

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: OCCUPANCY TAX COORDINATION

DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: DICKINSON
MERLINO
SIMPSON
BEATY
FRASIER
GERAGHTY
DRISCOLL

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT:
JOANNE CONLEY, DIRECTOR
LEISA GRANT, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK
RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS: STROUGH
LEGGETT

SUPERVISORS BRAYMER

HOGAN

HYDE

LOEB

MAGOWAN

MCDEVITT

SOKOL

WILD

TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
GINA MINTZER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAKE GEORGE CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE AND CVB

DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*

THOM RANDALL, ADIRONDACK JOURNAL

MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

*SEE SIGN IN SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the November 20, 2018 meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination 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/occupancy/>

Mr. Dickinson called the meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee to order at 10:10 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Geraghty 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 meeting minutes.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, who distributed copies of the Occupancy Tax Report, *a copy of which is on file with the minutes*; Mr. Swan proceeded with a review of his Report, which reflected a 4.25% increase (\$162,078.12) over the same time period last year. He then discussed short-term rentals, advising he had spoken to multiple internet companies and the largest obstacle was the ability to break down the data by zip code, estimating it would cost \$800-\$900 a year for this data.

Commencing the agenda review with the Action Agenda section, Mr. Dickinson directed the Committee to the fourth item listed, "Update Spending Plan Resolution for 2019". He noted the proposed resolution included in the agenda packet proposed the Spending Plan for 2019 with the following disbursements:

Lake George	\$150,000	(combined Town and Village allocation)
Bolton	\$ 60,000	
Queensbury	\$ 60,000	
Towns & City of Glens Falls	\$135,000	\$15,000 each of the eight remaining towns & City of Glens Falls
County Tourist & Convention Event Development Fund	\$250,000	Adirondack Civic Center Coalition Inc. funding
County Event Funding	TBD on 11/20/19	Remaining County event funding for major regional activities only
Convention & Visitors Bureau	\$400,000	

Motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mr. Geraghty and carried unanimously to approve the 2019 Spending Plan, as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board Meeting. *Note: later in the meeting the amounts allocated to the Towns of Bolton, Lake George and Queensbury were reduced - see page 2.*

Returning to the first Action Agenda item, Mr. Dickinson indicated there were individuals in attendance who wanted to discuss their applications for occupancy tax funding before the awards were decided upon. Privilege of the floor was extended to each of the following individuals who provided an overview of reviewed their respective events: Sasha Pardy, *representing the Adirondack Wine & Food Festival*; Doug Miller, *representing the Adirondack Sports Complex*; and Christian Dutcher, *representing Americade*. The Committee then proceeded with a lengthy deliberation of the ten applications received for occupancy tax funding, following which the following awards were announced:

Adirondack Festivals, LLC	5 th Annual Adirondack Wine & Food Fest.	June 29-30	\$40,000
Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival, Inc.	Balloon Festival	September 19-22	\$40,000
Adirondack Sports Complex, LLC	ADKSC Travel Team Fastpitch Softball Tournaments	January 1 - December 17	\$40,000
Albany Rods & Kustoms, Inc.	Adirondack Nationals Car Show	September 5-9	\$25,000
Americade	Americade	June 3-8	\$50,000
Warren Co. Safe & Quality Biking Organization	Promotion of Bicycling	2019	\$ 5,000
Warrensburg Bike Rally	19 th Warrensburg Bike Rally	May 31-June 9	\$10,000

Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce	40 th Annual World's Largest Garage Sale	October 4-5	\$25,000
Lake George Winter Carnival	Lake George Winter Carnival	January 25 and weekends in February	\$35,000
Greater GF Amateur Athletic Champ. Assoc.	Federation Basketball Boys/Girls	Marcy 22-24	\$15,000

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Beaty and carried unanimously to approve the 2019 occupancy tax awards, as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board Meeting.

Recalling discussion during their deliberations regarding the amount of funding available to be awarded, Mr. Dickinson reminded the Committee of a suggestion made to reduce the amount of funding allocated in the 2019 Spending Plan for the Towns of Bolton, Lake George and Queensbury to supplement the amount available for awards.

A motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Simpson and carried unanimously to amend the prior authorization to approve the 2019 Spending Plan to reduce the amount of funding for the Town of Lake George to \$144,334, and for the Towns of Bolton and Queensbury to \$54,333 each, with all other amounts listed to remain the same, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 21st Board meeting.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Gina Mintzer, *Executive Director, Lake George Chamber of Commerce and CVB*, who distributed the October 2018 Board of Directors CVB Report to the Committee for review. She noted that the CVB's fiscal year ran from October to September and she advised through the use of a new computer program they were able to track referrals.

As there was no further business to come before the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, on motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Beaty, Mr. Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist