

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019**



The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York, at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Ronald F. Conover presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Braymer.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Leggett, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Loeb, Driscoll, Frasier, Simpson, Hogan, Dickinson, Wild, Beaty, Magowan, Sokol, Thomas, Hyde, Geraghty and Conover- 18; Supervisors Merlino and Strough, absent-2

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Conover noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2019 Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Thomas and carried unanimously.

Continuing to the presentation of the Senior of the Year award, Dee Park, *Director, Office for the Aging* apprised that the individuals being presented with the award were unable to attend the meeting. She informed that each year the New York State Office for the Aging requested that the Office for the Aging designate two seniors from each County that had gone above and beyond for providing for their community through volunteering and assisting others. She stated this year they were recognizing John Plantier from the Town of Lake Luzerne, and Patrice Cianci from the Town of Bolton. She read aloud a listing of Mr. Plantier's accomplishments which included serving on the Board of the Hadley-Luzerne Library for the better part of two decades, much of which was spent serving as the Library's President; serving as a Board member of the Southern Adirondack Library System; undertaking small or large construction projects and occasionally repairing leaky plumbing for the Hadley-Luzerne Library; providing rides to those without transportation to their doctors appointments; delivers meals for the Office for the Aging; delivering books to individuals who were homebound; and serving as a member of the Lions Club and the Hadley Luzerne Historical Society. Ms. Park proceeded to list Ms. Cianci's accomplishments which included: caroling during the holiday season to individuals who were homebound; working with the Bolton Health Committee to shop, wrap and distribute gifts during the holiday season; and serving as a volunteer driver for home delivered meals in the Bolton area and the northern region of Lake George.

Chairman Conover requested that Ms. Park extend congratulations and the appreciation of the Board members to Mr. Plantier and Ms. Cianci. A round of applause was given.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Conover offered privilege of the floor to Norman Dascher Jr., *Chief Executive Officer of The Hyde Collection*. Mr. Dascher stated he was present to provide an update on the status and activities currently underway at The Hyde Collection. He advised last year the Hyde had hosted more than 230 events, attracting 25,000 visitors to their facility, who often referred to it as the hidden gem; however, he noted, there was nothing invisible about the six to ten new and different exhibitions being offered in the five galleries each year, not including the permanent

collection on display in the historic house. He apprised it was estimated that the Hyde was responsible for a \$3 million economic impact on an annual basis. He referred to an article featured in the *Wall Street Journal* a few years ago which indicated The Hyde House would be an honorable addition to a city of any size. He said since becoming the Chief Executive Officer in December he had taken several steps to ensure the World was aware of what an incredible institution the City of Glens Falls had in The Hyde Collection. He informed the quality of the collection was indisputable, with artwork by such famed artists as Degas, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Renoir and Warhol. He stated their vault was comparable to that of many large metropolitan museums and in fact they had lent their collection to twenty-two museums in fourteen different States and fifteen museums in eight foreign Countries. He apprised the curatorial team designed exhibitions drawn from the museums permanent collection of more than five thousand works. He continued, their educators then develop programming inspired by the exhibitions to help participants better understand the time in which the featured artists were working, the concepts and techniques used, and how both apply to the World today. He referred to a recent exhibition by Washington County artist Jacob Houston which featured his acrylic paintings of idyllic scenes from a birds eye view that their curator paired with the architectural etchings of Albert E. Flanagan which contained such magnificent details the visitors were using magnifying glasses provided by The Hyde to see every detail. He apprised that a new exhibition was opened a few days ago of paintings, photographs and prints of New York rooftops from the early part of the 20th century by artist John Sloan that was on loan from the Penn State University Palmer Museum of Art. He informed their future exhibitions were in the planning process out to 2023, with their 60th anniversary celebration being a big year for them in 2023. He stated in the Fall of this year they would be opening an exhibition of art by Pablo Picasso. In response to the people he had met who indicated to him there was no reason to visit The Hyde again since they had done so in their youth, he advised The Hyde had a permanent collection in the historic house, but in the five galleries there were between six to ten new exhibitions every year, meaning there was always something new to see. He mentioned The Hyde also offered programs that included artists and residents, such as Art and Yoga, a four week workshop to learn the aspect of art, concerts, movies, lectures and panel discussions, as well as themed tours, fashion shows, story telling and much more. He remarked as important as these events were, the mission was to provide an experience and free programming, adding they offered free tours for schools, group homes, extended care facilities serving individuals with dementia and admission for all children, Veterans', students, active military and their family was free every day. He stated every Wednesday they offered free admission to seniors ages sixty plus. He pointed out the majority of the visitors to The Hyde Museum did not pay, adding once a month they offered Second Sunday, which was a day when admission was free for everyone and their educators offered free STEAM (*Science, Technology, Art, Engineering and Math*) based activities. He informed the entire month of December they offered pay for what you wish, meaning patrons admissions could be free or a donation of the persons choosing. He advised every week their educators provided free programs for parents with children whose ages ranged from infants to teenagers where children and their care givers were introduced to age appropriate concepts of art and the galleries in the historic house following which they went into The Hyde's art studio to create art based upon what they had learned. He informed since 2016 the attendance at these programs had grown by 208% meaning they provided an art experience to nearly 5,000 children a year. He continued, the number of collaborations with other regional organizations was also increasing, as they regularly worked with Art in the Public Eye, SUNY Adirondack, Skidmore, Albany Institute of History and Art, the University Art Museum at SUNY Albany, etc. He added over the past six months they had ramped up their efforts to increase collaborations and were currently working on plans with SPAC (*Saratoga Performing Art Center*), The Tang Museum, Universal Preservation Hall and the Glens Falls Symphony while continuing to seek other partners to collaborate with. He remarked their point of view regarding collaborations was "the rising tide floats all boats" meaning the better any arts organization did, the better all of them did. He apprised they were also extending their marketing efforts to reach a broader audience and would also be completely revamping their website in the next several months to make

