Supervisor Girard apprised that the County Facilities Committee had met on January 26th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 69 and 70, which he provided a brief overview of. He informed that representatives from CPL (*Clark Patterson Lee*) provided a Power Point presentation concerning the additions and renovations for the Warren County Courts; a copy of which was available for review on the County website.

Supervisor McDevitt advised the Economic Growth & Development Committee had met on January 21st, during which Ed Bartholomew, *President, Economic Development Corporation*, provided an overview of some of the new businesses located within the County. He stated he felt that Supervisor Leggett had made an excellent observation when he inquired what a business in the Town of Chestertown had to do to receive broadband service, as access to broadband was imperative for both businesses and children in school. Supervisor McDevitt apprised Mr. Bartholomew had also discussed Just Beverages' commitment to the community and their interest in promoting trail systems and community amenities throughout Warren County. Supervisor McDevitt stated although it had not been mentioned in the meeting, he felt it was important to point out that 1/3 of the food that was produced in the United States, if not the world, related to bee pollination. He said there had been a significant decrease in the bee population in the United States which he felt could be resolved by providing education regarding the impact of pesticides on bees.

Supervisor Braymer informed of the announcement by Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Hochul that the Glens Falls Civic Center had been awarded a \$2 million grant to fund facility improvements and upgrades.

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Supervisors Brock and MacDonald indicated they had nothing to report.

Supervisor Frasier stated she had attended the NYSAC (*New York State Association of Counties*) 2016 Legislative Conference in Albany, New York from February 1-3, 2016. She apprised she was a member of the Standing Committee for Public Health and Mental Health which had approved and forwarded on to the Governor three resolutions, which she provided a brief overview of.

Supervisor Simpson advised that the Public Works Committee had met on January 26th, during which Justin Gonyo, *Saratoga & North Creek Railway (SNCR) General Superintendent*, provided an update on SNCR operations. He apprised that due to the success over the past few years with their dinner trains, SNCR decided to operate ninety-four of them from June 4 to October 28, 2016, of which thirty-one would be dinner trains, twenty-six brunch trains, thirty-two lunch trains and five holiday trains that would serve both lunch and brunch. Supervisor Simpson informed of the Warren County Fish Hatchery's Fishing Clinic & Open House on May 14th which would be promoted by the Warren County Tourism Department. Finally, Supervisor Simpson provided a brief overview of proposed Resolution Nos. 88-91, approved by the Public Works Committee.

Supervisor Vanselow stated that the Support Services Committee had met on January 25th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 49-51, which he provided a brief overview of.

Supervisor Dickinson reported that the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee had met on January 26th, approving proposed Resolution No. 48, *Cancelling or Correcting of Assessments and Refunds of Chargebacks of Taxes*. Supervisor Dickinson apprised he had been asked by the Planning and Community Development Department to advise the Board that it was the tenth anniversary of the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor. He stated that each Town included in the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor was represented in the Master Plan which included photographs and a brief description of the goals for the Town. He mentioned for the tenth anniversary the Planning & Community Development Department would like to update the Mater Plan. He encouraged the Supervisors from the Towns that were part of the First Wilderness Heritage Corridor to respond to the notice pertaining to any updates to the photographs or description of goals for their respective towns as soon as possible, as the Planning & Community Development Department would like to move rather quickly on the updates to the Mater Plan.

Supervisor Merlino advised the Tourism, Occupancy Tax Coordination and Wood Park Committee had met on January 29th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 51-54, which he provided a brief overview of. Supervisor Merlino apprised that the lack of snow this winter had been disappointing for the snowmobile clubs in Warren County; however, he stated, they continued to operate and were hoping for a better season next year. Supervisor Merlino informed he had been busy working with the Tourism Department to meet with different groups, the various Chambers of Commerce and business owners in the private sector to determine how to move forward with the Tourism Department. He mentioned he believed the development of new hotels in the Towns of Lake George and Queensbury attested to the fact that tourism in the County continued to grow. Supervisor Merlino noted the Smith Travel Research Lodging Report had indicated that as compared over the last six years, 2015 had recorded the most hotel bookings that were reported in Warren County. He informed 968,197 rooms were reserved in 2015. Supervisor Merlino stated he had met with members of the Washington County Board of

