

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: YOUTH PROGRAMS

DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2007

Committee Members Present:

Supervisors F. Thomas
Merlino
W. Thomas

Others Present:

Margaret Smith, Director, Youth Bureau
Joan Sady, Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Joan Parsons, Commissioner, Administrative
& Fiscal Services
Hal Payne, Administrator, Westmount Health
Facility/Countryside Adult Home
Cameron Tessier, Glens Falls
Maury Thompson, *The Post-Star*
Katy Goodman, Secretary to the Clerk

Committee Members Absent:

Supervisors Gabriels
Champagne
Girard

In the absence of Mr. Gabriels, Committee Chairman, Mr. F. Thomas, Committee Vice-chairman called the Youth Programs Committee meeting to order at 10:41 a.m. (Please note, Mr. W. Thomas, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, made the quorum with Supervisors F. Thomas and Merlino).

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. W. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Margaret Smith, Director of the Warren County Youth Bureau, who distributed copies of her Agenda for the meeting. A copy of the Agenda is on file with the minutes.

Pursuant to Agenda Item No. 2, Office Relocation, Mrs. Smith pointed out the Youth Bureau's new address of 333 Glen Street, Suite 306, 3rd Floor in the former Continental Insurance Building was shown on the agenda. However, she clarified it should be Glens Falls instead of Lake George. That would be corrected, she added. Mrs. Smith noted they hoped the Committee members would visit the new location.

Mrs. Smith presented a request for approval of a resolution to renew the Department's current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Warren County Employment & Training Administration to provide instructors for youth workshops in the amount of up to \$1,000. She stated this partnership was very successful for last year's workshops. Mrs. Smith apprised the funds for the workshops were in her budget.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino and seconded by Mr. W. Thomas to approve the request, as presented. Following brief discussion, the motion was carried unanimously. A copy of a resolution request form is on file with the minutes, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting.

The next request, Mrs. Smith presented was for approval of a Certificate of Appointment naming Frank Thomas to replace Susan Hoellrich as the Town of Stony Creek's representative on the Warren County Youth Board. She stated Ms. Hoellrich had resigned from the Board because she had moved from the area.

Motion was made by Mr. W. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the aforementioned request, as presented, and to authorize the necessary Certificate of Appointment for the next board meeting. A copy of a resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

Mrs. Smith advised there were still two vacancies on the Youth Board for terms that had expired. She advised the openings were for representatives from the City of Glens Falls and the Town of Horicon. Mrs. Smith stated she would contact Mayor Akins, of Glens Falls, and Supervisor Bentley, of Horicon, regarding potential candidates for the vacancies.

Next, Mrs. Smith reviewed the Updates items listed on the agenda. First, she spoke on Municipal Recreation Program Training Needs. Mrs. Smith stated this was the time of the year that they would find out what kind of training the Municipal Recreation Programs' would need for their Spring and Summer Programs. She noted last year they had collaborated with the County Health Services' Department which had provided some health and safety training for youth in Warrensburg who were going to work for the Town's Summer Program. Mrs. Smith advised she would be talking with the Town Supervisors or the Town Recreation Program Directors to find out what their needs for their Programs would be.

Next, Mrs. Smith spoke on some issues concerning a grant from the USTA (United States Tennis Association) to the New York State Association of Youth Bureaus. She reminded the Committee members that this grant was received last year and that it was used to provide tennis lessons in the County. Mrs. Smith apprised the grant was for approximately \$3,900 and the funds were used to provide tennis lessons in three communities. She stated she had been notified that the grant for this year would be reduced and that they would need to provide lessons in one more community. Mrs. Smith noted the proposal was to add Johnsbury to the communities where the tennis lessons would be provided. However, Mrs. Smith advised she had been further notified that the entire grant for the New York State Youth Bureaus had been withdrawn.

Mrs. Smith advised she understood that a letter to the Board of the USTA for the Eastern Region would help state the case that the grant would be a worthwhile investment for the Association in that it would increase the number of young people who would learn tennis and then become members of the USTA. She stated the lessons had been provided in Warrensburg and Lake Luzerne and the attendance had been very good. Mrs. Smith noted the grant had been for three years. She asked if the Committee members or the Town of Lake Luzerne would send a letter to the USTA in support of the grant and to express disappointment that it had not been renewed. Mrs. Smith explained the funds were not included in the Youth Bureau's 2007 budget; therefore, if the grant were renewed she would bring the request to the Committee to add the funds into the

budget. She said she had a draft of a letter that could be sent to the President of the USTA Eastern Region that outlined a request to continue the grant funds. She noted perhaps Warrensburg would also want to be involved with the letter.

Mr. Merlino, Supervisor of the Town of Lake Luzerne, expressed his support for the program. He stated he thought the Town should send a letter, and he also felt the Committee should send one as well.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. W. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve that the Committee send the aforementioned letter to the USTA Eastern Region.

Pursuant to the NYS Youth Leadership Forum Update, Mrs. Smith thanked the Committee members for their support that had allowed her to take four youth from the County to the State Capitol in Albany a couple of weeks ago so they could participate in the Forum. (*Note: The trip was authorized by Resolution No. 781 of 2006*). She reported they had met with the County's State representatives, Senator Elizabeth Little and Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, and she provided details on the Forum and the visits for the information of the Committee members. Mrs. Smith noted she would have more information from the youth who had attended the Forum at the next Committee meeting.

Concluding the Updates, Mrs. Smith spoke on a part-time Americorps position. She explained that Americorps was a Federal Program where a young person worked in a community-based setting. Mrs. Smith stated she had recently learned that under the Americorps Program there was a 300-hour volunteer-service position that could be provided at no cost to the County. The volunteer would in turn receive a \$1,250 educational award to be used for college, she added. Mrs. Smith noted that Americorps had many different types of positions with various organizations. She said Washington County had several Americorps workers who worked more hours and received a stipend. Mrs. Smith reiterated that the 300-hour position would not cost the County anything.

Continuing, Mrs. Smith stated she was preparing a list of duties that an Americorps volunteer could do for the Youth Bureau if one were placed there. She recalled the issue of the Youth Bureau having an Americorps position that would have a stipend had been discussed by a previous Committee. Mrs. Smith stated the training of the volunteer would also be provided at no cost to the County. The Committee members offered no objection to Mrs. Smith providing the list of duties at the next meeting.

Pursuant to Agenda Item No. 5, Coming Attractions, Mrs. Smith stated the first attraction was the annual Warren Washington Youth Leadership Summit. She announced the Summit would be held on Wednesday, March 14th, at Adirondack Community College and that about 300 students from schools in both Counties would be participating. Mrs. Smith distributed copies of a brochure entitled "Through the Open Door" which she said outlined the workshops that would be provided at the Summit. A copy of the brochure is on file with the minutes. She provided details on the

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event for the information of the Committee members. Mrs. Smith invited the Committee members to attend the Summit.

Concluding the Coming Attractions and the agenda items, Mrs. Smith stated the Warren County Youth Board meeting would be held on March 21st.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion by Mr. Merlino and seconded by Mr. W. Thomas, Mr. F. Thomas adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katy Goodman, Secretary to the Clerk