it more accessible, as well as contain even more information. He apprised more than twenty-five percent of the visitors to The Hyde traveled from out-of-State, two percent were from outside of the United States and seventeen percent of their visitors were from New York State, but outside of the three hour day trip range. He added the thirty-seven percent of their visitors who came from the greater Capital Region were eating at local restaurants, buying gas and shopping at stores, apprising they were proud of how that contributed to the regional economy, but they were not content. He stated they wanted to and they believed they had the capacity to attract even more visitors from an even greater geographic area. He remarked they were looking forward to celebrating their 60th anniversary in 2023 and they would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for its support and commitment throughout the years which he respectfully requested would continue into the future.

Continuing with the Agenda review, privilege of the floor was extended to Supervisor Driscoll, who stated that housing was important to the County's economy and quality of life. He introduced Robert Landry, *Executive Director of the Glens Falls Housing Authority (GFHA)*, who he had worked with for a number of years. He said he has taken the opportunity to invite Mr. Landry to share some information on opportunities and services that the GFHA had available for all residents of Warren County.

Mr. Landry apprised the GFHA was celebrating its fiftieth year of operation this year, informing they were established in 1969 following which they built Larose Gardens in the City of Glens Falls, a fifty unit low income family housing project that was available to any County resident, and in 1971 they built Stichman Towers which was the first affordable, low income senior housing facility in the area with eighty-one apartments. He continued, in 1981 they built Cronin High-Rise on Ridge Street in the City of Glens Falls with one hundred apartments that were available to any County resident with the rents based upon income. He mentioned in 1984 they ventured into becoming a County-wide agency with the services they provided by bringing on board what was referred to as the Section 8 Program, but was now referred to as the Housing Choice Program, which served residents in every community in the County. He explained this was a rental subsidy program which allowed individuals to remain in their communities with rents based upon their income. He said although they liked to see individuals graduate out of the Section 8 Program and become self-sufficient, if they did not there was a permanent voucher that could be used. He advised in 1985 they ventured outside of the County when they built Earl Towers in the Town of Hudson Falls which provided another seventy five low income senior apartments. He stated any of the facilities they owned and operated in the City of Glens Falls were available to anyone who was a County resident, including the Section 8 Program. In 2003 they worked with the Section 8 Program and the Federal Government on the First Time Home buyers Program which could be coupled with any of the programs the County or any of the communities had to assist low income individuals with purchasing a home. He explained the Program worked by providing a Section 8 voucher, but instead of them sending a check to a landlord they would send a check to the bank who was holding the mortgage to assist these individuals with owning a home. He advised in 2008 they received grant funding for the Shelter Plus Care Program to assist with the homeless issue in the County. He apprised this was a rental assistance Program which took individuals who were documented as homeless and provided them with subsidized housing in whatever community they wanted to live in and included the requirement that they also participate in counseling for mental health or substance abuse issues they had. He stated their organization provided the shelter and coordinated with many agencies in the County who then provided care to these individuals through case management. He informed they were approached by the Veterans' Administration to manage the VASH (*Veterans' Administrative Supportive Housing*) Program which was a rental subsidy program where they helped pay rents for housing for disabled Veterans or Veterans who needed case management through the Veterans' Administration. He stated they were required by HUD to conduct a point of time count every year in an attempt to estimate how many homeless individuals there were in the County; he said at last count in January the estimate was 275 individuals, most of whom were "couch surfers" who moved

