

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: FINANCE

DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SOKOL
MERLINO
STROUGH
BEATY
FRASIER
MCDEVITT
GERAGHTY
BRAYMER
HYDE

OTHERS PRESENT:

RONALD CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS DRISCOLL
LEGETT
LOEB
MAGOWAN
WILD
JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MIKE SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
ROBERT LYNCH, DEPUTY COUNTY TREASURER
KEVIN HAJOS, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
CHRIS BELDEN, ASSISTANT COUNTY PLANNER
REPRESENTING OFFICE FOR THE AGING:
DEE PARK
ROSEANN O'ROURKE
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS SIMPSON
DICKINSON

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the February 1, 2018 meeting of the Finance 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/finance/>

Mr. Sokol called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 11:20 a.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried by majority vote, with Ms. Braymer abstaining, 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 meeting minutes.

With regard to privilege of the floor, Mr. Sokol stated although privilege of the floor was always available at the beginning of the meeting, he was also going to offer it at the end of the meeting to allow individuals to comment on the matters that had occurred.

Commencing the Agenda review, Mr. Sokol offered privilege of the floor to anyone present wishing to address the Committee on any matter. There being no response, he moved on to Agenda Item 1 which consisted of a request for transfer of funds as attached for Committee approval.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Mr. Sokol advised Agenda Item 2 pertained to a referral from the County Facilities Committee, *Airport*, regarding a request to increase Capital Project H359, *Airport Upgrade Fuel Farm*, in the amount of \$7,007.87.

Kevin Hajos, *Deputy Superintendent of Public Works*, apprised this request was a result of an unforeseen condition they discovered during the construction. Mr. Sokol asked if the funds were available within the

budget and Mr. Hajos replied affirmatively.

Motion was made by Mr McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting. **Subsequent to the meeting it was determined this action was not necessary as the funds were already available within the Capital Project; there would be a change order in this amount which would be approved by the Deputy Superintendent of Public Works pursuant to authority granted by Resolution No. 601 of 2008.**

Moving along, Mr. Sokol apprised Agenda Items 3A-G involved the following referrals from the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee:

- 3A) *Office of Emergency Services*- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$2,892.36 to carry over unused funds from the FY15 State Homeland Security Grant Program.
- 3B) *Office of Emergency Services*- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$18,270.33 to carry over unused funds from the FY16 State Homeland Security Grant Program.
- 3C) *Office of Emergency Services*- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$12,773.87 to carry over unused funds from the FY15 Hazmat Grant Program.
- 3D) *Office of Emergency Services*- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$119,504.10 to carry over unused funds from the FY16 Hazmat Grant Program.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the requests as outlined above and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

- 3E) *Sheriff*- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$523,375 to carry over unused funds from the 2016 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant.

Mr. Strough requested an explanation on the request and Mr. Geraghty responded this related to the carry over of unused grant funds.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

- 3F) *Sheriff*- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$7,392 to reflect receipt of insurance recovery funds from a motor vehicle accident.
- 3G) *Sheriff*- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$3,020.17 to reflect receipt of Insurance recovery funds from two motor vehicle accidents.

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Mr. Sokol advised Agenda Items 4A-C pertained to the following referrals from the Health, Human & Social Services Committee, *Planning*:

- 4A) Request to establish Community Development Fund CD75 in the amount of \$43,237 to administer CFA Grant award for Countryside Adult Home assessment to include the physical structure and its subsystems.

Mr. Geraghty stated the request pertained to a CFA grant which was awarded to review the infrastructure of Countryside Adult Home to determine whether repairs were required. Mr. Geraghty asked Chris Belden, *Assistant County Planner*, if any matching funds were required and Mr. Belden responded in the negative.

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 February 16th Board Meeting.

- 4B) Request to increase Capital Project H347, *Invasive Species Boat Washing Stations*, in the amount of \$482,050 to make adjustments to allocate local matching funds/in-kind services.
- 4C) Request to amend Resolution No. 43 of 2014 to clarify that the \$100,000 to be paid to the Village of Lake George for administration of the boat launch inspection and boat wash program through an intermunicipal agreement between Warren County and the Village of Lake George was to be used as a match to the grant funding. **Note: *Subsequent to the Committee meeting it was determined by the County Treasurer's Office that it was necessary to record a portion of a \$150,000 2015 County contribution to the Lake George Park Commission expended in the General Fund as a local match and State reimbursable expenditures in Capital Project H347, Invasive Species Boat Washing to reflect the latest revision of the project budget agreed by New York State Department of State and Warren County for contract C1000461, with \$129,319 being recorded as local match expenditures and \$16,396.96 as State reimbursable expenditures. The County Treasurer's Office also determined that it was necessary to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$100,000 with a source if funding to be identified to reflect a change in funding for Capital Project H347, Invasive Species Boat Washing, agreed to by New York State Department of State and Warren County for Contract C1000461, as it related to local match. The latest revision to the contract required the \$100,000 advanced from the General Fund to Capital Project H347 to be paid to the Lake George Park Commission for administration of the boat launch inspection and boat was program now be used as local match so an appropriation from the General Fund is needed to record the cost as a transfer of a local match instead of an advance.***

Mr. Sokol apprised he had requested that Mr. Belden attend the meeting today to clear up some confusion involving the aforementioned requests. Mr. Belden explained the County Planning & Community Development Department had taken over the administration of a contract that the DOS (*Department of State*) had awarded to the County which was previously being administered by the Lake George Watershed Coalition. He stated these amendments were in response to the amendments that had been made between the County and the DOS. He mentioned some of these requests were in response to the amendments the Planning & Community Development Department had worked on with the DOS, while others were a result of the prior administration. He informed the first step required was to increase Capital Project H347, *Invasive Species Boat Washing Stations*, in the amount of \$482,050 because the original resolution had only authorized the grant amount which was 50% of the total project cost. He explained it was necessary to account for the remaining \$482,050 in order to make payments to the sub-contractors who consisted on the LGA (*Lake George Association*) and the Fund for Lake George. He continued, once the Capital Project was increased the County could submit for reimbursement from the DOS.

Mr. Geraghty asked what the date of the grant they were discussing was and Mr. Belden replied it was the 2013 grant award. Mr. Geraghty inquired whether this related to the boat washing stations and Mr. Belden replied in the affirmative. He explained the purpose of the grant was to assist with funding the establishment of the boat washing stations. Mr. Geraghty apprised he had been under the impression the grant they were discussing had been submitted by the County and Mr. Belden replied affirmatively. He explained the Lake George Watershed Coalition had requested that the application be applied for through the County; therefore, he stated, the contract was between the DOS and the County, but the administration of the grant was to be handled by the Lake George Watershed Coalition. He advised as a result of the fallout with the prior Executive Director of the Lake George Watershed Coalition the Planning & Community Development Department took over the administration from the Coalition. He informed the work plan included in the contract was amended following the fall out with the Coalition.

A discussion ensued following which a motion was made by Mr. Geraghty and seconded by Mr. Strough to approve the request to increase Capital Project H347, *Invasive Species Boat Washing Stations*, in the amount of \$482,050 as outlined above.

Mr. Wild inquired if any determination had been made by the DOS whether any of these reimbursements

were at risk and Mr. Belden responded that he could not speak to other contracts for this year, but the DOS was comfortable with everything that was included in this particular grant.

Mr. Sokol called the question and the aforementioned motion to increase Capital Project H347, *Invasive Species Boat Washing Stations*, was carried unanimously and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

Continuing to Agenda Item 4C, Mr. Belden apprised there were two requests, the first of which pertained to reflecting changes that had been made with the DOS contract to utilize the \$100,000 that was paid by the County to the Lake George Park Commission. He said the \$100,000 had originally been authorized by Resolution No. 47 of 2014 and then amended by Resolution No. 73 of 2014. He explained \$200,000 was advanced to the Lake George Park Commission at the request of the Lake George Watershed Coalition for the purposes of establishing a boat washing program by the Spring of 2014. He continued, as a result of the DOS being rather slow on producing contracts with its recipients, the grant was awarded in 2013, but no contracts were generated by the DOS until 2016. He informed the original resolutions identified this money as being advanced, thereby causing the Treasurer's Office to identify this as a reimbursable expense; however, he noted an amendment was required to recognize it as a local match.

