

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: BUDGET

DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS THOMAS
MERLINO
WILD
SOKOL
BEATY
DICKINSON
GERAGHTY
FRASIER
MCDEVITT

OTHERS PRESENT:

RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISORS DRISCOLL
MAGOWAN
SIMPSON
TAMMIE DeLORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
GINA MINTZER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAKE GEORGE REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & CVB
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST-STAR*
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS STROUGH
DIAMOND

Please note the following contains a summarization of the November 20, 2018 meeting of the Budget 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/2018/budget/>

Mr. Thomas called the meeting of the Budget Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. Wild 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 minutes.

Mr. Thomas stated the purpose of today's meeting was to review agreements and contracts that Warren County had with various agencies and organizations.

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. Thomas presented the following requests:

- A) To authorize the agreement with Economic Development Corporation, Warren County, New York in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for the purpose of promoting and publicizing the advantages of Warren County and to promote economic development, job creation and workforce development in the Warren County region.

Mr. Beaty stated he was in support of the cost reduction and in the future would like to see the amount reviewed each year.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Wild and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- B) To authorize the agreement with Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board for Warren County's share of the actual cost of operation of the Review Board, for the amount of \$7,500.

Mr. Geraghty stated the organization had made strides to protect Towns in the park and there was more work to be done but he believed it was moving in the right direction, despite the loss of Fred Monroe, *former Executive Director, Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board*.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- C) To authorize the agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Warren County to provide youth a residential camping experience in Warren County at Skye Farm Camp, East Schroon River Road, Warrensburg, New York 12885, for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- D) To authorize the agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Warren County for educational work in Agriculture, Home Economics and 4-H for an amount not to exceed \$451,467.

Mr. Geraghty noted the amount of this agreement was cut in 2009 and was finally rebounding to the prior funding level; he said they were headed in the right direction. Mr. Beaty commented he had been on the Committee and was in support of the program, as they had represented due diligence in using the funding with minimal waste.

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 December 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- E) To authorize payment to Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board in the amount of \$12,954 as Warren County's proportionate share in conjunction with the other participating Counties of Clinton, Essex, Hamilton and Washington.

Mr. Geraghty inquired what amount the other Counties were contributing and Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, replied the only County that had not responded was Essex County, but Clinton, Hamilton and Washington Counties had agreed to pay the increased rate. Mr. Wild asked how much the payment had increased and Mr. Thomas replied the amount had increased by \$5,954.

A brief discussion ensued.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and the motion was carried by majority vote, with Mr. Sokol abstaining, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- F) To authorize payment to the Southern Adirondack Library System in the amount of \$45,000.

Mr. Geraghty inquired if some of the small libraries received a portion of the distribution and the majority stayed in the Crandall Library and Mr. Thomas replied affirmatively. Mr. Beaty inquired if the amount had been the same last year and Mr. Thomas replied he had initially proposed to increase the funding amount by \$5,000 for 2019, but subsequently chosen to continue the 2018 funding amount.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the

request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- G) To authorize an agreement with the City of Glens Falls for capital improvements to the Coles Woods, East Field and Crandall Park Recreation Ice Rink for operation and maintenance or capital improvements of said facilities, for a total funding amount of \$99,000.

A discussion ensued regarding the regional nature of the facilities funded by this contract and the fact that they were open to use by all Warren County residents and visitors and were not exclusive to City residents. During this discussion, a suggestion was made to use occupancy tax monies to fund this contract, rather than budget funds. When asked for guidance as to whether this was an appropriate use of occupancy tax funding, Mary Elizabeth Kissane, *County Attorney*, advised that the funds could be used in this manner. Upon further consideration, it was the consensus of the majority of the Committee to approve the request as presented and consider changing the source of funding during the 2020 Budget development process.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried by majority vote, with Messrs. Wild and Sokol voting in opposition, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- H) To authorize an agreement with the Adirondack North Country Association for promotional and economic development in Warren County, for an amount of \$3,000.

Mr. Geraghty inquired what benefits the Adirondack North Country Association presented to Warren County. Mr. Thomas apprised the organization promoted green energy and businesses. Mr. Wild stated he would like to see the organization coordinate their services and the funds expended which were contributed to them by the County and present those findings to the Committee. Mr. Simpson explained the organization worked on reusable energy, as well as promoting libraries as hubs to promote business and home businesses in the community. Mr. Geraghty suggested the organization provide a report next year detailing what services had been provided to the County.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild, seconded by Mr. McDevitt, and carried by majority vote, with Messrs. Geraghty and Merlino voting in opposition, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- I) To authorize an agreement with the Warren County Historical Society in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- J) To allocate funding earmarked for the purpose of combating aquatic invasive species in 2019 with \$150,000 of the \$250,000 being earmarked for distribution to towns having lakes located within Warren County other than Lake George.

Mr. Beaty inquired why Lake Sunnyside, located in the Town of Queensbury, did not qualify for funding as he was frequently asked this question by his constituents. A brief discussion ensued during which it was explained that this water body did not qualify for County funding because there was no public access.

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 December 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Dickinson entered the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

- K) To authorize the agreement with Lake George Park Commission in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the Commission's 2019 boat inspection and boat washing program.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- L) To authorize agreement with Lakes to Locks Passage for promotional and economic development in Warren County, for an amount of \$2,000.

Mrs. Frasier inquired whether a report was submitted to the Committee regarding the services provided by this group and Mr. Geraghty replied the agreement was made long ago by the Planning Department. Mr. Sokol suggested the Lakes to Locks Passage attend a future meeting to give a presentation on the benefits they provided to Warren County.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- M) To authorize payment to the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District for 2019 in the amount of \$339,355.

Mr. Wild inquired if the funds were used as matching grant funds and Mr. Thomas replied that while the funds could be used for that purpose, they were primarily used for salaries. Mr. McDevitt commented he was impressed with the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District and he said they did great work. Mr. Geraghty stated the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District often bailed out the Towns and Mr. Merlino concurred.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Geraghty and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Chairman Conover apprised all of these items would normally have been presented at the annual Organization Meeting held at the beginning of January, but for the second year in a row they were being reviewed ahead of time to allow for Committee review and questioning before the resolutions were brought to the Board. He noted that last year they were reviewed in a special meeting of the Finance Committee, but this year the decision was made to have the Budget Committee review and approve them, and he thanked Mr. Thomas for his cooperation.

There being no further business to come before the Budget Committee, on motion made by Mr. Beaty and seconded by Mr. Geraghty, Mr. Thomas adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

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