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Supervisors to discuss promoting events and activities they had in their County that were not available in Warren County and vice versa. He remarked he hoped they were as successful with this as they had been with the bus tours they cross-promoted with Saratoga County. Supervisor Merlino reminded the Board of the traffic study that would be performed for the Route 9 Corridor from the outlets at Northway Exit 20, south to the Glen Drive-In. He apprised he had attended the press conference where Lieutenant Governor Hochul announced the award of a \$2 million grant to the Glens Falls Civic for updates and improvements to the facility. He added the New York State Department of Transportation was also contributing \$1 million for renovations and/or updates to the Rest Area located between Exits 17 and 18 of the Northway.

Supervisor Strough informed that the Legislative & Rules Committee had met on January 26th with an agenda that consisted mostly of organizational items. He advised moving forward they would be discussing amending the Local Law that permitted the sale of fireworks in Warren County, the unfunded indigent defense mandate, a review of the legislation concerning drones, agriculture districts and other forms of County Government.

Supervisor Seeber advised she had attended the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce's event referred to as "Paired-a Celebration of Craft Beverages and Food" with members of the Tourism Department on February 6th at the Lake George Forum. She said the event was a success and it had been very well attended. Supervisor Seeber remarked she felt the County was getting a great benefit from their membership in the Chamber, as they offered many different events that highlighted the efforts of the Tourism Department. Supervisor Seeber apprised she would like to call attention to proposed Resolution No. 79, *Authorizing Lease Agreement between the Adirondack Housing Association, LLC with Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless to Attach a Telecommunications Antenna on the Residence Hall at Adirondack Community College*, which was approved at the February 10th meeting of the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee. She noted the only change was that the antenna would be moved to the Residence Hall. Supervisor Seeber apprised that on February 2nd there was an Investor's Summit at SUNY Adirondack wherein Warren County was challenged by Washington County to form a team to compete against them in Howl Trivia Night. She said she would be distributing an email to the Board inquiring whether anyone was interested in forming a team of six. She explained it would be a friendly competition which supported student scholarships and included dinner and desert at a cost of \$300 per team. Supervisor Seeber reported that she and Supervisor Simpson were members of the Social Services and Public Safety Committees for NYSAC. She provided an overview of the four resolutions that were adopted by NYSAC's Social Services Committee at their meeting in February. Lastly, Supervisor Seeber urged the Board members to support the Governor's Winter Challenge by participating on Warren County's team. She apprised that she and Supervisor Simpson would be participating in the bobsled challenge next Sunday in Lake Placid, New York. She reminded them that the Supervisors who partook in the Governor's Summer Challenge this past year all had an enjoyable time competing against other Counties in the whitewater rafting derby.

Supervisor Beaty stated he had attended a number of Committee Meetings this past month. He remarked going forward in 2016 he would like to see all professional services for the County put out for an RFP (*Request for Proposal*) because he felt this was the appropriate way to ensure they were receiving the best possible value for the taxpayer. He stated even though an RFP was not required in all circumstances to secure professional services, he felt by doing so the County would realize

