WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: COUNTY FACILITIES

DATE: APRIL 20, 2016

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:	**OTHERS PRESENT:**
SUPERVISORS: GIRARD	JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WOOD	FRANK MOREHOUSE, SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILDINGS
STROUGH	ROSS DUBARRY, AIRPORT MANAGER
CONOVER	BRIAN LAFLURE, FIRE COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
SEEBER	KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
MONTESI	BRIAN REICHENBACH, COUNTY ATTORNEY
BRAYMER	AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SIMPSON	FRANK E. THOMAS, WARREN COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER
LEGGETT	SUPERVISORS DICKINSON
MACDONALD	FRASIER
COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:	MCDEVITT
SUPERVISOR: BEATY	MERLINO
	SOKOL
	RICHARD SCHERMERHORN, SCHERMERHORN AVIATION, LLC
	FRED AUSTIN, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
	TRAVIS WHITEHEAD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
	DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
	MOLLY GANOTES, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the April 20, 2016 meeting of the County Facilities Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2016/facilities/

Mr. Girard called the meeting of the County Facilities Committee to order at 9:31 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Jeffery Tennyson, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, who distributed copies of the Building and Grounds agenda to the Committee members; a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.

Commencing his agenda review, Mr. Tennyson spoke regarding the generator needed for the new court expansion. A brief discussion ensued following which it was decided to bring the matter back to Committee next month.

Next, Mr. Tennyson discussed the easement for the Town of Warrensburg sewer line at Countryside Adult Home. He indicated the project consisted of eliminating the septic system and connecting Countryside to the Town sewer. He said the current design at the facility was a sewer pit with controls and pumps that would need to be updated. He informed a 20 foot easement around the ejection pit was necessary to add a generator in the future. Kevin Geraghty, Chairman of the Board, pointed out the majority of the cost of the work was covered under a grant and the project would increase the value of the property.

Motion was made by Mr. Montesi, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the easement described and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 20th Board Meeting.

Frank Morehouse, Superintendent of Buildings, indicated the last item for discussion was the County owned lower Warren Street property a portion of which was currently leased to D & G Recycling. He stated part of the building could be used to shelter Office of Emergency Services vehicles. An outline of the cost required to upgrade the lower Warren Street property to house the Office of Emergency Services vehicles was discussed, following which it was determined to invest no more than $22,000 to prepare the building for use.

Motion was made by Mr. Montesi, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried by majority vote with Supervisors Wood, Seeber and MacDonald voting in opposition to refer the estimate to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee to seek a source of funding for the upgrades.

Travis Whitehead, Town of Queensbury resident, commented the fact that the generator in the Human Services Building had not been looked at in three years was an excuse to un-necessarily spend money. He said the County was not welcome to spend $200,000 for a generator and raise taxes.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Richard Schermerhorn, of Rich Air, who made a Power Point presentation entitled "Airport Expansion." *A copy of the Power Point presentation is on file with the minutes.*

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Schermerhorn presented a request for a forty-year lease agreement. The consensus of the Committee was for the County Attorney to determine what action was necessary to facilitate the request and bring the matter back to Committee.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ross Dubarry, Airport Manager, who distributed copies of the agenda packet to the Committee members; a copy of the agenda packet is on file with the minutes.

Commencing his agenda review, Mr. Dubarry presented a request to authorize an agreement with the Adirondack Balloon Festival for use of the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport for the 2016 Balloon Festival event. He indicated the request included increasing the percentage of donations given to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) to 15% for their help at the Adirondack Balloon Festival. Brian Reichenbach, County Attorney, indicated he had not read the agreement and Mr. Girard asked that this item be brought back to Committee next month.

Next, Mr. Dubarry presented a request to authorize the Superintendent of Public Works to establish an annually recurring parking fee of $10.00 per weekend for the Hot Air RV'er club parking at the Adirondack Balloon Festival. A brief discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Leggett and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 20th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Dubarry introduced a request to increase Capital Project H346, Natural Gas Conversion, in the amount of $27,000, for changes to the gas main and service lines for actual distance vs. estimated distance.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and forward same to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee. *A copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing, Mr. Dubarry presented a request to authorize a grant application in the amount of $525,000, to the Federal Aviation Administration and New York State Department of Transportation for funds to acquire Avigation easements and land acquisitions in approaches to runways 12 & 19. Mr. Dubarry described the details of the acquisitions. He informed the local cost for the project was $25,000 and the deadline for the grant application was June 15, 2016.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 20th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Dubarry then presented a request to authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute Notice of Intent letters to establish Lead Agency as required by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) for the 1,000 foot Runway 119 Extension project.

Following a discussion, it was decided to establish Lead Agency and further review and correct the Environmental Assessment form as necessary.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried by majority vote, with Supervisor Seeber voting in opposition, to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 20th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes.*

Following, Mr. Dubarry presented a request for a new contract for a three year agriculture lease agreement. He said the contract would be for the harvest of hay or other approved agriculture use in the outer fields at the Airport.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 20th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes.*

Next, Mr. Dubarry presented a request to set a public hearing to consider a 30-year lease for New York State Mesonet weather observing site at the Airport.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Montesi and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 20th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Dubarry presented a request for a referral to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee for an intern at the Airport. He notified he was approached by a teacher from the Glens Falls City School that informed him she had students interested in an internship at the Airport. He stated a resolution was in place for the Chairman of the Board to establish interns from colleges and universities; however, he said, high school students were not included. He informed the Career and Technical Education Work Based Learning programs were registered with the Department of Education.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Ms. Seeber and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and forward same to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee.

Privilege of the Floor was extended to Mr. Whitehead who noted that he had not been recognized to make comments prior to the Committee voting on a previous motion; he said this privilege was typically extended to the public before voting and he inquired if this was a new policy. Mr. Girard responded that speakers were recognized at the prerogative of the Committee Chair and noted in the past he had been very liberal in the amount of time he had allowed Mr. Whitehead to speak as opposed to other taxpayers. Mr. Girard stated he was extending privilege of the floor now and he asked Mr. Whitehead to please proceed with his comments.

Mr. Whitehead spoke about the Schermerhorn lease proposal, noting that he was in favor of everything proposed. He recalled action taken a number of years ago to secure a land lease for Environmental Soil Management (ESMI), the rates for which were set at an amount lower than those assessed to Mr. Schermerhorn. He indicated since there was going to be further discussion on the lease rates he hoped they would examine all the lease rates, including those for ESMI, to ensure all were paying the proper amount for their leases. Continuing, he commented on the prior action taken by the Committee to authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute Notice of Intent letters to establish Lead Agency status for the Runway Extension project, opining that he did not feel the County should be serving as Lead Agency. He recalled that when the thirty acre parcel at the Airport was cleared two years ago the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) instructed them to leave an undisturbed vegetative buffer along Queensbury Avenue for a visual screen; he said this was not done and was a direct violation of the permit. Finally, Mr. Whitehead indicated that the Runway Extension Project would impact a critical environmental area present at the Airport called the Marl Fen. He expressed his concern that an acre of Marl Fen would be disrupted with this project and he noted there were only ten acres of such property in the world, gaining its rating of status S1 (State Most Sensitive), G1 (Global Most Sensitive).

Fred Austin, Town of Queensbury resident, informed that according to elderly residents, the Marl Fen was created in the 1950's when soil was excavated for use when constructing the Town of Queensbury School and the Warren County Municipal Building.

There being no further business to come before the County Facilities Committee, on motion made by Ms. Wood and seconded by Mr. Montesi, Mr. Girard adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes, Legislative Office Specialist