Mr. Geraghty inquired whether any money was exchanged and Robert Lynch, *Deputy County Treasurer*, replied that \$100,000 was allocated by the County to the Lake George Park Commission to operate the boat washing stations. Mr. Geraghty asked whether the County was supposed to be reimbursed for these funds and Mr. Lynch replied in the affirmative. Mr. Geraghty questioned if the Lake George Park Commission had provided the County with the required reimbursement and Mr. Lynch replied in the negative, explaining no funds would be reimbursed since these funds were being changed to a non-reimbursable local match. He added this was why it was necessary to identify a funding source for the \$100,000. Mr. Geraghty questioned who was responsible for the \$100,000 because he remembered when the County authorized advancing the \$200,000 during which time the County was assured the funds would be reimbursed; however, he noted, it appeared the request before them today indicated that \$100,000 would be used as an in-kind services. Mr. Lynch stated that the Treasurer's Office was not part of the discussions between the Planning & Community Development Department and the DOS regarding this contract. Mr. Belden interjected that the Lake George Watershed Coalition had made the request that the County advance \$200,000 in funding; however, he noted, the work plan put together with the Coalition and DOS only included \$112,731 for the purchase of equipment. He advised the contract his Department worked on with the DOS included all of these funds, but it was not included as a reimbursable expense.

A lengthy conversation ensued following which it was determined that a special joint meeting of the Economic Growth & Development and Finance Committees would be scheduled prior to the February 16th Board meeting to discuss the matter further and invite all entities involved include the LGA and the Fund for Lake George before a decision was rendered. ***Note: subsequent to the meeting it was determined this item could be addressed at the next regular Committee meeting.***

Continuing with the Agenda review, Mr. Sokol informed Agenda Items 5A-B pertained to the following referrals from the Health, Human & Social Services Committee:

- 5A) *Health Services*- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$413.26 to reflect the receipt of funding from the Adirondack Rural Health Network to support the NAS (*Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome*) Prevention Agenda Project.
- 5B) *Social Services*- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$30,000 to reflect the receipt of State funding for SEY (*Sexually Exploited Youth*) Preventative Program.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried unanimously to approve the requests as outlined above and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

Agenda Items 6A-C concerned the following referral from the Public Works Committee, *DPW*:

- 6A) Request to establish the following new Road Projects: D.5112.8273, 2018 CR#55 *Valentine Pond Road*,

in the amount of \$180,000; D.5112.8274, 2018 CR#10 Schroon River Road, in the amount of \$215,000; D.5112.8275, 2018 CR#76 Dartmouth Road, in the amount of \$110,000; D.5112.8276, 2018 CR#78 13th Lake Road, in the amount of \$140,000; D.5112.8277, 2018 CR#4 High Street, in the amount of \$210,000; D.5112.8278, 2018 CR#68 Landon Hill Road, in the amount of \$210,000; D.5112.8279, CR#64 East Schroon River Road, in the amount of \$110,000; D.5112.8280, 2018 CR#60 Old Stage Road, in the amount of \$210,000; D.5112.8281, 2018 CR#57 South Johnsbury Road, in the amount of \$215,000; D.5112.8282, 2018 CR#74 Atateka Road, in the amount of \$210,000; D.5112.8283, 2018 CR#3 Warrensburg Road, in the amount of \$220,000; and D.5112.8284, CR#36 Valley Road, in the amount of \$336,190.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

- 6B) Request to increase Capital Project H374, *Warrensburg Fuel Farm*, in the amount of \$10,000 to cover the cost associated with a repair.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

- 6C) Request to authorize the Chairman of the Board to approve and sign the Just Compensation determination amounts for Capital Project H322, *Palisades Road (CR26) over Brant Lake Inlet Bridge Replacement Project*. **(Please note this request was not previously reviewed and approved by the Public Works Committee).**

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 February 16th Board Meeting.