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significant savings. He apprised, should there be a specific reason why the RFP process could not be used for a certain service, he was open to listening to the justification for such. He pointed out someone had mentioned to him that requiring someone such as CPL to submit a response to an RFP when they had already done the bulk of the work on Court Expansion Project may cause problems; however, he stated, since they had invested a significant amount of time and effort into the Project already it was likely they would come in as the lowest responsible bidder. In regards to the discussion that took place at the February 10th meeting of the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee pertaining to identifying a source of funding in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the construction of a storage building to house Office of Emergency Services equipment, Supervisor Beaty advised he thought the County should use the existing space at the former Ciba Geigy building wherein half of the building was rented to Perkins Recycling and the other half was vacant, rather than spend money to construct a new building. He stated while he sympathized that it was a bit of a distance from the Municipal Center Building, he noted the storage was for the Command Vehicle and not a fire or police vehicle which required quicker response times to emergencies. He added since more than half the population of the County was located in the Town of Queensbury and the City of Glens Falls the vehicle would be more accessible to where it had a higher probability of being used. In conclusion, Supervisor Beaty remarked he believed the County should review the laws concerning the use of occupancy tax funds to determine whether the funding could be allocated toward invasive species prevention and/or control. He said if it was determined occupancy tax funds could be used for this purpose than moving forward the funds should be allocated from the Occupancy Tax Reserve rather than from the general fund, as the lakes in the County had a tremendous impact on the tourism industry in the region. He requested that the County Attorney research whether such use of occupancy tax funds was permitted by law. He noted if they were to move forward with allocating the funds from the occupancy tax reserve rather than the general fund, the \$250,000 budgeted for Invasive Species Prevention could be used to cover a significant amount of the County's annual cost for the NSTEM (*Nursing, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*) Project at SUNY Adirondack.

Supervisor Sokol welcomed Brian Reichenbach as the new County Attorney and wished him well in the position. Supervisor Sokol reported that the Health, Human & Social Services Committee had met on January 22nd, noting the structure of the Committee had changed significantly from last year and now consisted of Employment & Training Administration, Office for the Aging, Social Services, Countryside Adult Home, Public Health and Mental Health. He said they welcomed the new Committee members: Supervisors Simpson, Seeber, Strough, Vanselow, MacDonald and Braymer. He apprised within the next few months meetings would be scheduled at the various facilities to allow the new Supervisors to take a tour and observe what the responsibilities of the Departments were. Supervisor Sokol informed the Committee approved a few requests to fill vacancies within the Office for the Aging. He said the Committee had also approved a number of requests for appointments and contracts for the various Departments which were all addressed by proposed Resolution Nos. 55-60. He stated that the Committee approved requests from Countryside Adult Home to fill the vacant positions of Cleaner, (*Grade 2, Annual Base Salary of \$25,281*) due to resignation and the vacant position of Laborer, (*Grade 2, Annual Base Salary \$25,281*) due to resignation. In regards to the Department of Social Services, Supervisor Sokol reported following a lengthy discussion the Committee approved by majority vote a request to temporarily increase the salary of Cynthia Schrock Seeley, *Deputy Commissioner of Social Services/Chief Legal Counsel*, from \$80,421 to \$87,125, effective January 25, 2016 and continuing on

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a weekly basis while acting as the full-time Commissioner of Social Services for a term not to exceed three months. He informed the request was made because Maureen Schmidt, *Commissioner of the Department of Social Services*, was out on temporary medical leave for an unspecified period of time; therefore, he said, if necessary they would re-address the issue in three months. Supervisor Sokol apprised that Rob York, *Director of Mental Health*, would be doing a short presentation at the February 22nd Committee Meeting pertaining to an overview of the Office of Community Services and the services they provided. In conclusion, Supervisor Sokol stated the Committee had approved some appointments, a grant application and issues had addressed with the Health Services fleet vehicles during the Public Health portion of the meeting.

Supervisor Thomas called attention to proposed Resolution Nos. 66, *Authorizing Disbursement of Funds from Capital District Regional Off-track Betting Corporation to Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District* and 67, *Reappointing Members of the Board of Directors of the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District*, which he provided a brief overview of. Supervisor Thomas advised he had attended the NYSAC 2016 Legislative Conference in Albany, New York from February 1-3, 2016. He apprised he was a member of their Economic Development and Rural affairs Committee which approved two resolutions that were similar to previous resolutions they had adopted concerning electronics recycling and concerns with broadband. He continued, there had also been a discussion concerning the regulations from the State on IDA's (*Industrial Development Agencies*), as well as the increase in minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

Supervisor Wood apprised the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee had met on January 25th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 64-66 which pertained to typical business.

