

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: TOURISM, OCCUPANCY TAX COORDINATION & WOOD PARK

DATE: JANUARY 12, 2016

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS MERLINO
DICKINSON
CONOVER
SIMPSON
STROUGH
WOOD
LEGGETT

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT:
JOANNE CONLEY, TOURISM COORDINATOR
PETER GIRARD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
JULIE BUTLER, PURCHASING AGENT
ROBERT BLAIS, MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKE GEORGE
MICHAEL CONSUELO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAKE GEORGE REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SEEBER
BEATY
FRASIER
VANSELOW

FRED AUSTIN, FORT WILLIAM HENRY
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
SAMANTHA HOGAN, SENIOR LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Merlino called the meeting of the Tourism, Occupancy Tax Coordination & Wood Park Committee to order at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Merlino, began by welcoming everyone to the first meeting of the Tourism, Occupancy Tax Coordination & Wood Park Committee meeting. He noted the combination of previous Committees was part of the new structure for the 2016. Mr. Merlino advised the purpose of the meeting was to interview potential firms to provide services relative to the request for proposals for a Tourism Consultant to evaluate and analyze the tourism strategies of Warren County, but stated he would allow some informational items before entering into executive session.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Robert Blais; Mayor of the Village of Lake George, who distributed a list of applicants for the 2016 Joint Occupancy Tax Award, *a copy of which can be found on file with the minutes*. He noted, there were eighteen (18) new applicants and had hoped to discuss with the Committee the possibility of increasing the Villages share of the Occupancy Fund for 2016 prior to the meeting for distribution of the Village's funds which was scheduled for the 20th of January.

Mr. Merlino noted that they were not prepared for this discussion and explained that later in month they would meet and discuss the distributions. Mayor Blais stated that he would reschedule the Villages's meeting for after the next Committee meeting.

Privilege of the floor was then extended to Michael Consuleo, Executive Director, Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce, who thanked the Committee for all their support over the years. He also introduced Ron Miller, President of the Board of Directors, and Gary Thornquist, Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Merlino then extended the privilege of the floor to Joanne Conley, Tourism Coordinator, who distributed copies of the 2016 Year - Round Travel Guide to the Committee members, which she spoke briefly about; *a copy of the 2016 Year-Round Travel Guide can be found on file with the minutes*.

Mr. Merlino announced an executive session would be necessary to conduct interviews for a Tourism Consultant as a result of the Request for Proposal.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to enter into executive session to discuss matters leading to the appointment of a particular firm, pursuant to Section 105(f) of the Public Officer's Law.

Executive session was held from 12:48 p.m. until 4:45 p.m.

Mr. Leggett and Ms. Wood left during the executive session.

Upon reconvening, Mr. Merlino announced that no action had been taken during the executive session.

As there was no further business to come before the Tourism, Occupancy Tax Coordination & Wood Park Committee, on motion made by Mr. Dickinson and seconded by Mr. Simpson, Mr. Merlino adjourned the meeting at 4:50 at p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Hogan, Senior Legislative Office Specialist