

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

## RESOLUTION NO. 585 OF 2019

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS SIMPSON, MERLINO, FRASIER, DICKINSON, DIAMOND, LOEB, HYDE, MAGOWAN, WILD, HOGAN AND GERAGHTY**

**AUTHORIZING THE COMMENCEMENT OF ABANDONMENT PROCEEDINGS WITH THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD (STB) FOR THE COUNTY OWNED RAILROAD TRACKS**

WHEREAS, Warren County owns approximately forty (40) miles of railroad running from North Creek in the Town of Johnsbury to the Town of Corinth together with certain real property, supporting facilities, and buildings, and

WHEREAS, as a result of a Request for Proposals the County entered into a contract with Saratoga and North Creek Railroad, LLC (hereinafter "SNCR") in 2011, to operate passenger and freight trains, and

WHEREAS, the contract with SNCR was extended in 2016 and then subsequently terminated on June 25, 2018, and

WHEREAS, the County issued a further Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the sale or lease of the railroad, and

WHEREAS, the county participated in negotiations with certain rail operators as a result of this RFP, without success, and

WHEREAS, the County finds it appropriate to commence with abandonment proceedings which will initiate a Surface Transportation Board (STB) review of any remaining freight proposals for viability and, if no viable freight proposals exist, abandonment proceedings will allow the County to move forward with alternative uses of the rail corridor which may include recreational uses, and

WHEREAS, abandonment proceedings do not obligate the County to remove tracks or other railroad infrastructure, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors authorizes the County Administrator to commence abandonment proceedings with the STB.