

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021**



***Note: As per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1: "Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed"***

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 10:02 a.m.

Ms. Rachel E. Seeber presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Smith.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Leggett, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll, Frasier, Smith, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Magowan, Beaty, Thomas, Shepler, Geraghty and Seeber-20 Absent -1 Supervisor Hogan

Supervisors Diamond, Leggett, McDevitt, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll, Frasier, Merlino, Wild, Magowan, Beaty, Thomas, Shepler, Geraghty and Seeber were physically present, while Supervisors Conover, Smith, Dickinson and Strough attended virtually.

Chairwoman Seeber noted a motion was necessary to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2021 Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Geraghty, seconded by Supervisor Shepler and carried unanimously.

Continuing to the presentation of the Employee of the Month Award, Chairwoman Seeber asked Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, to come forward and accompany her to present the award. Mr. Moore advised they would once again be recognizing an employee who had not only provided excellent service during the pandemic, but also in general and this individual was no exception. He stated this individual and their department had performed excellent throughout the pandemic which he was grateful for. He offered privilege of the floor to Christina Mastrianni, *Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services*, to introduce the recipient of this month's award.

Ms. Mastrianni introduced Amy McByrne, *Director, Countryside Adult Home*, informing Ms. McByrne had demonstrated her commitment to the residents and staff at Countryside Adult Home. She mentioned Ms. McByrne had prioritized the health and safety of the residents and staff while promptly implementing the NYS DOH (*New York State Department of Health*) directives. She informed Ms. McByrne worked tirelessly around the clock, often during personal and family time which she did without complaining. She apprised Ms. McByrne showed compassion for the residents and their families and because of her efforts they were proudly able to state that none of the residents of Countryside Adult Home had tested positive for the Coronavirus. She concluded by indicating Ms. McByrne was an exemplary employee and she was thankful for Ms. McByrne's efforts in managing the Facility. A round

of applause was given.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairwoman Seeber welcomed Dr. Kristine Duffy, *President, SUNY Adirondack*, advising as a sponsor of the College, SUNY Adirondack had continued to be a valuable asset to the community and the Board was grateful for the relationship the County had with them and all that they did for the region, as well as the opportunity to partner and work with some of their exceptional interns. She mentioned in 2015 the County established the SUNY Adirondack Certificate of Excellence Award and was handled in collaboration with Washington County every year. She advised this award was given annually to an outstanding graduate of SUNY Adirondack; however, she noted, as a result of the pandemic they were just recognizing the two 2020 graduates. She indicated formal recognition was typically made during the commencement ceremonies, adding the recipients were also asked to attend the June Board meeting to be recognized by the Board. She said as previously mentioned due to the pandemic the students were unable to attend the June 19, 2020 Board Meeting and instead would be recognizing both of those 2020 graduates with a very sincere congratulations for their hard work. She indicated the types of requirements and expectations that were required to be a recipient of this award consisted of the following: individuals who had overcome significant obstacles in the course of pursuing their education; demonstrates academic achievement; exhibits motivation, tenacity and enthusiasm; and was a resident of the County. Chairwoman Seeber extended privilege of the floor to Supervisor Braymer, who served as Chair of the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee, to remotely present a Certificate of Excellence and provide a brief background on why the two recipients were so serving of the recognition.

Supervisor Braymer apprised she was honored to present the award today and provide a brief background on each recipient, who she did not believe were present today, but she would ensure they received their certificates. She thanked Supervisor Wild for doing a video on behalf of the County congratulating the recipients which aired during the commencement ceremony that did take place in 2020. She stated the two recipients were Tina Nguyen and Matthew Thung, the first of which she would like to provide a background on was Ms. Nguyen. She informed Ms. Nguyen graduated from the SUNY Adirondack Nursing Program and had overcome a myriad of obstacles to obtain her degree. She indicated many times for Ms. Nguyen when the combination of work and school appeared as if it may be too overwhelming, but she never gave up. She advised Ms. Nguyen was raised in Syracuse, New York as one of eight children and as the second eldest child she played a big roll in helping to raise her younger siblings. She stated Ms. Nguyen's parents were both refugees from Vietnam who met here in the United States, adding English was Ms. Nguyen's second language. She apprised Ms. Nguyen had made a significant contribution to the community through her healthcare work, informing she had obtained a Peer Support position at the Rode House, which provided mental health support in Warren and Washington Counties, as well as working at Adirondack Urgent Care as a Patient Care Technician. She added Ms. Nguyen had also worked as a CNA (*Certified Nursing Assistant*) at Slate Valley Center in the Town of Granville, New York. She mentioned Ms. Nguyen took these jobs seriously and had been as dedicated to her healthcare job as she was to her studies as a student at SUNY Adirondack. She informed there had been occasions when Ms. Nguyen faltered and had indicated to the staff at SUNY Adirondack that she had lost her confidence; however, she noted, by sheer force of will, dedication and utilizing every resource available to her Ms. Nguyen was successful in completing the degree program and graduating. Supervisor Braymer concluded by congratulating Ms. Nguyen on this accomplishment. A round of applause was given.

Supervisor Braymer stated Mr. Thung had graduated with a degree in Information Technology and Information Security. She advised Mr. Thung grew up in the City of Glens Falls and was the son of Chinese immigrants and a developmentally disabled mother. She said when Mr. Thung was growing up money was always tight and between his fathers work at Flower Drum Song and the social security

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income from his mother there was just enough to make ends meet. She informed Mr. Thung started his preparation for post secondary education by joining the SUNY Adirondack Upward Bound Program when he was in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and though his hard work he was an honor roll student, as well as a member of the National Honor Society when he graduated from Glens Falls High School in 2018. She indicated Mr. Thung had many options for post secondary education, but he ultimately selected SUNY Adirondack due to the financial affordability and proximity to home. She apprised during Mr. Thung's time at SUNY Adirondack he had participated in the Finish in Two Initiative, had a work/study position in the Upward Bound Office, kept his part-time job at Hannaford and tutored for the Accessibility's Office, all while maintaining a 3.8 GPA (*Grade Point Average*). She stated through this uncertain time Ms. Thung had been able to maintain as high academic achievement while serving the community as an essential worker, working 24+ hours a week and he had made it through to graduation. She concluded by congratulating Mr. Thung and thanking him for his service. A round of applause was given.

Supervisor Braymer thanked Dr. Duffy for being in attendance today, adding the candidates for the award in 2021 would go before the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee.