around frequently, but had no permanent address. He informed presently they housed eighty-five homeless individuals through the Shelter Plus Care and VASH Programs. He mentioned there were some upcoming changes coming from HUD, who was seeking to move on from the public housing platform that funded the three high-rises they managed, as well as the Larose Gardens complex, by moving toward an affordable housing platform. He said their hope was to get enough money to renovate the high rises he mentioned and they planned on tearing down the Larose Gardens complex and replacing it with an environmentally efficient fifty unit project for low income families. He stated some communities had buildings that were no longer used which could be renovated into smaller affordable housing apartments with the assistance of funding from the Affordable Housing Network. He encouraged anyone with questions regarding affordable housing in their communities to contact his Office.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Supervisor Braymer, who introduced Jason Van Driesche, *representing Front Porch Forum*, to discuss the Front Porch Forum online community networking system which was currently operating in Washington County and the State of Vermont. She said she felt this was an exciting opportunity for County residents to partake in, and in particular for those who lived in rural areas and may not be connecting otherwise. Mr. Van Driesche advised Front Porch Forum was a small company based out of the State of Vermont whose purpose was to assist neighbors in connecting and building communities. He informed since 2006 they had been hosting regional networks of online neighborhood forums where clearly identified nearby neighbors shared postings about all types of topics. He read aloud a few different postings to provide an idea of what was made possible as a result of Front Porch Forum which included assistance with moving, locating lost pets, etc. He stated Front Porch Forum was founded in Burlington, Vermont by Michael Wood Lewis and his wife Valerie as a result of them being new to town and struggling to meet their neighbors. He mentioned what started as a listing of email addresses of their neighbors had grown to 165,000 members across the State of Vermont, representing every community in the State and including ten thousand small businesses and not-for-profits, as well as over two thousand local officials. He apprised in many of the communities they served there were more Front Porch Forum members than households in the community with members posting about any type of topic that neighbors might discuss in person such as lost pets, block parties, mechanic recommendations, break-ins, etc. He said their staff compiled the days postings into an email newsletter that was typically distributed around 5:00 p.m. each day resulting in neighborhood news and discussion becoming part of individuals daily routines so that over time they felt more connected to their neighbors and when they did bump into them in person the ice was already broken and there was something to discuss. He mentioned this daily neighborly interaction assisted with rebuilding the ties that had frayed in recent years with the fast paced lives that many people lived today. He apprised as of June 29th they were pleased to offer their free service here in Warren and Washington Counties, as this would be the first significant expansion outside of the State of Vermont. He said they had expanded a few years ago into the Towns of Cambridge and Argyle in Washington County. He proceeded to outline why Front Porch Forum should be used instead of the other social medial outlets that were available as follows: Front Porch Forum concerned community and was a mission driven organization whose core focus was on helping neighbors connect and build community; they were a Vermont based, locally owned business whose services were specifically designed for the rural towns, villages and small cities of northern New England and New York; there was no cost for neighbors, local businesses, community not-for-profits and local officials to sign up and participate in their local community front porch forum, as the majority of the cost for providing the service was covered by advertisements from local businesses; it was a useful service to get individuals attention at the community level; every posting was reviewed by their online community managers before being published to ensure the conversation remained civil and neighborly; it was easy to use; and it was built for privacy, as no posting could ever be find on Google nor would the users ever be tracked or spammed. He stated the purpose of him attending the meeting today was to introduce the

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service and provide information on how to sign up for it, noting fifty neighbors from the same community were required to sign up before it was permissible to post on the site. He encouraged anyone with questions to contact him.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Conover declared the Public Hearing on Proposed Warren County Local Law No. 6 of 2019, entitled "A Local Law to Establish a Sustainable Energy Loan Program (Open C-Pace) in Warren County", open at 6:30 p.m. and he requested that Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, read aloud the Notice of Public Hearing, which she proceeded to do. Chairman Conover then called for any public comment.

Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, stated he was fully supportive of this proposal, adding if possible he would like to see something similar to assist the individuals that may have to upgrade their wastewater systems around Lake George as these very valuable septic transfer laws. He stated the one concern that kept coming up at all of the Town meetings where this was discussed that deserved to be answered was how the individuals impacted would pay for this and he felt this would be an appropriate way to do so if it was deemed possible.

Chairman Conover once again called for anyone wishing to speak on Proposed Warren County Local Law No. 6 of 2019; there being no response he closed the Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m.

Continuing to the report by the Chairman of the Board, Chairman Conover advised on May 24th he had attended the opening exhibit for Landscapes Lost and Found at the Bolton Museum and he encouraged all to visit the exhibit, as it contained over fifty pieces of art representing over two hundred years of regional history through the eyes of numerous local artists and he referred to an article featured in today's edition of *The Times Union* regarding same. He stated on May 29th he had attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Wood Park which he felt culminated several years of collaboration in bringing the project, which the County was a major partner in to fruition. He apprised that same evening he had attended a Better Angels Meeting at the Crandall Library along with Supervisors Hogan, Driscoll, Loeb and Simpson. Chairman Conover commended Dr. Kristine Duffy, *President, SUNY Adirondack*, and her staff for their work on the presentation of the 2019-2020 SUNY Adirondack Operating Budget that was reviewed at the June 11th joint meeting of the Personnel & Higher Education and Finance Committees at SUNY Adirondack. He informed he had attended a meeting on the Countryside Adult Home Capital Improvement Plan which would be distributed to the Board members shortly and would be incorporated into the County's Capital planning efforts. He commended Supervisor Frasier and the County staff for developing a capital plan for the facility concerning future improvements there.

Chairman Conover then called for the reports by Committee Chairmen on the past months meetings or activities.

Supervisor Braymer reported on the May 30th meeting of the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee where they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 256-259 and she provided a brief overview of each. She remarked she felt it was both exciting and historic for the County that they would be adopting proposed Resolution No. 258, *Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program*, since the State was also passing the Community and Climate Protection Act which would be establishing greenhouse gas emissions and goals for the entire State.

Supervisor Loeb apprised the Support Services Committee had met on May 31st, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 277-281. He stated the ten departments overseen by the Support Services Committee were all doing a good job and he recommended everyone attend the meetings which tended to last long

due to the hot topics discussed there. In regards to the Board of Elections, Supervisor Loeb informed they had provided an overview of the upcoming changes that included the electronic polling books and new voting machines. He mentioned an article featured in today's edition of *The Post Star* which discussed the effectiveness of the WIC (*Woman, Infants and Children*) and how it had decreased obesity in young children from ages one through four which he equated to the hard work of the Public Health Department.

Supervisor Driscoll indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Frasier stated the Health, Human & Social Services Committee had met on May 30th, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 260-273. She apprised she had also attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Wood Park which she felt was meaningful, adding she was pleased that the Board was well represented there.

Prior to his Committee report, Supervisor Simpson informed he was pleased to report that the constitutional amendment for the health and safety land bank that identified the land for that which would allow any of these projects to move forward was adopted by the State Assembly last night and by the State Senate earlier this morning. He recognized Assemblyman Stec and Senator Little for all of their hard work on this, as it had taken a lot of time and effort for this to occur. A round of applause followed.

