

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: AUGUST 13, 2018

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS: McDEVITT  
BEATY  
LEGGETT  
BRAYMER  
HOGAN  
MAGOWAN  
SIMPSON  
WILD

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD  
AMY LAVINE, ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER  
SUPERVISORS DIAMOND  
DICKINSON  
GERAGHTY  
HYDE  
LOEB  
MERLINO  
SOKOL  
MIKE SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER  
WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER  
TRAVIS WHITEHEAD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT  
GINA MINTZER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAKE GEORGE CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE & CVB  
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*  
THOM RANDALL, *ADIRONDACK JOURNA*,  
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

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**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

SUPERVISOR: STROUGH

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the August 13, 2018 meeting of the Economic Growth & Development 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/economic/>

Mr. McDevitt called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 10:40 a.m.

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

Mr. McDevitt apprised the purpose of today's meeting was to review and approve the bylaws of the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board. He remarked a significant amount of good work had been done to address the concerns pertaining to the Regional Planning Board by Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, Chairman Conover and Messrs. Merlino and Strough.

Ms. Braymer stated she had hoped representatives from the Regional Planning Board would be present today, but they were not. She inquired whether the Regional Planning Board was exempt from the special language that organizations who were overseen by the ABO (*Authorities Budget Office*) were required to include in their bylaws and Mr. Moore replied in the affirmative. She asked whether the County had any control over the Regional Development Corporation the Regional Planning Board was affiliated with and Mr. Moore responded that this was an issue the Board of Director's for the Regional Planning Board was working on.

Mr. Leggett pointed out the bylaws were adopted by the Regional Planning Board on July 25<sup>th</sup> which meant the Committee would essentially be ratifying their actions, and Mr. Moore concurred. Mr. Moore advised a representative from each of the member Counties had been appointed to the Governance Committee to develop these bylaws, on which Mr. Strough represented Warren County. He added a

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number of amendments were brought forward from the floor at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting,

A motion was made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Beaty to approve the bylaws of the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board as presented.

Mr. Beaty remarked while he believed they were moving forward in the right direction, he was concerned that the questionable actions taken in the past, such as some of the loans authorized by the Loan Committee, would be forgotten. He said they had a responsibility keep these in mind to ensure that they were fully addressed and never repeated. He added that he would like his thoughts conveyed to the Chairman of the Regional Planning Board since no one was present from their organization today.

Ms. Braymer apprised she thought one of the reasons the Regional Planning Board was not overseen by the ABO related to the fact that the County, as one of its members, was responsible for supervising them. She added she concurred with Mr. Beaty that they could not overlook the past mistakes, as they were responsible for ensuring these were never repeated.

A discussion ensued following which Mr. McDevitt called the question and the motion to approve the Bylaws of the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board was carried unanimously.

Mr. McDevitt offered privilege of the floor to anyone present wishing to address the Committee on any matter.

Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, advised since it was budget time he would like the Committee to request that the representatives of the EDC (*Economic Development Corporation*) and the LDC (*Local Development Corporation*) bring forth their financials so it could be determined whether they were already carrying too much cash on their books; he noted the County's annual contribution to the EDC was \$350,000 and \$50,000 was provided to the LDC. He informed according to the last audit completed on the EDC, their organization carried well over \$1 million in assets of which over \$850,000 was considered cash and similar. He questioned why they required to have \$850,000 in a "rainy day fund" when they only had \$600,000 in expenditures. He pointed out school districts were only allowed to carry up to 4% in their fund balance and yet the EDC was carrying well over 100%. He apprised the question before them was what a reasonable value for the EDC's "rainy day fund" should be, as there was no mechanism in place for the County to recapture that other than cutting back on the annual contribution over a few years span until the balance reached a point that everyone agreed was more appropriate. He suggested they work on coming up with this target figure and then adjust the annual contribution accordingly so that it could be met within a few years.

A discussion ensued following which it was the consensus of the Committee that they request that Ed Bartholomew, *President, EDC*, provide an explanation regarding the "rainy day balance" at the next Committee meeting.

As there was no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. Wild and seconded by Mr. Beaty, Mr. McDevitt adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board