Moving along, Chairwoman Seeber declared the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2021, entitled "Dispensing with the Requirements Under New York State General Municipal Law Section 352 and Authorizing a Lease of Airport Real Property" open at 10:13 a.m. and she requested that Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, read aloud the Notice of Public Hearing, which she proceeded to do.

Mrs. Allen noted she had not received any comments or requests for special accommodations. Chairwoman Seeber advised the County Buildings had been reopened to the public this past Monday and she asked Don Lehman, *Director of Public Affairs*, if he was aware of anyone being present from the public today who wished to speak or had anyone submitted comments to him. Mr. Lehman responded affirmatively, informing he had received an email from Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, who indicated he felt leasing the otherwise land at the Airport for solar arrays was an example of the kind of creative stewardship of public lands that he would hope to see from this Board. He apprised Mr. Whitehead stated while the revenue from these leases could only be used to defray airport costs, he believed this was a good use for this revenue, as it strengthened the continued operation of that fine facility by reducing the financial burden on the County. Mr. Lehman advised Mr. Whitehead noted that there were lands east of these leases that were also either assigned to the Airport or owned outright by the County, such as the National Guard Facility, and he would hope that they were looking to do more of the same with these lands, as well.

Mr. Lehman advised as of right now no comments had been made regarding this Public Hearing via Youtube.

Chairwoman Seeber once again called for anyone wishing to speak on Proposed Warren County Local Law No. 3 of 2021; there being no response she closed the Public Hearing at 10:16 a.m.

Continuing with the Agenda review, Chairwoman Seeber declared the Public Hearing on possible solar lease at the Warren County (Floyd Bennett Memorial) Airport open at 10:16 a.m. and she requested that Mrs. Allen read aloud the Notice of Public Hearing, which she proceeded to do. Chairwoman Seeber then called for any public comment.

Mrs. Allen noted she had not received any written comments or requests for special accommodations. Chairwoman Seeber asked Mr. Lehman if he had received any public comments regarding this Public Hearing and Mr. Lehman replied the only comment he had received that was applicable to this which was the one he had inadvertently read during the prior Public Hearing from Mr. Whitehead.

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Chairwoman Seeber once again called for anyone wishing to speak on possible solar lease at the Warren County (Floyd Bennett Memorial) Airport; there being no response she closed the Public Hearing at 10:18 a.m.

Next, Chairwoman Seeber declared the Public Hearing on possible submission of one or more *Community Development Block Grant* (CDBG) applications for the 2020 program year funds available through the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security* (CARES) Act open at 10:18 a.m. and she requested that Mrs. Allen read aloud the Notice of Public Hearing, which she proceeded to do. Chairwoman Seeber then called for any public comment.

Wayne LaMothe, *County Planner*, apprised part of the required information for the Public Hearing consisted of informing under this funding round there were five areas that would be supported as they related to COVID-19 issues. He said the County was considering submitting an application under the area of improving air quality in public spaces at public facilities specifically for Countryside Adult Home. He stated the application would be submitted for an estimated cost of \$622,000 for replacement of the HVAC (*Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning*) system in that facility to meet the MERV 13 CDC (*Center for Disease Control*) recommendations. He advised he had obtained a preliminary report from Clark Patterson Lee which would further refine that figure and was required as part of the submission process. He mentioned another thing he needed to note was that Resolution No. 28 of 2020 authorized the submission of a grant application for CDBG funds specifically for replacement of the roof at Countryside Adult Home and was in no manner related to what was being proposed here, adding there was no duplication of funding requests. He stated this was a certification he was required to provide as part of the Public Hearing. He informed a preliminary application had been submitted to the State on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, on April 6<sup>th</sup> he participated in a conference call regarding this application and on April 7<sup>th</sup> they invited him to submit a full application.

Chairwoman Seeber once again called for anyone wishing to speak on possible submission of one or more (CDBG) applications for the 2020 program year funds available through the CARES Act; but there was no response. She asked Mr. Lehman if he had received any public comment regarding this Public Hearing and he replied in the negative. Chairwoman Seeber closed the Public Hearing at 10:23 a.m.

Proceeding to the report by the Chair of the Board, Chairwoman Seeber apprised she had a very busy month and instead of reviewing all of the dates of the meetings she had attended she would file a report with the Clerk of the Board. She stated she would like to highlight a few notable things that had taken place over the last month, the first of which was the Memorial Ceremony that took place this past Tuesday, April 13 that honored Public Health. She thanked everyone who attended the ceremony to recognize and support the County's Public Health Department, its staff and volunteers. She informed a beautiful memorial tree had been planted in front of the Municipal Center Building for the purpose of honoring, respecting and providing condolences to the individuals whose lives had been lost and continue to lose. She mentioned National Public Health Week took place from April 5 -11, 2021 during which each day there had been an emphasis on the hard work that their Public Health partners had provided from rebuilding, to advancing racial equity, strengthening communities, galvanizing climate justice, building COVID-19 resilience, uplifting mental health and wellness and evaluating the essential and healthcare workforce. She stated letters had been sent on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to every employee within the Public Health Department, as well as recognizing all of the volunteers who had worked tirelessly in the County with the pandemic rollout and assisting with COVID-19 testing. She apprised she would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the County's partners at the State who were managing the mass vaccination site in the Town of Queensbury and had helped the County achieve vaccinating over 45% of its residents. She added it had been one month since the mass vaccination site had been open and as of last Friday around 16,000 vaccinations had been given at the