Proceeding, Mr. Sokol stated Agenda Items 7A-B were comprised of the following referrals from the Support Services Committee:

- 7A) *County Clerk*- Request to amend to Local Law No. 5 of 2016 which imposed the Warren County Local Mortgage Tax to extend it for an additional two years, commencing December 1, 2018 and terminating December 1, 2020.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty and seconded by Ms. Braymer to approve the request to amend Local Law No. 5 of 2016 as outlined above.

Mr. Beaty questioned what the tax rate was and Mr. Sokol responded that it was 1.25%. Mr. Beaty inquired how much revenue was acquired on an annual basis from this tax and Mr. Geraghty replied that about \$900,000 in revenue was acquired on an annual basis.

A discussion ensued during which Mr. Beaty voiced his objection to this tax. Mr. Geraghty called the question and the motion to approve the request to amend Local Law No. 5 of 2016 as outlined above was carried by majority vote, with Mr. Beaty voting in opposition. The necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board meeting.

- 7B) *Information Technology*- Request to appropriate funding in the amount of \$15,700 from the Computer Reserve Fund, *Budget Code A.895*, for the purchase of computers and related equipment and software for various departments.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol stated Agenda Items 8A-C pertained to the following Requests/Items to be Discussed by the County Administrator:

- 8A) Journal Reports of transfers approved by the County Administrator staff since the November 30,

2017 meeting.

Mr. Geraghty advised these were all typical transfers.

- 8B) Request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$199,600 from the Vehicle Reserve Fund to various budget codes to purchase vehicles.

Motion was made by Ms. Braymer, seconded by Mr. Beaty and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

- 8C) Discussion regarding the request from Lake Champlain -Lake George Regional Planning Board for \$7,000 in funding and the information they provided regarding their organization. (This request was tabled at the January 17th Board meeting)

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt and seconded by Mrs. Frasier to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$7,000 from the Lake George Regional Planning Board as outlined above.

Mr. Beaty stated although there had been a number of emails received from the Executive Director of the Planning Board pertaining to their purpose it was still unclear who was charged with overseeing them which was why he would be voting in opposition. Ms. Braymer added she also had questions regarding this organization, as it appeared that it involved some sort of creation of a legislature, but she was unaware of who audited them and why the County paid their salaries. She mentioned she believed she read somewhere they received funding for tourism, but she was unsure why.

Mr. Geraghty apprised that the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board loaned a significant amount of money to a number of businesses in the region. In regards to the past due amount they owed the County for administering their payroll, he stated this related to the fact that they had been behind for September and October and never received a bill for November and December. He said upon notification from the County they immediately took care of the entire past due amount. He added that he reminded them they needed to stay current with their payments. He informed each member County had Board members who were appointed to represent their respective Counties on this Board.

A discussion ensued following which Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$7,000 from the Lake George Regional Planning Board was carried by majority vote, with Mr. Beaty opposed and Mr. Strough abstaining, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board meeting.

In regard to Agenda Item 9, Items to be Discussed by the County Attorney, Mr. Sokol advised this Item was no longer required. He moved along to Agenda Item 10 which pertained to Finance Committee action which was required on the following items as approved by the Personnel & Higher Education Committee: Personnel & Higher Education Agenda Items 4B-E and 5. He apprised the Cedars Meal Site positions were grouped into this Item along with the other positions approved at today's Personnel & Higher Education Committee meeting.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier and seconded by Mr. Geraghty to approve Personnel & Higher Education Agenda Items 4B-E and 5.

Ms. Braymer stated she understood the action to delete positions within the Office for the Aging was a result of a request to reduce the Departmental budget; however, she noted, she felt there was a better way to address this which was why she would be voting in opposition. Mr. Sokol stated as someone who was well aware of the Meals on Wheels Program and its volunteers, he believed the seniors were objecting to the proposed changes to the Meal Site as a result of their attachment to the employees there. Ms. Braymer concurred that the change was difficult for the seniors, noting she believed there was an alternative way to go about this without causing such an uproar. Mr. Sokol said although it appeared this was being thrust upon the Board with no notice this had been ongoing since December.