Supervisor Simpson apprised the Public Works Committee had met on two occasions this month, the first of which was on May 30th, where they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 275-276 and he provided a summary of each. During the meeting, Supervisor Simpson apprised a report on the fish stocking activities was provided which indicated over 25,000 trout had been stocked and he commended the Fish Hatchery staff for providing an important service to the County. He stated the purpose of the June 11th meeting of the Public Works Committee was to discuss the proposal from United Rail for operation of the County Railroad following which a negotiating team was formed to move forward with the process. He said this group had already met to discuss strategies and to develop their parameters; he added that a meeting with United Rail would be scheduled shortly.

Supervisor Hogan stated as they moved forward with Climate Smart Initiatives she felt compelled to remind everyone that Cornell Cooperative Extension was one of the County's premiere sources of information and education on green living and other things of that nature. She informed Cornell Cooperative Extension had conducted over thirty bike safety rodeos at the majority of the elementary schools in the County, as well as Nutrition Education classes in Glens Falls, North Warren, Warrensburg and Queensbury School Districts. She mentioned the plant sale netted over \$3,000 for the 4-H and Master Gardener Programs and Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District awarded them \$1,000 for the purpose of starting up the School Gardens Program in interested area schools. She advised the next meeting was scheduled for this upcoming Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Dickinson reported on the June 4th meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, where they approved proposed Resolution No. 274 which he provided a brief overview of. He advised that he served as a member of the County Jury Board, as well as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Supreme Court Library, and he noted how disappointed he was in the current County Law Library, as he believed it was minuscule and poorly proportioned.

Supervisor Wild indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Beaty reported on the May 31st meeting of the County Facilities Committee where they

approved proposed Resolution Nos. 248-249 and he provided a brief overview of each. He read aloud a letter from the FAA (*Federal Aviation Administration*) which indicated they would no longer be providing funds for the 1,000 foot Runway Extension Project at the Airport due to the fact that the current runway length was sufficient to accommodate existing and forecasted future air traffic at the Airport and met its operating needs. He said in an effort to move forward and determine how to reduce expenses at the Airport he had been meeting with the Airport Manager and the Superintendent of Public Works, adding the County had also contracted with a company to market all of the land surrounding the Airport. He offered privilege of the floor to Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, to provide an update regarding the activities at the Airport.

Mr. Hajos stated this past weekend the Young Eagles event, which was hosted twice a year at the Airport by the EAA (*Experiment Aircraft Association*), was held; he said this event was dedicated to teaching or showing kids whose ages ranged from 8 to 17 about aviation and flight and provided them a free ride in an airplane. He said approximately sixty kids had participated in the event with seven pilots who donated their time. He apprised although no revenue was gained from the event it allowed them to bring attention to what was going on at the Airport.

Supervisor Beaty advised in response to his concerns with loss of population he took the liberty of establishing the 20/30 Task Force with the goal of stopping people from moving out of the County, as well as attracting people to move here with the first meeting scheduled for next week. He listed the members as follows: Supervisor McDevitt; Dr. Douglas Huntley, *Superintendent, Queensbury Union Free School District*; Mr. Whitehead; Tyler Herrick, *General Manager, Queensbury Hotel*; Zachary Moore, *Assistant Director, L&M Investments*; Nancy Underwood, *Warren County Resident*; and Michael Bittel, *President/Chief Executive Officer, Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce*. He informed that he planned on contacting an individual in the medical field to inquire about their interest in becoming a member. He asked Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, whether he would be gracious enough to become a member of the Task Force and Mr. Moore responded he would assist as much as he was able to. Supervisor Beaty stated that Dr. Kristine Duffy, *President, SUNY Adirondack*, had agreed this evening to become a member of the Task Force, as well, which he was grateful for. He reiterated the objective for the Task Force was to determine how to prevent residents from moving out of the County and to attract new residents to move here. He pointed out that Saratoga County was one of the nine fastest growing counties in the State, while Essex County had one of the largest decreases in population in the State; he added that Warren County had a decrease in population of 2.6% from 2010 to 2018.

Supervisor Magowan indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Sokol thanked Supervisor Simpson for chairing the June 6th Finance Committee meeting in his absence and he provided a brief overview of Resolution Nos. 246-247 and 283-295 which were approved by the Finance Committee. He stated there was a joint meeting of the Personnel & Higher Education and Finance Committees held at SUNY Adirondack on June 11th during which they reviewed the tentative 2019-2020 operating budget for SUNY Adirondack which he felt was reasonable and he recognized Dr. Duffy and her staff for their efforts preparing it. He pointed out Dr. Duffy was present at the meeting to answer any questions. He informed that there would be no report by the County Treasurer on the County's finances this month.

Supervisor Thomas reported on the May 30th meeting of the Budget Committee where representatives from Lakes to Locks and ANCA provided presentations regarding their organizations which the County provided funding to. He said a discussion took place regarding the Unappropriated Surplus Fund Balance and what had been appropriated from it since the beginning of the year to fund one-time expenses. He mentioned the main topic discussed was prioritizing some reserves, apprising the

discussion would continue at the next Committee meeting which would be scheduled during the upcoming Committee meeting cycle. He concluded his report by thanking Supervisor Hogan for mentioning the grant that was awarded to Cornell Cooperative Extension for the purpose of starting up the School Gardens Program. He explained Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors set aside funding to award grants in the amount of \$1,000 to any schools or organizations that applied for the purpose of funding conservation efforts.