Supervisor Conover stated that the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee had met on February 10th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 46, 47, 71-86 and 93-99. He advised proposed Resolution Nos. 95 and 97 had been approved through the out-of-Committee process. Supervisor Conover indicated that he would like proposed Resolution No. 78 to be tabled and referred back to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee, as it did not accurately reflect what the Committee had approved.

Motion was made by Supervisor Conover, seconded by Supervisor Seeber and carried unanimously to table proposed Resolution No. 78 and refer the matter back to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee for review and discussion.

Supervisor Conover informed there had been a lengthy discussion at the February 10th meeting of the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee concerning the length of time non-Union employees were required to remain employed by the County if they were provided with reimbursement for continuing their education and whether the policy should mirror the policy in place for Union employees following which it was determined that Paul Dusek, *County Administrator*, should prepare a revised policy to standardize employment requirements pertaining to job-related courses for presentation at the February 29th Committee Meeting. Supervisor Conover apprised there had also been considerable discussion regarding what circumstances called for increasing a Deputy Department Head's salary when they were acting in the absence of the Department Head, following which it was determined Mr. Dusek would develop a policy to address these issues for the Committee to review at

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February 29th Committee Meeting, as well. In conclusion, Supervisor Conover informed a lengthy discussion took place regarding the County Administrator's position and whether they should hold off on filling it when Mr. Dusek retired at the end of March and it was determined they would move forward with filling the position without delay; however, he noted, he had asked Mr. Dusek to prepare a time-line outlining the filling of the County Administrator position from advertisement to start date for review at the next Committee Meeting.

Before continuing the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty recognized Sharon Morrison for her 25 years of service to Countryside Adult Home and Anne Greco for her 30 years of service to the Probation Department.

Continuing to the report by the County Administrator, Mr. Dusek advised he had conducted an annual review of the Workplace Violence Prevention Plan and Program that the County adopted pursuant to State law. He explained the focus of the policy was on the type of violent incidences that could happen to an employee by someone from outside the County or in an internal employment setting. He said the policy identified different types of threats or matters the County should protect against. He continued, it set forth certain ideal standards the County could maintain in the workplace that would assist in avoiding incidents of workplace violence as well as a precise criteria for reviewing instances of such. He reported there had been a few occurrences over the past year that were investigated. He informed all occurrences required a Department Head to perform a review and report to him. He said the nature of the particular occurrence determined how far it was escalated. He apprised real serious cases required the Department Head to contact his office immediately so that a team could be established that included the Sheriff's Office. He stated the team immediately set up measures to ensure the particular incident, as well as anything that could flow from it were addressed. Mr. Dusek advised the group designated within the policy met once a year to review all of the incidences that occurred over the past year to determine whether additional measures were necessary to prevent those types of incidences from reoccurring in the future, as well as whether revisions to the policy were required. The last element to the policy, he apprised, was to ensure that all employees had completed the annual training that was required of them. He indicated during the annual meeting with the safety team it was noted that there was no formal training for the members of the Board; therefore, he said, this would be addressed within the coming months. Mr. Dusek pointed out there were some revisions to the policy pending before the Support Services Committee which would be addressed at the February 22nd Committee Meeting. He encouraged the Board to review the proposed changes prior to the Committee Meeting. He mentioned all of the changes were required in order to be compliant with the standards the County needed to maintain.

Mr. Dusek informed that the New York State Auditor's Office had contacted him regarding an audit they would be conducting of the County. He said this was not an unusual occurrence, as they conducted audits on municipalities upon occasion.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Reichenbach to provide the report by the County Attorney. He called attention to proposed Resolution Nos. 71, 75 and 95, which he provided a brief overview of. He said the aforementioned resolutions were required to restructure his Office and assist with the transition to new employees once they were hired. Mr. Reichenbach remarked that he appreciated the

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knowledge and level of professionalism Ms. Bartlett had brought to the County Attorney's Office and he thanked her for the assistance she provided him with. A round of applause followed.