A discussion ensued during which Ms. Braymer and Messrs. McDevitt, Beaty and Strough voiced their objection to the proposed changes to the Cedars Meal Site and Mr. Leggett voiced how important it was for the Supervisors to be consistent in their messages to Department Heads. He said if the Board asked a Department Head to do their best to reduce costs in their Department to allow the Board to live up to its obligation to stay within the State Tax Cap limits then the Board members should put forth the effort required to support the changes the Department Heads were proposing, while recognizing that not everyone would be pleased with these changes. He pointed out the Town Supervisors were periodically faced with such challenges to ensure their Town Budgets were within the State Tax Cap limits which was why he was appealing with the Committee to support the recommendations of the Health, Human and Social Services and Personnel & Higher Education Committees with regard to the proposed changes to the Meal Site.

During the discussion, Mr. Thomas advised as the County Budget Officer he was the one who set some of this in motion and he thanked Dee Park, *Director, Office for the Aging*, for her efforts and taking the bulk of the blame when some of it should be pointed in his direction. He informed the County expended a total of \$1.254 million on an annual basis for the Meals on Wheels Program of which the State provided 30% of the funding leaving a balance of around \$880,000 that the County was responsible for. He remarked he felt the Board members had issues if they could not support moving forward with reducing the cost by \$74,000 without having any impact on the service provided. He added he thought they should be half as passionate about the funding that was expended within the Department of Social Services than they were about this particular matter.

Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion to approve Personnel & Higher Education Agenda Items 4B-E and 5 was carried by majority vote, with Ms. Braymer and Messrs. Beaty, McDevitt, and Strough voting in opposition, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting. Ms. Braymer and Mr. Beaty exited the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Finance Committee, on motion made by Mr. Geraghty and seconded by Mrs. Frasier, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board

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- 4C) Request to amend Resolution No. 43 of 2014 to clarify that the \$100,000 to be paid to the Village of Lake George for administration of the boat launch inspection and boat wash program through an intermunicipal agreement between Warren County and the Village of Lake George was to be used as a match to the grant funding. **Note: *Subsequent to the Committee meeting it was determined by the County Treasurer's Office that it was necessary to record a portion of a \$150,000 2015 County contribution to the Lake George Park Commission expended in the General Fund as a local match and State reimbursable expenditures in Capital Project H347, Invasive Species Boat Washing to reflect the latest revision of the project budget agreed by New York State Department of State and Warren County for contract C1000461, with \$129,319 being recorded as local match expenditures and \$16,396.96 as State reimbursable expenditures. The County Treasurer's Office also determined that it was necessary to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$100,000 with a source if funding to be identified to reflect a change in funding for Capital Project H347, Invasive Species Boat Washing, agreed to by New York State Department of State and Warren County for Contract C1000461, as it related to local match. The latest revision to the contract required the \$100,000 advanced from the General Fund to Capital Project H347 to be paid to the Lake George Park Commission for administration of the boat launch inspection and boat was program now be used as local match so an appropriation from the General Fund is needed to record the cost as a transfer of a local match instead of an advance.***

Mr. Sokol apprised he had requested that Mr. Belden attend the meeting today to clear up some confusion involving the aforementioned requests. Mr. Belden explained the County Planning & Community Development Department had taken over the administration of a contract that the DOS (*Department of State*) had awarded to the County which was previously being administered by the Lake George Watershed Coalition. He stated these amendments were in response to the amendments that had been made between the County and the DOS. He mentioned some of these requests were in response to the amendments the Planning & Community Development Department had worked on with the DOS, while others were a result of the prior administration. He informed the first step required was to increase Capital Project H347, *Invasive Species Boat Washing Stations*, in the amount of \$482,050 because the original resolution had only authorized the grant amount which was 50% of the total project cost. He explained it was necessary to account for the remaining \$482,050 in order to make payments to the sub-contractors who consisted on the LGA (*Lake George Association*) and the Fund for Lake George. He continued, once the Capital Project was increased the County could submit for reimbursement from the DOS.