Supervisor Hyde indicated she had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Geraghty thanked Supervisor Frasier for chairing the June 6th meeting of the Personnel & Higher Education Committee in his absence. He informed that they had approved proposed Resolution No. 282 which he provided a brief overview of. He added he had attended the joint meeting of the Personnel & Higher Education and Finance Committees on June 11th at SUNY Adirondack and he commended the College staff for preparing an appropriate operating budget. Supervisor Geraghty advised he had attended an AATV (*Association of Towns and Villages*) meeting in Tupper Lake from June 1-2, 2019 during which there was a presentation regarding how important it was for individuals to participate in the upcoming census.

Supervisor Leggett reported on the May 31st meeting of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee meeting where they approved proposed Resolution Nos. 250-254 and he provided a brief overview of each.

Supervisor Diamond indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor McDevitt stated he was looking forward to attending a training tomorrow in the Town of Bolton pertaining to conforming and non-conforming septic systems and the importance of clean water. He recognized the Ticonderoga and Whitehall High School Boys Baseball teams for winning the New York State Championship games and to the Schuyerville High School Boys Baseball Team for falling just short of winning the State Championship game.

Continuing to the report by the County Administrator, Mr. Moore advised they would be postponing the Employee of the Month Award until the July 19th Board Meeting due to the honoree being unable to attend the meeting tonight. He recognized the following people for their years of service to the County which he said he was greatly appreciative of

- * Rob York for 20 years of service to the Office of Community Services; and
- * Ryan Torsch for 20 years of service to the Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Moore announced he was pleased to report that Pam Vogel, *County Clerk*, had been named County Clerk of the Year by the New York State Association of County Clerks. He congratulated Mrs. Vogel and her hard working employees. He proceeded to read aloud a listing of the meetings he had attended since the May 17th Board Meeting; *a copy of Mr. Moore's report is on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting.*

In regards to proposed Resolution No. 255, *Authorizing Submission of Consolidated Funding Application for Various Local Waterfront Programs and Community Development Programs*, Mr. Moore stated that several projects had been added since last year when a Board Member had asked for a listing of all of the projects, one of which was a sewer engineering project in the Town of Johnsbury with the match being provided by the Town. He said the other project was a Warren County Housing Needs Study which did not require any matching funds and he encouraged anyone with questions to contact him.

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Privilege of the floor was extended to Mary Elizabeth Kissane, *County Attorney*, to provide a report from the County Attorney. Ms. Kissane provided a summary of the ruling in the County's favor with regards to a private pay patient of the former Westmount Health Facility. She stated the judgement awarded to the County included the entire outstanding debt of \$111,929 plus 9% interest.

Resuming the Agenda review, Chairman Conover called for the reading of communications, which Mrs. Allen read aloud, as follows:

Reports from:

1. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation Financial Reports dated March 31, 2019 and April 30, 2019;
2. Warren County Probation Department Reports of Criminal and Family Workloads for April 2019.

Minutes from:

None.

Letters/emails from:

None.

Other:

1. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation April 2019 payment in the amount of \$3,369.

Continuing to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 246-295 were mailed; she apprised proposed Resolution No. 288 was amended after mailing and a motion was needed to approve the revision. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Simpson, seconded by Supervisor Braymer and carried unanimously. She noted proposed Resolution No. 296 was developed after mailing, and a motion was necessary to bring it to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Braymer and seconded by Supervisor Dickinson and carried unanimously.

Chairman Conover called for discussion and public comment on the proposed resolutions, as well as requests for roll call votes.

Bill Mahar, *Town of Warrensburg Resident*, thanked the Board members for holding another Board meeting in the evening, apprising he was present to address them regarding the Resolution concerning commencing legal action against David Decker to recover monies owed to the County. He informed it was public knowledge that Mr. Decker was the subject of a criminal proceeding from which he may lose his freedom and an even higher probability he would emerge insolvent, bankrupt and effectively judgement proof making any civil judgements obtained of little monetary value. He remarked in spite of these circumstances he believed initiating this action was the right thing to do, as the citizens and taxpayers of Warren County were owed this money and the County Board was taking the steps to ensure that the rights and interests of the County residents were defended, notwithstanding the probabilities of getting paid. He advised there was a second question about the legal action tonight the Board may consider pertaining to whether they should name a second defendant; however, he noted, it was his understanding that it was believed the statute of limitations had expired and this second defendant was now unreachable. He mentioned it had been his experience that arguments could be made on any point of law and in this case when the clock on the time limitations began ticking was an open question. He informed in the same spirit with which the Board was considering suing Mr. Decker, mainly that of taking all the available steps to protect the rights and interest of Warren County residents, he felt the second defendant should be included and not preemptively filtered out prior to starting a legal action even though the judge may dismiss the second defendant early in the process.

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Lastly, in reference to any proposed Resolutions that may be related to the presentation by The Hyde Museum that occurred earlier, Mr. Mahar remarked he felt the arts both fine and performing were an underappreciated asset and worthy of community support.