Resuming the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty called for the reading of communications, which Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, read aloud, as follows:

Reports from:

1. Report of Criminal and Family Workloads for December 2015 from the Warren County Probation Department;
2. Pro Act Warren County Discount Card Utilization Report for January 2014-January 2016; and
3. Warren County 2015 Annual Corporate Compliance Report as submitted by JoAnn McKinstry, Warren County Corporate Compliance Officer.

Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corp. December 2015 Surcharge check in the amount of \$4,201.00.

Correspondence from NYSAC dated February 8, 2016 containing the official resolutions adopted by County delegates at the NYSAC 2016 Legislative Conference held in Albany, NY.

Notice of Violation and Order to Comply from the New York State Department of Labor pertaining to a violation of the Public Employee Safety and Health Act of 1980 at the Employment & Training Administration Office, as well as the response from the Warren County Self-Insurance Administrator addressing said violation.

Letter from Paul Dusek announcing his intent to retire from County service effective March 29, 2016.

Chairman Geraghty called for the reading of resolutions. Mrs. Allen advised proposed Resolution Nos. 46-87 were mailed; she informed Resolution No. 78 had been tabled earlier in the meeting. She stated that proposed Resolution Nos. 88-99 were prepared after mailing and a motion was needed to bring them to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Girard, seconded by Supervisor Simpson and carried unanimously.

Chairman Geraghty then called for discussion/public comment on resolutions and requests for roll call votes.

Supervisor Strough thanked Chairman Geraghty, Julie Butler, *County Purchasing Agent*, and Mr. Dusek for securing a vendor for electronic waste recycling that the towns participating in the Intermunicipal Agreement with the County for solid waste and recycling transportation and disposal services could use as indicated by proposed Resolution No. 91, *Amending Resolution No. 560 of 2015 to Allow the Towns to Participate in Electronics Recycling (Wc 82-15)*. He pointed out according to New York State law the manufacturers were supposed to provide for a method of electronic recycling and not the municipality which was why he was asked to go before the New York State Assembly Department of

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Environmental Conservation Assembly Conservation Oversight Committee next Wednesday with Assemblyman Stec to discuss issues with electronic waste and the impact on local governments. He said he would advocate for a solution that would take the burden off of local governments; however, he noted, he was pleased that the County had a vendor in place that would handle electronics recycling until something else was in place.

Supervisor Seeber requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 73. She said she did not want to personalize this, as she felt the Deputy Commissioner of Social Services/Chief Legal Counsel was working very hard; however, she noted, she wanted to echo the comments of Supervisor Conover that in an effort to be consistent and fair to both current and previous employees she felt it was important to have a policy in place regarding what circumstances called for increasing a Deputy Department Head's salary when they were acting in the absence of the Department Head before approving the proposed resolution. She pointed out Ms. Schmidt had acted as the Commissioner of Social Services for seven pay periods before she was appointed to the position during which time she received no additional compensation as was the case with several other Deputy Department Heads who had acted as the Department Head for extended periods of time. She indicated she believed the policy should have a set time frame for when additional compensation would be provided in these circumstances, such as three months. She added she would like to have the option to approve the request for the increase in salary for Ms. Schrock Seeley to be retroactive once a policy was in place which was why she would be voting in opposition of the proposed resolution today.

Chairman Geraghty called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 46-99 were approved as presented, with the exception of Resolution No. 78 which was tabled.