Mr. Geraghty asked what the date of the grant they were discussing was and Mr. Belden replied it was the 2013 grant award. Mr. Geraghty inquired whether this related to the boat washing stations and Mr. Belden replied in the affirmative. He explained the purpose of the grant was to assist with funding the establishment of the boat washing stations. Mr. Geraghty apprised he had been under the impression the grant they were discussing had been submitted by the County and Mr. Belden replied affirmatively. He explained the Lake George Watershed Coalition had requested that the application be applied for through the County; therefore, he stated, the contract was between the DOS and the County, but the administration of the grant was to be handled by the Lake George Watershed Coalition. He advised as a result of the fallout with the prior Executive Director of the Lake George Watershed Coalition the Planning & Community Development Department took over the administration from the Coalition. He informed the work plan included in the contract was amended following the fall out with the Coalition.

A discussion ensued following which a motion was made by Mr. Geraghty and seconded by Mr. Strough to approve the request to increase Capital Project H347, *Invasive Species Boat Washing Stations*, in the amount of \$482,050 as outlined above.

Mr. Wild inquired if any determination had been made by the DOS whether any of these reimbursements

were at risk and Mr. Belden responded that he could not speak to other contracts for this year, but the DOS was comfortable with everything that was included in this particular grant.

Mr. Sokol called the question and the aforementioned motion to increase Capital Project H347, *Invasive Species Boat Washing Stations*, was carried unanimously and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

Continuing to Agenda Item 4C, Mr. Belden apprised there were two requests, the first of which pertained to reflecting changes that had been made with the DOS contract to utilize the \$100,000 that was paid by the County to the Lake George Park Commission. He said the \$100,000 had originally been authorized by Resolution No. 47 of 2014 and then amended by Resolution No. 73 of 2014. He explained \$200,000 was advanced to the Lake George Park Commission at the request of the Lake George Watershed Coalition for the purposes of establishing a boat washing program by the Spring of 2014. He continued, as a result of the DOS being rather slow on producing contracts with its recipients, the grant was awarded in 2013, but no contracts were generated by the DOS until 2016. He informed the original resolutions identified this money as being advanced, thereby causing the Treasurer's Office to identify this as a reimbursable expense; however, he noted an amendment was required to recognize it as a local match.

Mr. Geraghty inquired whether any money was exchanged and Robert Lynch, *Deputy County Treasurer*, replied that \$100,000 was allocated by the County to the Lake George Park Commission to operate the boat washing stations. Mr. Geraghty asked whether the County was supposed to be reimbursed for these funds and Mr. Lynch replied in the affirmative. Mr. Geraghty questioned if the Lake George Park Commission had provided the County with the required reimbursement and Mr. Lynch replied in the negative, explaining no funds would be reimbursed since these funds were being changed to a non-reimbursable local match. He added this was why it was necessary to identify a funding source for the \$100,000. Mr. Geraghty questioned who was responsible for the \$100,000 because he remembered when the County authorized advancing the \$200,000 during which time the County was assured the funds would be reimbursed; however, he noted, it appeared the request before them today indicated that \$100,000 would be used as an in-kind services. Mr. Lynch stated that the Treasurer's Office was not part of the discussions between the Planning & Community Development Department and the DOS regarding this contract. Mr. Belden interjected that the Lake George Watershed Coalition had made the request that the County advance \$200,000 in funding; however, he noted, the work plan put together with the Coalition and DOS only included \$112,731 for the purchase of equipment. He advised the contract his Department worked on with the DOS included all of these funds, but it was not included as a reimbursable expense.

A lengthy conversation ensued following which it was determined that a special joint meeting of the Economic Growth & Development and Finance Committees would be scheduled prior to the February 16th Board meeting to discuss the matter further and invite all entities involved include the LGA and the Fund for Lake George before a decision was rendered. ***Note: subsequent to the meeting it was determined this item could be addressed at the next regular Committee meeting.***

Continuing with the Agenda review, Mr. Sokol informed Agenda Items 5A-B pertained to the following referrals from the Health, Human & Social Services Committee:

5A) *Health Services*- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$413.26 to reflect the receipt of funding from the Adirondack Rural Health Network to support the NAS (*Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome*) Prevention Agenda Project.

