

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: OCCUPANCY TAX COORDINATION COMMITTEE

DATE: MAY 22, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

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
SOKOL
MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
REPRESENTING THE LAKE GEORGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CVB:
MICHAEL CONSUELO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KRISTEN HANIFAN, SPECIAL EVENTS & CONVENTION SALES
DIRECTOR
DAVID KENNY, WARREN COUNTY LODGING ASSOCIATION
FRANK DITTRICH, WARREN COUNTY LODGING ASSOCIATION
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD
**SEE SIGN-IN SHEET FOR OTHER MEETING ATTENDEES*

Please note the following contains a summarization of the May 22, 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 10:46 a.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, 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 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 Michael Swan, County Treasurer, who gave an update on the 2017 Revenues stating they were up by \$81,432.79 as compared to the same time last year.

Discussion ensued.

Moving on, the Committee revisited the matter of additional funding to the Adirondack Balloon Festival; Mr. Merlino advised the Balloon Festival event had received an additional \$30,000 for years 2015 and 2016 (\$15,000 each year) over what was initially awarded to assist with promotional expenses.

Following a brief discussion with regard to the merits of the event, a motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to amend Resolution No. 555 of 2016 to provide an additional \$15,000 to the Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival, Inc., increasing the total awarded from \$25,000 to \$40,000, with the additional funding to be provided from Budget Code A.881, Reserve, Occupancy Tax, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June 14th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Swan, who provided an outline of the changes he suggested to the County's Occupancy Tax Law to include the collection of revenues for all cottages, bungalows and cabins of four or more units. He noted this change could be made effective January 1, 2018. *A copy of the outline provided by Mr. Swan is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Mr. MacDonald entered the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

A discussion ensued regarding the changes Mr. Swan proposed, following which a motion was made by Mr. Montesi, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to request that the County Attorney review the suggested amendments and provide an opinion of same at a future Committee meeting.

Concluding the agenda review, Mr. Dickinson addressed the Pending Item listed, apprising he had no further information to provide on Airbnb but said he would include this item on next month's agenda.

Mr. Leggett noted there were vacancies remaining on the Occupancy Tax Advisory Committee and he said he had someone in mind he would like to nominate for one of them. Mr. Dickinson apprised he had recently received another nomination and would review and consider both. He noted the first meeting of the Advisory Committee had good attendance and productive discussions were held.

There being no further business to come before the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, on motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mrs. Frasier, Mr. Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

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