Chairman Geraghty informed that a representative from NYSAC was unable to attend today's Board Meeting but would be attending the March 18th Board Meeting to discuss the different types of County Government in New York State; he added that because of this attendance, next months meeting would remain at its regularly scheduled date and time. Chairman Geraghty informed he was working with Supervisor Wood on a response to the letter from the Mayor of the City of Glens Falls concerning his request to consolidate the City of Glens Falls Police Department with the Sheriff's Office. He reported a copy of the letter was distributed to the Board Members and the matter would be discussed at the February 29th meeting of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee. Chairman Geraghty stated a 2/3 majority vote by the Board would be required if there was a desire to change the time of the April 15th Board Meeting from 10:00 a.m. to either 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. Chairman Geraghty asked for an informal show of hands whether those present were in favor of holding the meeting at 5:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. The show of hands indicated the majority were in favor of scheduling the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Dusek interjected that a resolution was required to waive the Rules of the Board requiring a resolution to be presented in writing. A motion was made by Supervisor Seeber, seconded by Supervisor Beaty and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Seeber inquired whether it would be possible for purposes of planning to select the Board Meetings that would be changed to night meetings to determine what worked best for the public and Chairman Geraghty replied affirmatively.

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Supervisor Brock mentioned that most people were getting home from work at 5:00 p.m. which would not provide them adequate time to attend the meeting. As a compromise, Chairman Geraghty suggested the proposed time of the April 15th Board Meeting be 5:30 p.m. He added if the Board were to move forward with the night meetings they could alternate the scheduled times between 5:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Supervisor Seeber and seconded by Supervisor Beaty to change the time of the April 15th Board Meeting to 5:30 p.m. A Roll Call vote was taken, following which the motion failed by a 2/3 due to a lack of a 2/3 majority vote with 642 in favor (*Supervisors Leggett, Girard, Braymer, Brock, MacDonald, Simpson, Merlino, Strough, Seeber, Beaty, Conover and Geraghty*) and 273 opposed (*Supervisors McDevitt, Frasier, Vanselow, Dickinson, Sokol, Thomas and Wood*) (*Absent: Supervisor Montesi-85*).

Supervisor Beaty inquired whether Supervisor Montesi's absence impacted the amount required in order to obtain a 2/3 majority vote and Mrs. Allen replied in the negative, explaining that Supervisor Montesi counted as absent. Chairman Geraghty apprised if it was the pleasure of the Board the matter could be revisited at the next Board Meeting but as of right now the meeting time for the April 15th Board Meeting remained at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Geraghty called for any additional comments from the members of the Board.

In regards to the Mayor of the City of Glens Falls' request to consolidate the City's Police Department with the Sheriff's Office, Supervisor Beaty remarked he felt prior to the County discussing the matter the City should hold weekly Town Hall Meetings at Crandall Library over the next few weeks to allow the citizens there to voice their opinion on the matter, as his sense was the majority of them were not in favor of. He stated he would not be in favor of supporting this action unless the City residents were afforded the opportunity to voice their opinion on the matter. Chairman Geraghty apprised he had similar concerns that would be included in his response to the Mayor which would be reviewed at the February 29th meeting of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee.

Supervisor Braymer advised she was pleased the matter of police consolidation was being brought back to the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee. She respectfully requested that Supervisor Beaty allow for the Supervisors from the City of Glens Falls to indicate what the citizens of the City were seeking out of the consolidation. Supervisor Beaty remarked he hoped the feedback provided by the Supervisors from the City was reflective of the feedback they received from holding Town Hall Meetings. Supervisor MacDonald interjected that he had scheduled a few Town Hall meetings wherein this matter would be discussed.

There being no further Supervisor comments, Chairman Geraghty offered privilege of the floor to any members of the public wishing to address the Board.

David Strainer, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, reported that The Warren County Association of Realtors had changed their name to The Southern Adirondack Realtors Association. Mr. Strainer advised that the New York State Association of Realtors had awarded their annual Community Service Award to Cindy Mead from Gallo Realty in the Town of Chestertown. He stated one of Ms. Mead's noteworthy accomplishments was being instrumental in creating the Tri Lakes Business Alliance in 2011 which she

served as Secretary for. He said the goal of the Tri Lakes Business Alliance was to draw tourism to Chestertown by sponsoring events such as Adirondack Wool Stock. He commented he thought it would be appropriate to congratulate her publicly for a job well done. A round of applause followed. In conclusion, Mr. Strainer stated he was upset to see that although the County was contributing \$250,000 on an annual basis to the Glens Falls Civic Center there were no advertisements present promoting tourism in the County. He reminded the Board of how the Warren County Tourism logo had previously been displayed on the basketball floor so it was visible for all to see during the basketball tournaments a few years ago but now there was no presence of the logo throughout the entire facility which he felt was absurd since the County was contributing a significant amount of funding to it. He said he hoped this matter would be addressed. Supervisor Merlino advised he would discuss the matter with the management for the facility.

Supervisor Girard remarked he had deep concerns with how the County was moving forward financially, as he believed a revenue source needed to be identified for a number of matters under consideration such as the possible consolidation of the City of Glens Falls Police Department with the Sheriff's Office which would add significant expenses to the County and the radio communications that required upgrading which had not been addressed, as well as the expenses relating to the SUNY Adirondack NSTEM and Court Expansion Projects. He informed he believed it was imperative they commence a discussion concerning a possible increase to the sales tax rate in the County and its present financial standing. He stated the County Treasurer had indicated to him that he had some grave concerns relating to the County's current financial standing and felt he could provide some useful input to the discussion. He apprised he believed the matter should be included on the February 29th Agenda for the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee. He commented he thought an increase in the sales tax rate would allow the County to pay down its debt and provide the additional revenue they required. He added he was open to them including a sunset clause that would permit the increase over a period of years; however, he noted, it needed to be addressed as the additional revenue would cover the cost of the mandated expenses which he did not foresee dissipating in the near future. He apprised he was reluctant to make any more cutbacks within the County Budget since he had observed far too many of them during his eight year tenure as a member of the Board. He pointed out Warren County was one of three Counties within the State where the sales tax rate remained 7%. He said there was a reason so many other Counties had increased their sales tax; therefore, he reiterated, they needed to bring the matter before the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee for further discussion.

Supervisor Merlino reported he had completed his new plan concerning sales tax distribution within the County and had met with the County Treasurer, a number of the Board members, as well as the Mayor for the City of Glens Falls to discuss it. He stated he intended on presenting his plan at either the March meeting of the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee or at the March 18th Board Meeting.

In regards to the night meetings, Supervisor MacDonald advised that while he understood the difficulties relating to a change in schedules he felt it was a disservice to the residents of the County not to afford them a more accessible option to participate in the County operations. He indicated he believed the County should hold at least one meeting per month in the evening to provide the residents the opportunity to participate.

*WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2016*

Supervisor Leggett announced the Tri Lakes Business Alliance was sponsoring the Winter Carnival on Brant Lake on February 20th. He stated that he and Supervisor Simpson would be judges in the frying pan toss event and he welcomed all to attend.

Chairman Geraghty called for a motion to enter into an executive session to discuss a pending litigation matter. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Beaty, seconded by Supervisor Simpson and carried unanimously that executive session be declared pursuant to Section 105(d) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was held from 11:17 a.m. until 12:14 p.m.

Upon reconvening Chairman Geraghty announced no action had been taken during the executive session.

Chairman Geraghty called for any additional announcements to come before the Board.

Supervisor Simpson advised that on March 12th at 3:00 p.m. the North Warren Central School would be having a dedication of their new reading room to Randy Ellsworth who was a former resident of the Town of Chester that had donated over 500 books to the library concerning the Adirondacks and its history. He said former Town of Chester Supervisor Fred Monroe would be speaking along with a few others. He stated Assemblyman Stec and Senator Little had been invited to attend the event as well. He informed the members of the Board would be receiving their invitation to the event shortly.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Sokol and seconded by Supervisor Wood, Chairman Geraghty adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.