5B) *Social Services*- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$30,000 to reflect the receipt of State funding for SEY (*Sexually Exploited Youth*) Preventative Program.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried unanimously to approve the requests as outlined above and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

Agenda Items 6A-C concerned the following referral from the Public Works Committee, *DPW*:

6A) Request to establish the following new Road Projects: D.5112.8273, *2018 CR#55 Valentine Pond Road*,

in the amount of \$180,000; D.5112.8274, 2018 CR#10 Schroon River Road, in the amount of \$215,000; D.5112.8275, 2018 CR#76 Dartmouth Road, in the amount of \$110,000; D.5112.8276, 2018 CR#78 13th Lake Road, in the amount of \$140,000; D.5112.8277, 2018 CR#4 High Street, in the amount of \$210,000; D.5112.8278, 2018 CR#68 Landon Hill Road, in the amount of \$210,000; D.5112.8279, CR#64 East Schroon River Road, in the amount of \$110,000; D.5112.8280, 2018 CR#60 Old Stage Road, in the amount of \$210,000; D.5112.8281, 2018 CR#57 South Johnsbury Road, in the amount of \$215,000; D.5112.8282, 2018 CR#74 Atateka Road, in the amount of \$210,000; D.5112.8283, 2018 CR#3 Warrensburg Road, in the amount of \$220,000; and D.5112.8284, CR#36 Valley Road, in the amount of \$336,190.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

- 6B) Request to increase Capital Project H374, *Warrensburg Fuel Farm*, in the amount of \$10,000 to cover the cost associated with a repair.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

- 6C) Request to authorize the Chairman of the Board to approve and sign the Just Compensation determination amounts for Capital Project H322, *Palisades Road (CR26) over Brant Lake Inlet Bridge Replacement Project*. **(Please note this request was not previously reviewed and approved by the Public Works Committee).**

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 February 16th Board Meeting.

Proceeding, Mr. Sokol stated Agenda Items 7A-B were comprised of the following referrals from the Support Services Committee:

- 7A) *County Clerk*- Request to amend to Local Law No. 5 of 2016 which imposed the Warren County Local Mortgage Tax to extend it for an additional two years, commencing December 1, 2018 and terminating December 1, 2020.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty and seconded by Ms. Braymer to approve the request to amend Local Law No. 5 of 2016 as outlined above.

Mr. Beaty questioned what the tax rate was and Mr. Sokol responded that it was 1.25%. Mr. Beaty inquired how much revenue was acquired on an annual basis from this tax and Mr. Geraghty replied that about \$900,000 in revenue was acquired on an annual basis.

A discussion ensued during which Mr. Beaty voiced his objection to this tax. Mr. Geraghty called the question and the motion to approve the request to amend Local Law No. 5 of 2016 as outlined above was carried by majority vote, with Mr. Beaty voting in opposition. The necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board meeting.

- 7B) *Information Technology*- Request to appropriate funding in the amount of \$15,700 from the Computer Reserve Fund, *Budget Code A.895*, for the purchase of computers and related equipment and software for various departments.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

Mr. Sokol stated Agenda Items 8A-C pertained to the following Requests/Items to be Discussed by the County Administrator:

- 8A) Journal Reports of transfers approved by the County Administrator staff since the November 30,

2017 meeting.

Mr. Geraghty advised these were all typical transfers.

- 8B) Request to appropriate funds in the amount of \$199,600 from the Vehicle Reserve Fund to various budget codes to purchase vehicles.

Motion was made by Ms. Braymer, seconded by Mr. Beaty and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting.

- 8C) Discussion regarding the request from Lake Champlain -Lake George Regional Planning Board for \$7,000 in funding and the information they provided regarding their organization. (This request was tabled at the January 17th Board meeting)

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt and seconded by Mrs. Frasier to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$7,000 from the Lake George Regional Planning Board as outlined above.