Mr. Whitehead read aloud a statement regarding Mr. Decker, the Lake George Watershed Coalition, the missing money and how the Town of Queensbury was responsible; *a copy of Mr. Whitehead's statement is on file with the items distributed at the June 19th Board Meeting.*

Supervisor Dickinson requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 281, *Authorizing Commencement of Litigation Against David Decker.*

Supervisor Geraghty requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 257, *Adopting the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge on Behalf of Planning and Community Development.*

Supervisor Geraghty apprised when he was the Chairman of the Board in 2016 both he, and the County Attorney at that time, had made numerous pleas to the Towns of Queensbury and Bolton to pay the the County what was owed. He said the Town of Bolton had paid the County what was due, but no payment was ever received from the Town of Queensbury. He said he partially concurred with Mr. Whitehead in that he felt the Town of Queensbury was remiss because the County taxpayers from the other towns had to pick up the bill. He mentioned the Town of Queensbury could have been fooled by this gentleman, but he felt they should have paid the County because they had been requesting it since 2016. He remarked although he did not like this, he concurred that the Town of Queensbury was responsible for some of this.

A motion was made by Supervisor Geraghty and seconded by Supervisor Dickinson to amend proposed Resolution No. 281, *Authorizing Commencement of Litigation Against David Decker*, to include the Town of Queensbury.

Supervisor McDevitt requested that Ms. Kissane provide some input into the motion before them. Ms. Kissane stated her only request was that for the Board to provide direction as to what the cause of action would be because she did not see one and could not file a complaint without one. She stated she was looking for the Board members to direct her on what they wanted her to sue the Town of Queensbury for, as there was no contract with them allowing her to sue for breach of contract. She mentioned she was aware that individuals had suggested an implied contract; however, she noted, she was unsure how to get there since the work was completed in the Town of Bolton on a County road which was of no benefit to the Town of Queensbury.

Supervisor Sokol questioned whether this was a time sensitive matter that needed to be handled tonight, because if it was not he would suggest tabling it until next month to allow Supervisor Strough to be present and comment on the matter.

Chairman Conover inquired whether Supervisor Sokol was making a motion to table proposed the proposed amendment to Resolution No. 281, *Authorizing Commencement of Litigation Against David Decker*, and Supervisor Sokol responded he would if it was an option and they could send it back to Committee for further discussion.

Motion was made by Supervisor Sokol, seconded by Supervisor Beaty and carried by majority vote, with Supervisors Braymer, Hogan, Wild and Geraghty voting in opposition, to table the amendment to include the Town of Queensbury in proposed Resolution No. 281 and send it back to Committee for further discussion.

Mr. Moore clarified the motion they had just voted on was the amendment to proposed Resolution No. 281, *Authorizing Commencement of Litigation Against David Decker*, however, he noted, the Resolution was still on the floor.

Chairman Conover apprised there was continued discussion on proposed Resolution No. 281 which remained in its current form, it could be send back to Committee or it could be amended again.

A motion was made by Supervisor Beaty, seconded by Supervisor Sokol and carried by majority vote, with Supervisors Braymer, Loeb, Hogan, Wild, Geraghty, Leggett and Diamond voting in opposition, to table proposed Resolution No. 281, *Authorizing Commencement of Litigation Against David Decker*, and send it back to Committee.

Supervisor Simpson questioned if the Town of Queensbury was ever invoiced for the \$50,000 from the County and Mr. Moore replied the manner in which the contract was set up was that the State contracted with whichever towns turn it was to administer the funding and then the towns subcontracted with Mr. Decker who was responsible for paying out anyone who incurred costs. He apprised the proper channel for the County to take at that time was to invoice Mr. Decker. Mr. Simpson mentioned he worked as a contractor and if he did not pay his materials bill a lien was placed on him, as well as his supplier. He said although he never had this occur, he was aware of other contractors who had. He pointed out someone was responsible for any agreement the County engaged in.

Chairman Conover informed this discussion and more could take place at the next Support Services Committee meeting.

In regard to proposed Resolution No. 257, *Adopting the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge on Behalf of Planning and Community Development*, Supervisor Beaty remarked he would be voting in favor of the proposed Resolution; however, he noted, he would like the record to reflect this did not mean he would be blindly supporting expensive initiatives that were not in the best interest of the County taxpayers and the business community. He apprised he was fully supportive of environmental efforts that assisted the local tourism industry and green initiatives that produced savings to justify the investment. He said if the Climate Smart Communities designation assisted the County with advancing common sense projects he would support it; however he was requesting the County Administration and the DPW Engineers to complete a thorough cost benefit analysis of all the projects going forward.

In response to Supervisor Beaty's comments, Supervisor Braymer informed it would be in the best interest of the County to make investments in its infrastructure to ensure the County was ready for a changing climate because that was coming and it could either pay these protections now or have floods occur in the communities that the County had to respond to, such as what was occurring in the Town of Thurman and other places in the County. She mentioned they could either make those investments now or pay for them later and suffer the damaging effects, as well as increased costs. She said she hoped everyone would vote in favor of proposed Resolution No. 257, *Adopting the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge on Behalf of Planning and Community Development*.

Supervisor Geraghty apprised he concurred with Supervisor Beaty, but he would support proposed Resolution No. 257, *Adopting the New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge on Behalf of Planning and Community Development*. He stated while he was supportive of the initiative, he was concerned about initiatives costing jobs.

Supervisor Thomas stated he would be voting in favor of proposed Resolution No. 257, *Adopting the*

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New York State Climate Smart Communities Pledge on Behalf of Planning and Community Development; however, he noted, he had issues with element nos. 5, 6 and 10, as he believed they were vague.

Supervisor Loeb stated he recalled a report that was reviewed regarding the population changes within the Adirondack Park with the premise being that the loss of population and jobs was due to the environmental restrictions and burden that the population had to deal with. He informed this study determined that any decreases were seen equally across the Country and in some cases not as much in the Adirondacks as other places. He added one of the strengths they had to keep their community together was the environmental protections that were given to the Adirondacks.

