

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: FINANCE

DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SOKOL
SEEKER
MERLINO
STROUGH
FRASIER
MCDEVITT
SIMPSON
GERAGHTY
VACANT

OTHERS PRESENT:

RONALD CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, ACTING COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER
MACDONALD
MONTESI
MIKE SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
MIKE WILD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
SARAH MCLLENTHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS DICKINSON
BEATY

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the November 14, 2017 meeting of the Finance 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/2017/finance/>

Mr. Sokol called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 11:02 a.m.

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

Copies of the meeting Agenda were distributed to the Committee members and a copy of same is on file with the meeting minutes.

Commencing the Agenda review, Mr. Sokol offered privilege of the floor to anyone present wishing to address the Committee on any matter. There being no response, he proceeded to Agenda Item 1 which pertained to a request from the County Treasurer for Monica Stark, *Senior Account Clerk*, to enroll in Job-Related Courses at SUNY Plattsburg from December 15, 2017 to January 19, 2018; Cost: \$2,500. If this request is approved, Ms. Stark will be due reimbursement of 50% of course costs upon completion with a grade of "C" or better.

Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, informed Ms. Stark had submitted a request which included three courses, but they denied one of them because it was not job-related. Ms. Seeker apprised she felt the resolution request form should state up to \$2,500 in case there were any type of scholarships or financial aide associated with the courses. Mr. Swan interjected that he had reviewed this and determined because it was a short semester there was no grant funding available. Ms. Seeker stated she felt it was necessary to standardize the form to include up to on all of the forms and the Committee members concurred.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 17th Board Meeting.

Continuing with the Agenda review, Mr. Sokol apprised Item 2 concerned a referral from the Park Operations & Management Committee pertaining to a request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$21,052.43 from Budget Code A.691.07, *Deferred Revenue-Gaslight Village Parking Fees*, to the following Budget Codes: A.1625 410, *Gaslight Village Property, Supplies*, (\$4,338.66); and A.1625 413, *Gaslight Village Property, Repair & Maint.-Bldg./Property*, (\$16,713.77) to reimburse the Village of Lake George

for property maintenance associated with the Festival Space of the Charles R. Wood Park. Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 17th Board Meeting.

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. Sokol stated Agenda Item 3 pertained to considering proposals received from various firms with respect to representing the County in prospective opioid litigation. He said Mary Elizabeth Kissane, *Acting County Attorney*, was distributing a list of questions which each perspective law firm was asked and their responses; a copy of which is on file with the minutes. He reminded them Donald Boyajian, *Founding Partner, Dreyer Boyajian, LLP Attorneys at Law*, had made a presentation a few weeks ago on behalf of Simmons Hanly Conroy, *a National Law Firm*, to represent the County in opioid litigation and representatives of the Law Firm of Brindisi, Murad & Pearlman, LLP, as well as Napoli & Shkolnik, PLLC gave their presentations at the November 2nd Committee meeting. He apprised Mr. Beaty had contacted him to express his support of awarding the contract to Napoli & Shkolnik, PLLC, as he believed they had made a better presentation than the other two law firms. Mr. Sokol highlighted the following facts: Dreyer Boyajian, LLP Attorneys at Law, was the only law firm who had prior success with opioid litigation by achieving a settlement of \$75 million on behalf of 5,000 claimants; both Napoli & Shkolnik, PLLC and the Law Firm of Brindisi, Murad & Pearlman, LLP indicated they were willing to have a sliding scale fee and would match each others fees, but Dreyer Boyajian, LLP Attorneys at Law were sticking to their flat fee since they felt cases such as these never settled early; and in regards to their willingness to work with other law firms, Dreyer Boyajian, LLP Attorneys at Law were the only ones who indicated it was not in the County's best interest to work with more than one law firm, but they would work with other law firms on other consolidation activities.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which each Committee member voiced their opinion regarding which law firm they would be in favor of moving forward with; the majority were supportive of retaining Napoli & Shkolnik, PLLC.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt and seconded by Mrs. Frasier to enter into a new contract with Napoli & Shkolnik, PLLC to represent Warren County in the opioid litigation.

Ms. Seeber inquired whether it would be possible to include in the motion that if the County were to recover any money in the lawsuit, these funds would be allocated toward the entities impacted by this crisis such as first responders, social services, etc., as she was concerned the funding would not be allocated properly if one was achieved.

Mr. McDevitt amended his motion and Mrs. Frasier her second to note in the case of a settlement allocating the monies to various areas impacted by the epidemic such as first responders, mental health agencies and the Department of Social Services. Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion was carried unanimously as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 17th Board Meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Finance Committee, on motion made by Mr. Strough and seconded by Mrs. Frasier, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board