

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: OCCUPANCY TAX COORDINATION COMMITTEE

DATE: APRIL 24, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: DICKINSON
MERLINO
STROUGH
BEATY
FRASIER
LEGGETT
MONTESI
MACDONALD
GERAGHTY
VACANT

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR: SIMPSON

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT:

JOANNE CONLEY, TOURISM COORDINATOR
LEISA GRANT, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK
RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER

BROCK
HYDE
MCDEVITT
SEEBER
SOKOL

MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER

REPRESENTING ADIRONDACK CIVIC CENTER COALITION:

JEFF MEAD, GLENS FALLS CIVIC CENTER GENERAL MANAGER
ELISABETH MAHONEY, BOARD MEMBER
ED MOORE, SECRETARY

REPRESENTING THE LAKE GEORGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CVB:

MICHAEL CONSUELO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KRISTEN HANIFAN, SPECIAL EVENTS & CONVENTION SALES
DIRECTOR

DOUG MILLER, THE DOME

LAURA KOHLS, BUSINESS OWNER

FRANK DITTRICH, WARREN COUNTY LODGING ASSOCIATION

LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note the following contains a summarization of the April 24, 2017 meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website via this link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2017/occupancy/>

Mr. Dickinson called the meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee to order at 9:41 a.m.

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

Copies of the Occupancy Tax Coordination agenda were distributed to the Committee members and a copy of same is on file with the meeting minutes.

Commencing the review of the Occupancy Tax Coordination agenda, privilege of the floor was extended to Mike Swan, Warren County Treasurer, who provided the Report on Revenues, a copy of which is on file with the meeting minutes. He provided an overview of the report, pointing out the 2016 balance for occupancy tax revenues was \$4,171,995.34, which was a .57% increase over the amount collected for 2015. He also noted that the revenues collected from January 1, 2017 to April 20, 2017 reflected an increase of 18.11% over the amount collected for the same term in 2016.

Privilege of the floor was then extended to Jeff Mead, Glens Falls Civic Center General Manager, who gave an update on the first quarter of 2017. He provided an overview of the past events at the Civic Center and what upcoming events would be held which included: college and high school graduations; a British pop rock band called 1975; WWE wrestling; and a possible film shoot in Heritage Hall.

A discussion ensued about future upgrades to the Civic Center building and the bid lost to Binghamton for the New York State Boys Basketball Tournament.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Elisabeth Mahoney, Board Member of the Adirondack Civic Center Coalition, who stated she typically provided two quarterly reports before the meeting (the Upcoming Events Report and the Performance Report) but she had only submitted the Upcoming Events Report and would be e-mailing the Performance Report after the meeting. Ms. Mahoney presented a request for Adirondack Civic Center Coalition 2017 second quarter funding in the amount of \$95,000.

Motion was made by Mr. MacDonald, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the disbursement as requested.

Next, Mr. Dickinson proposed forming an Occupancy Tax Advisory Group consisting of up to 14 members to meet once a month, outside of the Municipal Center Building at the convenience of the members of the group. He provided a list of proposed group members, as established by the Warren County Lodging Association. He apprised the list of names included himself as Chairman of the Occupancy Tax Committee, as well as Mr. Merlino, Vice-Chair of the Committee, Chairman Conover and Mr. Strough. He advised suggestions could be made to alter the group membership or add members.

A motion was made by Mr. Montesi and seconded by Mr. Merlino to establish the Occupancy Tax Advisory Group, to consist of up to 14 members, and to appoint the list of suggested individuals to same.

A discussion ensued involving the group membership, during which it was determined that Mr. Strough was not included on the list provided, as Mr. Dickinson had indicated, and should be added. It was also determined that Mr. Moore should be added to the group membership, as well as Doug Miller, of The Dome.

The aforementioned motion was amended to expand the membership of the group to 20 members, including Messrs. Strough, Moore and Miller, as well as to authorize the Chairman of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee to appoint members to the remaining three vacant positions, as well as any subsequent vacancies that should arise. The motion was carried by unanimous vote and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 19th Board Meeting. *A copy of the revised resolution request and membership list is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing to Pending Items, Chairman Dickinson advised he was working on setting up a presentation by representatives of Airbnb. A brief discussion ensued before privilege of the floor was extended to Michael Consuelo, Executive Director, Lake George Chamber of Commerce and CVB, who indicated that the a Legislative Breakfast would be held on May 12th at Courtyard by Marriot where a discussion on Airbnb would take place. Frank Dittrich, of the Warren County Lodging Association, indicated that while a presentation by Airbnb may be valuable to the Committee, it was important to keep in mind that the business community had an alternate viewpoint which should be considered in these discussions and he hoped they would be given the opportunity to lead discussions amongst the Committee on this, as well.

There being no further business to come before the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, on motion made by Mr. Montesi and seconded by Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board