Supervisor Simpson advised an APRAP (*Adirondack Park Regional Assessment of Project*) study conducted by the AATV (*Adirondack Association of Towns & Villages*) in coordination with other agencies on the population which indicated how harmful the environmental restrictions had been to the population of the Adirondacks and could be viewed on the AATV website. He stated the study had been very informative and he cautioned the Board members from relying on information from just one report.

Supervisor Geraghty informed he believed the report Supervisor Loeb was referring to was completed by Protect the Adirondacks and the APRAP study consisted of interviews with area schools, businesses, etc.

Supervisor Braymer apprised she felt compelled to remind Supervisor Simpson that when they had attended the NACo (*National Association of Counties*) Conference in Washington D.C. earlier this year many of the representatives had discussed the loss of population in their rural areas supporting the fact that this was not unique to the Adirondacks. She mentioned what was unique to the Adirondacks was the Adirondack Park and the land use controls that were in place to allow protection of the wilderness, as well as populations to be mixed together and to have growth and economic activity and residential buildings in the middle of the Park. She remarked this supported the notion that they could be combined and be successful.

Supervisor Leggett stated the definition of APPRAP was Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Project and its purpose was to seek a balance in the Adirondack Park which his predecessor was involved in. He said another study was the Adirondack Park and Rural America Economic Population Trends 1970-2010 which did indicate that park towns saw an increase of 11.6% from 1970-2010 in population. He announced on July 24th the Common Ground Alliance would be reviewing the analytics of the Adirondacks and he welcomed everyone to attend.

Supervisor Geraghty asked whether they would be voting on proposed Resolution No. 281, *Authorizing Commencement of Litigation Against David Decker*, and Chairman Conover responded in the negative, apprising that the Resolution had been tabled.

In regard to proposed Resolution No. 249, *Authorizing Six (6) Month Lease Agreement with D&G Recycling, LLC for a Portion of County Owned Property F/K/A Ciba Geigy Property*) in the Town of *Queensbury*, Supervisor Leggett pointed out one of the bays in the building was used by the Office of Emergency Services and since there was no one present from that Department at the meeting he wanted to ensure they were comfortable that the space they were using was going to be rented out because it appeared as if they were no longer using the space. He offered privilege of the floor to Brian LaFlure, *Director, Office of Emergency Services*, to speak to the matter.

Mr. LaFlure stated currently when they stored their equipment in the building there was not a sufficient

amount of space using both bays. He said the reason the bay was vacant at this time was because he had some equipment that was out being used. He mentioned he was working with Mr. Hajos to determine an alternate location to store their equipment; however, he noted, taking the bay away from their Department would cause issues unless an alternative storage space was provided. He pointed out if they rented D&G Recycling that bay, D&G's operation would be on the wrong side of the security fence where all of OES's equipment was located. He requested in the future they contact him when discussion occurred that would impact his Department.

A motion was made by Supervisor Leggett, seconded by Supervisor Wild and carried unanimously to table proposed Resolution No. 249, *Authorizing Six (6) Month Lease Agreement with D & G Recycling, LLC for a Portion of County Owned Property F/K/A Ciba Geigy Property) in the Town of Queensbury*, and return to the County Facilities Committee for further discussion.

Supervisor Simpson apprised of a recent invitation to the Northeast Regional State Leadership Day Conference at the White House on July 16th. He said he had discussed the matter with Supervisors Geraghty and Merlino and determined they would all like to attend, but because this was just brought to their attention, they did not have time to bring the request to Committee for approval. He mentioned he was unsure if anyone else would like to attend, but noted a resolution was required for out-of-State travel which would need to be brought from the floor today.

Chairman Conover announced in order to consider this, the Board would need to waive the Rules of the Board regarding the requirement that a resolution be presented in writing, which required a two-thirds majority vote.

A motion was made by Supervisor Geraghty, seconded by Supervisor Simpson and carried unanimously to approve the request to waive the Rules of the Board that a resolution be presented in writing.

Supervisor Simpson apprised a resolution was required to authorize himself and Supervisors Geraghty and Merlino to attend an afternoon Conference at the White House in Washington D.C. on July 16th. Supervisor McDevitt questioned what the purpose of the Conference was and Supervisor Geraghty responded it was the same Conference the three of them had attended last year in Washington D.C. which allowed County officials from all across the States of New York and New Jersey to meet with Federal representatives to discuss the issues. Supervisor McDevitt inquired whether the President would be partaking in the Conference and Supervisor Geraghty replied in the negative. Supervisor Simpson added they would be working on building relationships with the Federal Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of the Environment and their staff. He said it provided them with an opportunity to interact and discuss the County issues with the Federal representatives who were making decisions on them. Supervisor Loeb voiced his desire to attend the Conference, as well.

Motion was made by Supervisor Dickinson and seconded by Supervisor Frasier to authorize Supervisors Simpson, Geraghty, Merlino and Loeb to attend the Northeast Regional State Leadership Day in Washington, DC on July 16, 2019.

Supervisor Wild asked what Supervisors Simpson and Geraghty hoped to accomplish by attending the Conference. Supervisor Simpson responded that he had done a report on efforts they made with regard to telecommunications earlier this year where they met with representatives from the White House and the County's Federal representatives in Congress and the Senate to discuss broadband and cell phone coverage in rural areas, as well as the individuals from the FCC (*Federal Communications Commission*). He added a Federal Bill was being worked on which set aside millions of dollars to address cell phone and broadband coverage as a result of the efforts of NYSAC (*New York State Association of Counties*),

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NACo and these meetings with the Federal representatives. Supervisor Leggett questioned whether there was funding available to pay for the travel and Mrs. Allen replied affirmatively. She said currently there was around \$8,000 available within her Budget for this purpose, but if toward the end of the year the funds dwindled she may have to return to Committee to ask for additional funding. Supervisor McDevitt inquired whether an estimate was available for the cost involved and Mrs. Allen replied in the negative.

Chairman Conover called the question and the motion to authorize Supervisors Simpson, Geraghty and Loeb to attend the Northeast Regional State Leadership Day in Washington, DC on July 16, 2019 was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Allen advised prior to voting on Resolutions, the Resolution to Waive the Rules would be Resolution No 297 and the Resolution which authorized out-of-State travel for Supervisors Simpson, Geraghty, Merlino and Loeb would be Resolution No. 298, neither of which were subject to a roll call vote.

Chairman Conover called for a vote on resolutions, following which 246-298 were approved, as presented, with the exception of proposed Resolution Nos. 249 and 281 which were tabled.

Chairman Conover called for public comments from anyone wanting to address the Board on any matter; there being no one wishing to speak, Chairman Conover called for announcements.

Chairman Conover called for announcements.

Supervisor Braymer remarked she was disappointed that they had not moved forward with adopting Resolution No. 281, *Authorizing Commencement of Litigation Against David Decker*, because as Mr. Mahar indicated earlier, the County residents were in support of suing Mr. Decker and now the County had placed its ability to sue in jeopardy as a result of the statute of limitations issue. She stated she hoped this could be worked out quickly at Committee and go after at least one of the prospective defendants. She pointed out Chairman Conover had inadvertently overlooked an individual from the public who would like to comment.

Chairman Conover apologized to the gentlemen for overlooking him and asked him to go to the podium and identify himself before he addressed the Board.

Peter Brothers, *Town of Lake George Resident*, apprised he was pleased with the decision to hold a County meeting in the evening when the taxpayers could actually attend as they were usually held during the day when it was impossible for those who worked to do so. He stated a number of County matters had been referenced in the news, such as Siemens, the Co-Gen, the Airport and the former County Nursing Home, all of which were critical issues. He remarked he did not believe the notion that they should move forward with the Runway Extension at the County Airport was a good idea because they were receiving "free money" from the FAA, as this was not the case since it was taxpayer money that everyone paid for. He pointed out in January when County homeowners received their County tax bill they also received a notice that 50% or more of their County tax bill was used to pay for Medicaid and other unfunded mandates. He encouraged the Board members to put more pressure on the State Government and to work with the State representatives to stop passing on the expenses to the County as unfunded mandates.

In response to the concern that there was a time limit on the action against Mr. Decker referenced in Resolution No. 281, *Authorizing Commencement of Litigation Against David Decker*, Mr. Whitehead

stated that he did not believe holding off for one month would make a difference, as he felt the County had bigger issues with their attorneys. He mentioned in the past the Siemens contracts were all adopted in December with the same types of comments associated with them, such as a grant was expiring and a vote was required today or the County would lose out on money, etc. resulting in the County being responsible for millions of dollars of debt. He remarked if the Supervisors were not given enough time to make a decision, they should be asking why this was because they deserved to have sufficient time to make the right decision.

Supervisor Dickinson apprised he would like to respond to Mr. Bothers regarding State mandates. He informed the State mandates were difficult to deal with and because they were local government they did not have a lot of pull at the State level. He noted the County was a member of NYSAC and the towns were members of the Association of Towns and Villages, both of which the County used to put more pressure on the State to stop or abate these mandates.

Supervisor Loeb encouraged everyone to attend the June 24th meeting of the Support Services Committee where they would continue the discussion on the litigation against David Decker and whether or not to include the Town of Queensbury. He referred to Food Truck Friday in the Town of Horicon and how it segued into how one of his tasks for the American Red Cross was to drive their food truck. He mentioned the American Red Cross did not prepare the food, as this was generally handled by the Southern Baptist Churches. He reminded everyone the American Red Cross offered free smoke alarm installation to anyone interested in Warren County and he noted today he and his team had installed them in homes in the Town of Queensbury and the City of Glens Falls and tomorrow they would be in the Towns of Stony Creek, Johnsburg and Warrensburg.

Supervisor Driscoll remarked that the Supervisors who were traveling to Washington D.C. were doing so for business purposes for the County and he was looking forward to hearing a report on their trip when they returned. He stated he felt they should encourage travel such as this if the funds were available within the Budget to allow them to network and build relationships with the County's Federal representatives.

Supervisor Simpson advised he concurred with what Mr. Brothers had stated about these unfunded mandates and the way to push for these changes was to travel to Albany, New York and Washington D.C. and advocate for the communities, as well as the County. He mentioned how building relationships with their Federal representatives provided them with the opportunity to ask questions and weigh in and build those relationships so that they would reach out to look for solutions. He said what he learned during his previous trip was that they were willing to sit down and discuss the local issues and work together on solutions. He informed this was one of the reasons he felt this trip was imperative, as they would not be able to fight the unfunded mandated without speaking up. Supervisor Simpson apprised that he had distributed flyers to each of the Supervisors pertaining to Food Truck Friday's on the Mill Pond in the Town of Horicon which was commencing on June 28th that included live music, as well as a number of vendors and he encouraged all to attend.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Beaty and seconded by Supervisor Dickinson, Chairman Conover adjourned the Board Meeting at 8:02 p.m.