site through the County's partnership with the State. She officially recognized Sam Parker, who was the County's liaison to the Governors Office and also Chris Collins, who was instrumental in ensuring the mass vaccination site was located in an accessible location, noting she was looking forward to meeting with them this upcoming Tuesday to present them with Certificates of Appreciation. She stated she had also written letters to all of the volunteers at the State level that were in Warren County providing such as exceptional service to its residents. In addition, she mentioned this week she also had the opportunity to recognize that it was National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. She indicated this occurred during the second week of April and the County had honored their Public Safety Telecommunications employees by sending letters to each of these employees in the Sheriff's Office. She added she also had the opportunity to learn more about and tour the Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center with Assemblyman Simpson. She stated she would be taking a hard look at what could be done to continue to support the County's Dispatch Center and she was pleased to note that Supervisor Diamond, who served as Chair of the Public Safety Committee would be taking some time to expand upon what they had learned about the Dispatch Center this week. She explained this was a week long event to celebrate those who dedicated their lives to serving the public. She concluded by thanking all of them for their hard work and dedication. She stated in addition to attending all of the Committee meetings she had attended various other Committee meetings with partners in the community, as well as had the privilege to speak with Women's Advisory Council with the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce. She remarked she was appreciative of the dialogue that took place at this meeting which provided that type of insight to the County's business partners and woman in business and she thanked Supervisor Driscoll for attending the meeting, as well. Chairwoman Seeber advised the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks meeting was held on March 25<sup>th</sup> during which they discussed at length a resolution that Supervisor Beaty would be presenting at the upcoming meeting of the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee regarding access to broadband. She thanked William Farber, *Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors*, and NYSAC (*New York State Association of Counties*) for bringing this forward. She thanked all of the members of the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks for their support and dialogue that had taken place over the past several months regarding that resolution. She mentioned there had been several Supervisors who had participated along with her in making a personal video thanking the County Public Health staff for all of their efforts which was also posted on the County social media pages. She informed she was pleased to announce significant headway had been made with the LDC (*Local Development Corporation*) from working with Jim Siplon, *Director, Economic Development Corporation*, and all of the Board Members of the LDC who would continue to work to assist the community. She indicated National Crime Victims' Week began on this upcoming Sunday and information was emailed to them pertaining to attending a small Brick Walkway Ceremony in front of the Municipal Center Building this year which was slightly different than the ceremonies they had held in proper years. She voiced her gratitude to Jason Carusone, *District Attorney*, for continuing on with this tradition. She said what she was hoping to do this week was to continue to honor those who worked in the criminal justice field and provided services to crime victims. She informed National Crime Victims' Week was providing to recommit to ensuring that accessible, appropriate and trauma informed services were offered to all crime victims, adding this Board would be proclaiming the week of April 18-25, 2021 as Crime Victims' Rights Week. Chairwoman Seeber mentioned there were several other Proclamations included in the Resolution Packet that were equally important and the Director of Public Affairs would be contacting the Supervisors on the appropriate Committees as they continued to do outreach on social media and on the County website to highlight these hard working organizations and the different awareness efforts that had taken place during this month and into next month. In conclusion, Chairwoman Seeber apprised she would like to congratulate Mrs. Allen, who had been tirelessly working over the past few months on NACO's (*National Association of Counties*) Leadership Academy which she graduated from yesterday. She remarked she was pleased the County had a graduate at the national level to continue to act as a roll model and set examples for the Board specifically on what leadership should look like,

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as well as to bring many ideas to the Board on how they could continue to work hard to lead the community. She stated she wanted to congratulate Mrs. Allen on behalf of the Board on this achievement. A round of applause was given.

Moving along, Chairwoman Seeber voiced her appreciation of all of the Committee Chairs hard work over the last three month and indicated at this point she would be requesting that each Chair of a Committee by alphabetical order of their last name provide a report on the past months meetings and activities.

Supervisor Beaty began his report of the activities of the Finance Committee by offering privilege of the floor to Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, to provide a report on the County finances.

Mr. Swan advised his Office was in the process of completing the closing of the County books for 2020 which would be finished next week; he added they would be meeting the State's deadline to file the report with them as they had during his entire tenure as County Treasurer. He stated a copy of this report would be forward to the entire Board for review to ensure they were aware of the financial status of the County and he encouraged anyone with questions regarding same to contact him.

Mr. Swan mentioned in conjunction with the closing of the books his Office was also beginning to determine items that may qualify for the Stimulus Funding Reimbursements from the Federal Government in regard to loss revenues, etc. to get a better idea where these funds could be spent once they had a better idea what the qualified expenses were. He added they did not have the full guidelines regarding this funding available to them; however, he noted, he was aware Chairwoman Seeber would be establishing a Working Group whose purpose was to determine the appropriate use for these funds.

In regard to Occupancy Tax, Mr. Swan stated the County had collected around \$4.2 million which was around a 14% decline as compared to the previous years collections. He advised this week he had met with Supervisor Geraghty, Mr. Moore and Ryan Dickey, *Second Assistant County Attorney*, to discuss Airbnb and other short-term rental internet providers which they would be discussing the status of at the next meeting of the Tourism & Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee. He informed next week his Office would be mailing out about 450 letters to short-term rental properties that were not currently registered with Warren County notifying them that they should be collecting and submitting occupancy tax to the County for these properties which he was anticipating a significant response from.

Supervisor Leggett questioned whether Mr. Swan was aware of why there was an increase in the amount of sales tax revenue the State provided to the County in March and Mr. Swan replied he was unsure, as the only explanation that had been provided to him was that the State had made an adjustment, but no reason was given for this increase. He added this increase was across the Board for all of the other Counties in the State.

Supervisor Beaty advised the Finance Committee had approved proposed Resolution Nos. 112-113 and 144-155 and he provided a brief overview of each.

In regard to the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee, Supervisor Beaty stated they had approved proposed Resolution Nos. 124-127 and he provided a brief overview of each.

Chairwoman Seeber indicated the Executive Committee had not met last month.

Supervisor Braymer advised the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee had met on April 1<sup>st</sup>, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 140-143. She stated the next meeting was scheduled for

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April 29<sup>th</sup> where an update on County litigation would be provided, as well as commencing with a review of the County Ethics Policy to do some necessary updates along with discussing the hiring process for the County Attorney position. She concluded by thanking the County Department Heads and their staff for all of the great work they had been doing.

Supervisor Conover stated the Public Works Committee had met on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, approving proposed Resolution No. 137 which he provided a brief overview of. He noted Resolution No. 140 which was approved by the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee included the creation of Solid Waste/Recycling Compliance Coordinator within the Department of Public Works which he believed would be beneficial for the County. He stated all of the other matters approved by the Public Works Committee were referenced by Supervisor Beaty during his report on the Finance Committee meeting.

Supervisor Diamond informed the Public Safety Committee had approved proposed Resolution Nos. 132-136 and he provided a brief overview of each. He apprised the Public Safety Committee would be meeting again on April 19<sup>th</sup> during which they would be discussing Section 6 of Local Law No. 6 of 2014 entitled "Warren County Ethics and Disclosure Law" regarding Nepotism. He said this had not been included as an item on the agenda for the meeting, but he wanted to provide the Committee members with advanced notice that this matter would be discussed there and he encouraged anyone with questions to give him a call.

Supervisor Dickinson indicated he had nothing to report on.

Supervisor Driscoll advised the Human Services Committee had met on March 22<sup>nd</sup> where they approved proposed Resolution No. 130 which he provided a brief overview of. He indicated the next meeting was scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> where they would be reviewing and considering some requests for Countryside Adult Home presented by Ms. McByrne.

Supervisor Frasier reported on the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Health Services Committee where Mental health, Office for the Aging and Public Health had made presentations. She stated the Committee approved proposed Resolution Nos. 128-129 and she provided a brief overview of each. She added the next Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Supervisor Geraghty informed the Tourism & Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee had approved proposed Resolution Nos. 138-1389 which he requested support of. In regard to occupancy tax collection on short-term rentals, he indicated these properties were required to register with the County Treasurers Office and begin paying the 4% tax to the County and he asked that they pass this information along to those in their community who owned short-term rentals. He added he was working on the Occupancy Tax Spending Plan which was yet to be finalized; however, he apprised, they should suggest to individuals interested in receiving occupancy tax funding this year to submit their applications to the County. He added he anticipated the Occupancy Tax Spending Plan would be completed by June of this year.

Chairwoman Seeber asked Supervisor Frasier, as Vice-Chair of the Economic Growth & Development Committee, to deliver the Committee report on behalf of Supervisor Hogan, who was absent. Supervisor Frasier advised the Economic Growth & Development Committee had met on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and she recognized Brian Bearor, *President/CEO, Greater Glens Falls YMCA*, Andrea Deepe, *CEO, Warren Washington Association of Mental Health*, and Michael Bittel, *President/CEO, Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce*, for taking the time to meet with the Committee and discuss the economic impact of Not-for-Profits. She mentioned the Committee approved proposed Resolution Nos. 123-152

and she provided a brief overview of each.

Supervisor Leggett advised the Criminal Justice Committee had met on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, approving proposed Resolution Nos. 117-122 and he provided a brief summary of each.

Supervisor Magowan recognized Mr. Hajos and Supervisors Leggett, Strough and Wild for taking a significant amount of time out of their busy schedules to review all of the proposals received for land lease at the County Airport. He proceeded with providing a brief overview of proposed Resolution Nos. 114-116 which were approved by the Committee.

Supervisor Merlino reported on the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Park Operations & Management Committee where the Robert Bais, *Mayor, Village of Lake George*, advised them of the twelve events that were booked for the Festival Commons at the Charles R. Wood Park for this year. He added the Committee also approved proposed Resolution No. 131 which he provided a brief overview of. He stated he had met with Mayor Blais, Mr. Hajos and Kathryn Muncil, *CEO, Fort William Henry*, to work on a proposed fee schedule for the use of the Festival Commons space which would be presented at the April 20<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting for approval, as he believed it was necessary for them to establish set fees to ensure their expenses were covered. He advised the meeting with the organizers for the proposed Ice Castle event was scheduled for April 26<sup>th</sup> and would consist of them being open five days a week starting in December and ending in January. He remarked this event would be very beneficial for the County because it would attract visitors to the region during the off-season.

Supervisor Smith apologized for not being able to attend the Extension Services Committee meeting in person, but she was unable due to having another commitment immediately following the conclusion of the meeting. She stated Amy Sabattis, *Association Public Affairs Liaison, Cornell Cooperative Extension*, indicated to her they had an overwhelming response to the annual plant sale with most if the items offered already sold out. She mentioned on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. they would be holding a New York State Virtual Forestry event for both the beginners and advanced levels. She explained the beginner class was for youth ages ten and over who had little or no experience with tree identification, maps and compasses and then the advanced class was for youth ages thirteen and over that had a significant amount of experience. She informed on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> they would be holding the New York Logger Training Course at the Warren County Fish Hatchery and the Warren County Fairgrounds properties. She indicated they would be offering another Wild Edible Workshop again this year which was a popular program on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and consisted of teaching individuals how to identify harvest and prepare wild growing plants that could be used safely for food. She encouraged anyone who would like more information regarding any of these programs to contact their Office directly.

Supervisor Thomas indicated he had no Committee report; however, he noted, he was anticipating the closeout of the books for 2020 shortly which he hoped would result in a better outcome than what was originally projected. He mentioned Kate Fish, *Executive Director, ANCA's (Adirondack North Country Association)*, was retiring after twelve years of service and he would like to recognize her for service.

Continuing to the report by the County Administrator, Mr. Moore recognized the following people for their years of service to the County which he said he was greatly appreciative of

- \* Brian Engle for 35 years of service to Sheriff's Department;
- \* Wanda Olden for 30 years of service to Countryside Adult Home; and
- \* Diane Caldwell for 20 years of service to Public Health.

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Mr. Moore stated the March 19<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting was the same day that the mass vaccination site opened up, adding the number of vaccinated County residents continued to increase with 29,598 individuals having received at least one dose as of yesterday morning which was 46.1% of the County's population as compared to the Statewide average of 39.6%. He indicated as of yesterday morning there was also 23,209 individual County residents who were fully vaccinated which equated to 36.1% of the County's population as opposed to the Statewide average of 26.4%. He mentioned Warren County was the 11<sup>th</sup> highest performing County in the State with Nassau and Essex Counties being slightly above Warren County with both their vaccination rates at 46.3%. As previously mentioned by Chairwoman Seeber, Mr. Moore advised the tree dedication ceremony had been held this past Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and he thanked James Lieberum, *District Manager, Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District*, Maren Alexander, *Conservation District Technician, Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District*, and their Board of Directors for their donation of the tree and the assistance they provided with planting it, as well as Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, and Frank Morehouse, *Superintendent of Buildings PT - Temp*, and the DPW staff for their efforts in getting this accomplished in relatively short notice. He remarked it was a wonderful ceremony and he was appreciative of the assistance everyone provided.

In regard to the reopening of the County Buildings to the public this past Monday, Mr. Moore apprised there were some exceptions most notable of which was the Department of Motor Vehicles which was still operating on an appointment only basis as per the Governor's Executive Order. He stated appointments could be made between 8:15 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. with scheduling available online at [dmv.setmore.com](http://dmv.setmore.com). He informed the County Clerk's Office was open to the public between 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., adding not every service they provided requiring an appointment, apprising recordings and filings accepted walk in appointments; passport services were only being offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. and he notified the Department of State was still operating with significant delays with routines service taking around ten to twelve weeks with expedited service offered for a \$60 fee which would reduce the timeline to four to six weeks; the Records Room was limited to four individuals at a time as a result of social distancing requirements from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with hourly slots being assigned to prevent individuals from taking up one of four slots for the entire day in order to be fair and rotate individuals in and out of there; and pistol permit applications were available at the counter and any amendments or application submissions could be submitted to the drop box or through the mail. He mentioned appointments could be made for processing of approval letters and were available Monday and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. He advised all of this information was posted on the County website and he encouraged anyone with questions to contact the County Clerk's Office.

Mr. Moore informed on April 2<sup>nd</sup> United States Senate Majority Leader Schumer was present at the Charles R. Wood Theater to discuss his work on the Federal Stimulus Bill, apprising over the past four years the Federal Government had improved their understanding and response to the needs of County Governments for which Senator Schumer had assumed responsibility for since he had taken on the leadership position of the United States Senate. He stated Senator Schumer was well aware of the County's needs and was working hard to ensure the response at the Federal level of government continued which he was appreciative of.

Mr. Moore thanked Chris Rodgers, *former President, NACo*, and Elizabeth Butler, *City Clerk, City of Omaha Nebraska*, for providing their expertise on Robert's Rules of Order at the April 7<sup>th</sup> Board Workshop meeting which was very informative. He stated on April 8<sup>th</sup> he had participated in interviews for the Tourism Development & Event Coordinator position, notifying an update would be provided at the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Tourism & Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee. He advised he had attended a contract negotiating meeting on Thursday with representatives of the CSEA (*Civil Service Employees Association*), as the contact they had originally agreed to in the beginning of 2020 before the

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pandemic began was voted down by the Union members. He said once the pandemic began the contract negotiations stalled due to the financial uncertainty as a result of the pandemic. He added there had been no contract with the CSEA since the end of 2019. In conclusion Mr. Moore noted this would be the last Board Meeting attended by Mary Elizabeth Kissane, *County Attorney* who had served in the position since May of 2016, but was leaving at the end of the month to take a position elsewhere. He wished Ms. Kissane well and thanked her for her years of service.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ms. Kissane to provide a report from the County Attorney. Ms. Kissane apprised she had spent the last month attempting to finish up any work that may be outstanding to make the transition easier for her Office. She stated she was working closely with her First and Second Assistant County Attorney's with the hopes that there would be a smooth changeover after she left.

Chairwoman Seeber thanked Ms. Kissane for her efforts, as well as the years of service she had provided to the County.

Chairwoman Seeber advised she had been notified by Mr. Lehman he had received a late public comment regarding the Public Hearing pertaining to the solar farm at the County Airport and if no one objected she would like to request that Mr. Lehman be permitted to read the comment into the record to which no one was opposed.

Mr. Lehman stated an individual identifying themselves as Richard Sanders, MD, had indicated he was a pilot who was supportive of leasing land for solar generation at the Airport; however, he noted, he also recognized some safety issues with the area south of the departure end of Runway 19 was a crucial safety zone and in the event of engine failure on take off only Runway 19 had a safe place to land straight ahead. Mr. Lehman informed Mr. Sanders apprised Runways 1, 12 and 30 all were all obstructed at their departure ends and most engine failures in general aviation occurred on take off so this was not a hypothetical issue. Mr. Lehman advised Mr. Sanders suggested leaving a strip of land open to the top of the hill south of the runway at the greatest distance possible for the purpose of significantly increasing safety for departing, as well as arriving traffic. He stated Mr. Sanders indicated ideally that strip fo land would be 150 feet wide which was the width of the runway. He continued, informing the lighting system *MALS* (*Medium Intensity Approach Lighting System*) for Runway 19 extended 2,000 feet south of the runway and ideally there would be at minimum another 2,000 feet beyond that for emergency use.

Continuing with the Agenda review, Chairwoman Seeber called for a reading of communications, which Mrs. Allen read, as follows:

Reports from:

1. Lake George Park Commission - Regulatory Permit Program 2020 Annual Report.
2. Warren County Clerk - Annual Report for the Warren County Clerk's Office for the year 2020.
3. Warren County Probation Department - Report of Criminal and Family Workloads for the months of January and February, 2021.

Letters/emails from:

1. Southern Adirondack Realtors - Letter requesting a Proclamation declaring April as Fair Housing Month.
2. Mr. Starr Valentino - Email requesting a Proclamation declaring May 16<sup>th</sup> as "Do Something Good for your Neighbor Day".

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Other:

1. Capital District Regional Off Track Betting Corp. - February 2021 surcharge payment in the amount of \$2,013.
2. Capital District Regional Off Track Betting Corp. - 2020 Regional Benefit Distribution Installments #6 & #7, each in the amount of \$2,408.
3. Fulton County Board of Supervisors - Resolution No. 73 of 2021 entitled "*Resolution Calling Upon NYS Legislators to Curtail Governor Andrew Cuomo's Emergency Powers Authority*".

Proceeding to the reading of resolutions, Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 112-155 were distributed to the Board and posted to the Warren County website on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, which met the distribution deadline specified in the Rules of the Board.

Chairwoman Seeber proceeded with the Agenda review, continuing to the discussion and public comment on proposed Resolutions and requests for Roll Call Votes.

In regard to proposed Resolution No. 112, *Making Supplemental Appropriations*, Supervisor Wild requested an explanation regarding the \$10,000 transfer to the Legislative Board and Mrs. Allen responded this pertained to the Board's contribution to the CDPHP Cycle Share Program. She added she did not believe the full amount would be required, but the proposed resolution authorized up to \$10,000. He stated proposed Resolution No. 152, *Authorizing Agreement with Greater Glens Falls Transit and the Allocation of Funds to Expand the CDPHP Cycle Bike Share Program to Warren County as Requested by the Employment & Training Administration*, also pertained to the Bike Share Program which according to the Director of the Employment & Training Administration would be used by CDPHP, who the County was partnering on this program, as a model for the rest of their region. He explained typically this would be funded fully through the local governments, but this particular program was also being funded by the private sector and was obtaining regional recognition. He added currently it appeared as if the County's contribution would be around \$7,000, but he believed this figure would decrease even more.

Supervisor Braymer apprised she was aware a local business had expressed some concerns about them competing with this program; however, she noted, this program was in place to provide transportation for local residents and although some tourists may make use of this for recreational purposes she believed this would be helpful for residents of the City of Glens Falls to travel around the City on a bike. She indicated she was also pleased to learn the cost to the County would be less than \$10,000.

Supervisor Strough advised he believed proposed Resolution No. 114, *Accepting Proposal and Authorizing Land Lease with Nexamp Solar for Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport Solar or Other Approved Use Land Lease (WC 44-20)*, implied the letter of intent was also being approved by this Board going forward because Nexamp did require this letter of intent in order to move forward. He said he did not see the wording included in the proposed Resolution and he wanted to inquire whether his assumption was correct that it was implied. Mr. Hajos responded in order for the County to move forward with Nexamp they would require a letter of intent or something in writing from the County indicating they could move forward with the Interconnection agreement with National Grid or National Grid would not sign off on the project. Mr. Hajos stated he was unsure whether it was necessary to amend the proposed Resolution to indicate same, but he believed a letter of intent would suffice. Supervisor Magowan thanked Supervisor Strough for pointing this out, as he also believed it was implied, but felt the resolution should be amended to indicate same.

Chairwoman Seeber requested that Ms. Kissane opine on this matter. Ms. Kissane apprised as soon as proposed Resolution No. 114, *Accepting Proposal and Authorizing Land Lease with Nexamp Solar for*

*Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport Solar or Other Approved Use Land Lease (WC 44-20)*, was adopted the Purchasing Department would send them a letter accepting their bid which she assumed they could distribute to National Grid. Supervisor Magowan informed he wanted to ensure that this was covered to ensure there were no delays because this was a timely manner. Mr. Hajos read aloud an email he had received from Nexamp which stated they had begun putting together the application for interconnection for National Grid that would need to be submitted as soon as possible and in order to submit the application they required the attached form included in the email to be signed to allow them to submit an application on behalf of the County on the Airport property which they asked him to coordinate. Mr. Hajos advised if it was agreeable the Chairwoman would sign the form. Chairwoman Seeber asked Ms. Kissane if she was comfortable with her signing the form and Ms. Kissane replied the proposed Resolution only authorized Chairwoman Seeber to sign the lease agreement and she suggested they amend the proposed Resolution to also provide Chairwoman Seeber with the authority to sign any other forms that were necessary for the lease agreement. Supervisor Wild indicated that was the point he was going to make.

Motion was made by Supervisor Magowan and seconded by Supervisor Strough to amend proposed Resolution No. 114, *Accepting Proposal and Authorizing Land Lease with Nexamp Solar for Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport Solar or Other Approved Use Land Lease (WC 44-20)*, to include authorizing the Chairwoman of the Board to sign off on any other forms necessary to execute the lease agreement with Nexamp at the County Airport.

Supervisor Shepler informed her remarks did not apply to the proposed amendment to Resolution No. 114, but rather pertained to the concerns Dr. Sanders had mentioned. She questioned whether those concerns had been taken into consideration with regard to the locations of the panels and equipment and if not whether it would be acceptable to take this into consideration at this point to either relocate or push back the location of the solar panels. Chairwoman Seeber responded first they would vote on the proposed amendment before them and then they would discuss Ms. Shepler's concerns.

Chairwoman Seeber called the question and the motion to amend proposed Resolution No. 114, *Accepting Proposal and Authorizing Land Lease with Nexamp Solar for Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport Solar or Other Approved Use Land Lease (WC 44-20)*, as outlined above was carried unanimously.

Chairwoman Seeber requested that Mr. Hajos respond to the concerns expressed by Ms. Shepler. Mr. Hajos advised currently they had only received a proposal from Nexamp on two pieces of property at the Airport and was just a depiction of where the solar fields may be. He stated over the next eighteen months they would be working on design, permitting, etc. and the County could include that as part of their design. Ms. Shepler remarked she believed this was something that was quite crucial and was coming from a pilots point of view which she felt needed to be taken into consideration. Mr. Hajos informed he had a meeting with the Pilot's Association last night that Dr. Sanders had attended during which they expressed regarding it being 2,000 feet from the start of the runway, but this solar field would begin around 3,000 feet from the end of the runway.

Supervisor Beaty apprised he did not believe the FAA (*Federal Aviation Administration*), who consisted of employees who were experienced in this field, would permit solar panels to be located too close to a runway if they felt there were safety issues and Mr. Hajos concurred. Supervisor Leggett added the placement of the solar panels was well above the airfield. Supervisor Braymer advised she concurred with Supervisor Shepler that they should take this into consideration which she believed Mr. Hajos was doing. She mentioned she had inquired about wetlands on the project site which had been a concern with the most recent project there to which Mr. Hajos had indicated that this would also be taken into consideration during the design phase which she wanted to state for the record.

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There being no further Supervisors who wished to speak regarding the proposed Resolutions before them she inquired whether there was anyone present from the public wishing to speak to the resolutions. She stated for the purposes of the public who may be unaware the County was excited to welcome the public safely back to safely attending all of the County's public meetings, as all of the necessary protocols were in place, including keeping the chairs six feet apart, as well as using the Committee Room as an overflow room that had the Youtube live of the meetings broadcasted to that room in the event as individuals attended the meetings. She said the public should feel free to attend the meetings in person knowing that the required social distancing was in place. She stated she would be asking Mr. Lehman if he had received any public comments and allow him to explain the process going forward for public comments, as the County had reopened they were still under the Executive Order from the State which meant the Supervisors could attend the meetings virtually and vote on matters, as well as continue to have other discussions. She advised once that Executive Order was lifted the meetings would still be available to watch on Youtube live; however, she noted, the Board members would have to be present in the Board Room in order to cast their votes and sit in during executive sessions. She encouraged the public to attend the meetings in person, adding questions and/or comments could still be submitted to Mr. Lehman who would forward them on to the appropriate department for a response. She concluded by stating because this was new she wanted to ask Mr. Lehman if any public comments had been received and he replied no public comments had been made on resolutions via Youtube or email at this time. In regard to the public who may be concerned about potentially returning to attending meetings in person there was an overflow room set up in the Committee Room where the live feed can be watched for instances when there was a large crowd in the Board Room for the meetings going forward.

Chairwoman Seeber inquired whether there were any requests for roll call votes, but none were requested.

There being no further discussion, Chairwoman Seeber called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 112-155 were approved, as presented, with the exception of Resolution No. 114 which was amended from the floor.

