

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COMMITTEE: OCCUPANCY TAX COORDINATION**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2017**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS: DICKINSON  
MERLINO  
SIMPSON  
STROUGH  
BEATY  
FRASIER  
MACDONALD  
GERAGHTY  
VACANT

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

REPRESENTING THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT:  
JOANNE CONLEY, DIRECTOR  
PETER GIRARD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
LEISA GRANT, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK  
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
BRIAN REICHENBACH, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD  
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER  
MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER  
SUPERVISORS BROCK  
SEEBER  
SOKOL  
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*  
MOLLY GANOTES, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST  
\*SEE SIGN IN SHEET FOR OTHER MEETING ATTENDEES

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS: LEGGETT  
MONTESI

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*Please note, the following contains a summarization of the February 2, 2017 meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination 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/tourism/>

Mr. Dickinson called the meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee to order at 12:05 p.m.

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. Dickinson provided a brief history of Warren County's Occupancy Tax Law which began the collection of occupancy tax revenues in 2004 and allowed for these funds to be spent to support event, promotion, and administration fees.

Next, Mr. Dickinson spoke regarding the formation of an Occupancy Tax Advisory Group and he informed the members would include himself, Chairman Conover, Supervisors Strough and Merlino; and Robert Blais, Mayor of the Village of Lake George, as well as four hoteliers, an individual from amusements, a business owner from northern Warren County and two members from the area Chambers of Commerce. He noted that if there were additional members of the public were interested in joining the group, they should contact him directly.

Mr. Dickinson notified the County had changed the Occupancy Tax Law guidelines a few years ago to allocate additional funds to the Towns for the events that occurred there. He mentioned he had meetings with Mayor Blais and had some success with discussions regarding occupancy tax.

Following, Mr. Dickinson informed the Glens Falls Civic Center received \$750,000 in occupancy tax revenues to spend over a three-year period which began in 2015. He indicated he had meet with Ed Moore, of the Adirondack Civic Center Coalition, and Jeff Mead, General Manager of the Glens Falls Civic Center, to inquire what their plans were for the remainder of the \$750,000, as well as to determine what they would need to sustain the Civic Center.

Supervisor Strough entered the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

Mr. Dickinson mentioned he had attended a recent New York State Association of Counties meeting where Airbnb had yielded a presentation. He said he was interested in a contract with Airbnb to partner with Warren County as there were already locations with a total of forty-eight rooms that were seeking to sign up with Airbnb. He noted occupancy tax would be collected directly from Airbnb, and Brian Reichenbach, County Attorney, confirmed that the Occupancy Tax Law allowed the County to collect occupancy tax from Airbnb.

Mr. Merlino informed that in 2015 Airbnb earned \$860,000 in revenue from rentals in Warren County.

A discussion ensued.

There being no further business to come before the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, on motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Merlino, Mr. Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 12:31p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Molly Ganotes, Legislative Office Specialist