Mr. Beaty stated although there had been a number of emails received from the Executive Director of the Planning Board pertaining to their purpose it was still unclear who was charged with overseeing them which was why he would be voting in opposition. Ms. Braymer added she also had questions regarding this organization, as it appeared that it involved some sort of creation of a legislature, but she was unaware of who audited them and why the County paid their salaries. She mentioned she believed she read somewhere they received funding for tourism, but she was unsure why.

Mr. Geraghty apprised that the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board loaned a significant amount of money to a number of businesses in the region. In regards to the past due amount they owed the County for administering their payroll, he stated this related to the fact that they had been behind for September and October and never received a bill for November and December. He said upon notification from the County they immediately took care of the entire past due amount. He added that he reminded them they needed to stay current with their payments. He informed each member County had Board members who were appointed to represent their respective Counties on this Board.

A discussion ensued following which Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion to approve the request for funding in the amount of \$7,000 from the Lake George Regional Planning Board was carried by majority vote, with Mr. Beaty opposed and Mr. Strough abstaining, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board meeting.

In regard to Agenda Item 9, Items to be Discussed by the County Attorney, Mr. Sokol advised this Item was no longer required. He moved along to Agenda Item 10 which pertained to Finance Committee action which was required on the following items as approved by the Personnel & Higher Education Committee: Personnel & Higher Education Agenda Items 4B-E and 5. He apprised the Cedars Meal Site positions were grouped into this Item along with the other positions approved at today's Personnel & Higher Education Committee meeting.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier and seconded by Mr. Geraghty to approve Personnel & Higher Education Agenda Items 4B-E and 5.

Ms. Braymer stated she understood the action to delete positions within the Office for the Aging was a result of a request to reduce the Departmental budget; however, she noted, she felt there was a better way to address this which was why she would be voting in opposition. Mr. Sokol stated as someone who was well aware of the Meals on Wheels Program and its volunteers, he believed the seniors were objecting to the proposed changes to the Meal Site as a result of their attachment to the employees there. Ms. Braymer concurred that the change was difficult for the seniors, noting she believed there was an alternative way to go about this without causing such an uproar. Mr. Sokol said although it appeared this was being thrust upon the Board with no notice this had been ongoing since December.

A discussion ensued during which Ms. Braymer and Messrs. McDevitt, Beaty and Strough voiced their objection to the proposed changes to the Cedars Meal Site and Mr. Leggett voiced how important it was for the Supervisors to be consistent in their messages to Department Heads. He said if the Board asked a Department Head to do their best to reduce costs in their Department to allow the Board to live up to its obligation to stay within the State Tax Cap limits then the Board members should put forth the effort required to support the changes the Department Heads were proposing, while recognizing that not everyone would be pleased with these changes. He pointed out the Town Supervisors were periodically faced with such challenges to ensure their Town Budgets were within the State Tax Cap limits which was why he was appealing with the Committee to support the recommendations of the Health, Human and Social Services and Personnel & Higher Education Committees with regard to the proposed changes to the Meal Site.

During the discussion, Mr. Thomas advised as the County Budget Officer he was the one who set some of this in motion and he thanked Dee Park, *Director, Office for the Aging*, for her efforts and taking the bulk of the blame when some of it should be pointed in his direction. He informed the County expended a total of \$1.254 million on an annual basis for the Meals on Wheels Program of which the State provided 30% of the funding leaving a balance of around \$880,000 that the County was responsible for. He remarked he felt the Board members had issues if they could not support moving forward with reducing the cost by \$74,000 without having any impact on the service provided. He added he thought they should be half as passionate about the funding that was expended within the Department of Social Services than they were about this particular matter.

Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion to approve Personnel & Higher Education Agenda Items 4B-E and 5 was carried by majority vote, with Ms. Braymer and Messrs. Beaty, McDevitt, and Strough voting in opposition, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 16th Board Meeting. Ms. Braymer and Mr. Beaty exited the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Finance Committee, on motion made by Mr. Geraghty and seconded by Mrs. Frasier, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board