Chairwoman Seeber advised Ginelle Jones, *Director, Public Health/Patient Services*, was present at the meeting and without objection would like the opportunity to provide a report to the Board and the County residents regarding the activities of her Department prior to offering privilege of the floor to the Board and the public to comment on any matter. Chairwoman Seeber asked if there were any objections to this update to which no one responded with an objection.

Ms. Jones stated she would like to provide an update regarding the success of the County's vaccination campaign with the goal of vaccinating 100% of the County residents. She mentioned her Department had partnered on this campaign with Glens Falls Hospital, Hudson Headwaters, the pharmacies located in the County, the skilled nursing home facilities located here, Office for the Aging, other providers, local EMS Squads and the Glens Falls Fire Department, as well as the State's Mass vaccination site which she was pleased was located in Warren County. She indicated to date around 70.9% of the County's senior citizens had been vaccinated; however, she noted, it was difficult to calculate this figure because it was unknown how many of the County's seniors were currently residing in the State of Florida. She apprised following her discussion with Deanna Park, *Director, Office for the Aging*, and reviewing her departments wait list she determined they had adequately served that population, but they would continue to seek them out to ensure any senior citizens who wanted to could be vaccinated. She said in addition to that they had vaccinated 295 homebound individuals, offered a clinic at The Open Door Mission facility where they vaccinated 25 individuals, offered vaccinations to the inmates who were housed at the Warren County Jail of which they had 35 thus far and would continue to work The Open

Door Mission and any other populations that would like to work with them to get individuals vaccinated. She stated they were also working closely with NYSOPWDD (*New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities*) to vaccinate their residents located within Warren County, as well.

In regard to the status of how many residents had received their first dose of the vaccine, Ms. Jones apprised Mr. Moore did an excellent job reporting daily on the percentage which was currently 46.1% as compared to the Statewide average of 39.6% and 36.1% of the County residents were fully vaccinated whereas the Statewide average was 26.4%. She voiced her pride in those percentages, informing her staff and their community partners, such as Hudson Headwaters Health Network, Glens Falls Hospital and the other providers who were assisting them, had all worked tirelessly to reach these means.

Ms. Jones advised the Public Health Department had held over 70 vaccination clinics, 33 of which were first dose clinics, 33 second dose clinics and 5 clinics with the vaccine that only required one dose. She said this was in addition to the clinics for the homeward bound individuals, The Open Door Mission and the County Jail which were difficult to include in the total number because it was piece mail in how it occurs.

In regard to the pause placed on the Johnson & Johnson's one dose vaccine, Ms. Jones informed she believed this was proof that the system was working. She explained with the vaccine campaign through the CDC (*Center for Disease Control*) program required any who provided vaccinations or was vaccinated to be entered into the VAERS (*Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System*) and were required to provide documentation regarding how to make those reports should an adverse reaction occur. She mentioned out of the 7 million Johnson & Johnson's vaccinations that had been given to date around 1.4 million were given to women ages 18 to 50 and through the VAERS reporting system it was discovered that 6 incidences occurred which included significant reactions. She indicated the benefit of the VARS system was that it allowed the ACIP (*Advisory Committee on Infection Control Practices*) to step back and investigate and determine an outcome, such as whether changes were required with the recommendations for the vaccine, whether they needed to place a hold on the use of it, if they should stop using it altogether, etc. She advised the reaction that was identified was referred to as CVST (*Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis*) and was the presence of blood clots that were in the dural venous sinuses or the cerebral veins or both. She stated she attended a CDC briefing yesterday that discussed those six cases and provided the following information: CVST was mainly occurring in women; was occurring in individuals whose ages ranged from 18 to 48; and most reactions occurred within 6 to 13 days following their vaccination. She indicated to date 42% of the Johnson & Johnson's doses were administered in that window of the 6 to 13 days which had already passed; however she noted, 58% of the individuals who had received the vaccine were still within the 6 to 13 day window which meant there was still an opportunity for more incidences to occur. She apprised this was why the pause was imperative because it would allow them to monitor for additional symptoms. She encouraged anyone who had received a Johnson & Johnson's vaccine and was experiencing severe headaches, abdominal pain, leg pain or shortness of breath to contact their provider to allow them to monitor or test them to determine if they were having that reaction. She proceeded to provide the following contact information for anyone who was exhibiting symptoms: [vaers.hhs.gov](http://vaers.hhs.gov) or you can call them with questions at 1-800-822-7967 or [vaers.org](http://vaers.org). She stated she was not anticipating seeing anyone with symptoms; however she noted, anyone with them could call. She indicated the pause placed on the vaccine was beneficial for the investigation process and to monitor and survey for further reports with the ACIP planning to meet and make a determination shortly. She encouraged those who had scheduled to be vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson's vaccine while this pause was in effect to seek out either the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, as her goal to vaccinate 100% of the County residents was still in place. She mentioned this past Thursday was the first time they had held a clinic where they did not administer their entire supply of the vaccine, which was Moderna in this case, and they ended up with

about fifty doses leftover. She said it was imperative for them to increase awareness regarding their vaccine availability because there were still individuals interested in becoming vaccinated. She indicated this reaction had not occurred with the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines and were still considered safe to be using. She advised she had been notified the State would be averting all of the Johnson & Johnson's clinics to the State clinics and as a result none of the Counties in the State should expect to be provided with doses of the Pfizer vaccine. She apprised she had requested to join a few other Counties this week in a collaborative effort to request Pfizer doses to assist with vaccinating students ages 16-18 who resided in their Counties. She said she had been working closely with the local school districts to carry this out and she should receive a response as to their request by Monday which she was hoping was a success; however, she noted, in case they were unable to obtain doses of the Pfizer vaccine they did have a shipment of the Moderna vaccine coming in place of the Johnson & Johnson's vaccine that they had ordered although it could only be used for those 18 and older. She advised they had distributed links to the local school districts with the hopes that some students would be able to obtain the Pfizer vaccine that was available at vaccination sites in the Cities of Albany and Schenectady. She informed her focus was currently on attempting to get the students residing in the County vaccinated because they were the ones who were going to school and active in sports.

Ms. Jones noted they had observed an increase in the number of individuals testing positive for the Coronavirus again which she equated to activities that were done during the local school districts spring break and families who traveled causing it to infect multiple family members. She encouraged everyone to remain vigilant about wearing face masks and practicing social distance regardless of whether they were vaccinated. She advised she had received two reports today of cases where the individuals were fully vaccinated, but had been diagnosed with COVID. She stated this brought the total of County residents who had been fully vaccinated and were diagnosed with COVID to 8, apprising all of whom were mildly ill and did not require hospitalization. She emphasized individuals needed to be aware that just because they were vaccinated did not mean they could not get COVID or spread it to others which was why it was still important to take all of the necessary precautions.

Ms. Jones thanked the Board members for providing her with the opportunity to give an update, adding she was grateful for all of the support she received from them. She voiced her appreciation for the Memorial Dedication of the tree to the Warren County residents who had passed away as a result of COVID.

Chairwoman Seeber thanked Ms. Jones for all of her hard work.

Chairwoman Seeber offered privilege of the floor to anyone who would like to comment on any matter.

Supervisor McDevitt stated many publications throughout the Country including *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* had printed an advertisement entitled "*We Stand for Democracy*" which he believed these publications and major employers across the Country were using as an avenue to get their point across that voting could not be made political. He paraphrased what *The New York Times* had indicated in their advertisement as follows: "A beautiful American ideal, but a reality denied to many for much of this nation's history. As Americans we know that in our democracy we should not expect to agree on everything; however, regardless of our political affiliations we believe the very foundation of our electoral process rested upon the ability of each of us to cast our ballots for the candidates of our choice. For American democracy to work for any of us we must ensure the right to vote for all of us. We should feel a responsibility to defend the right to vote and to oppose any discriminatory legislation or measures that restrict or prevent any eligible voter from having an equal and fair opportunity to cast a ballot. Voting in the life flow of our democracy and we should call upon all Americans to join us in taking a non-partisan stand for this, the most basic and fundamental right

of all Americans”. Supervisor McDevitt mentioned there was a Proclamation before them today pertaining to National Law Day for which the language supported what major employers and decision makers were standing for, as it was necessary not to politicize the election process. He added he believed their point was that this Country did indeed stand for democracy and the rules of law.

Supervisor Hogan entered the meeting virtually at 11:50 a.m.

Chairwoman Seeber advised she would like the record to reflect that Supervisor Hogan had joined the meeting virtually and provide her with the opportunity to speak regarding any matters. Supervisor Hogan apologized for being late to the meeting, but she had another commitment. She thanked Supervisor Frasier for reporting on the Economic Growth & Development Committee meeting on her behalf, adding she was sorry to have missed the presentations at the meeting this morning which were important.

Supervisor Driscoll indicated upon the request of Chairwoman Seeber he had contacted Kim Cook, *Executive Director, The Open Door Mission*, regarding the possibility of offering a tour of their new facility in the City of Glens Falls to County Supervisors and officials. He apprised Supervisor Wild had stated at one of the recent meetings of the Economic Growth & Development Committee that not-for-profits played significant rolls in the quality of life in the County, as well as the economic value that they brought with two of the largest employers in the County being not-for-profits. He stated he would be working with Chairwoman Seeber and Mrs. Allen in an attempt to set up a series of tours of their facility in the next few weeks

Chairwoman Seeber thanked Supervisor Driscoll for going above and beyond to ensure the County recognized those different individuals and entities, as well as providing the opportunity for tours to the full Board.

Supervisor Conover stated on April 24<sup>th</sup> the County would be conducting a Household Hazardous Waste disposal event which did not get a lot of fanfare, but was critical to ensure waste was properly disposed of and did not end up in the County environment and waterways. He offered privilege of the floor to Mr. Hajos to provide additional information regarding this event.

Mr. Hajos apprised there were two dates scheduled for their Household Hazardous Waste Collection days scheduled, the first of which was next Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Town of Queensbury Highway Garage from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and the following one was scheduled for Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Warren County Department of Public Works office in the Town of Warrensburg. He stated registration forms were available on the County website which listed all of the items that could be disposed of at these events, adding any type of explosive waste or munitions, anything related to asbestos, latex paint, automotive batteries, electronics, infections waste and radioactive material would not be accepted. He noted anyone interested in disposing of their household hazardous waste items should visit the County website to sign up to participate, as there was a limited number of registration available.

Chairwoman Seeber called for announcements.

Supervisor Strough indicated he had two suggestions for the Board’s consideration in regards to addressing and moving the current Article 78 Proceeding that claimed that certain positions in the office should be vacated due to the lack of legally required filings. He said one way to handle this was to declare these positions vacant and hold a renomination and vote again, as this would render the Article 78 action moot; adding he would be supportive of this action. Next, Supervisor Strough informed

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there appeared to be several issues before the Board that had been discussed at length which he believed needed to be addressed. He apprised his thought on how to address these was reactivating the Legislative & Rules Committee by having the Board create and adopt it without the politicalization that they had seen. He apprised this Committee could assist with addressing the following issues: the formation of future Committees for the Board of Supervisors being developed with the advice and consent of the Board; assigning Chairs to Committees in a fair manner with no Supervisors being appointed to Chair multiple Committees, while others were appointed to Chair none, as this would eliminate the politicalization of these Committees; with the advice and consent of the Board of Supervisors they could develop and negotiate the Rules of the Board they felt were fair for everyone moving forward to present to the Board for approval; determine what the County could do to become more open and transparent and more specifically with FOIL (*Freedom of Information Law*) requests; take an independent and objective assessment of the need for the positions of Majority and Minority Leader; review whether all emails from the County Attorney's Department which included those sharing legal opinions regarding the activities of the Board were being shared with the full Board; and to consider making the Legislative & Rules Committee a permanent Standing Committee. He remarked he felt there was a demonstrated need for a new agenda line item as opposed to the privilege it currently was. Lastly, he advised he would like clarification regarding the rules and duties of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. He said the aforementioned items were his suggestions for consideration by the Board.

Chairwoman Seeber noted that Supervisor Strough had brought forward a number of items to talk about all at once under announcements; however, she noted, she welcomed that opportunity. She said prior to allowing the Supervisors to ask questions regarding those comments she would like to break them up in order to address them appropriately. She apprised she believed it was ironic that she was on the same page with him regarding the common theme that most of his suggestion had, one of which was the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee. She indicated the Legislative & Rules Committee had only met twice last year and once the prior year. She said one of the suggestions she received when she called and emailed every Supervisor after her appointment as Chair was to decrease the number of Supervisors on their Committees for more efficiency, as well as to decrease the number of Committees which she felt there were many valid points to. She advised she had reviewed Committees that historically had not met, which was Shared Service and was formed to address mandated issues, and was merged, as well as others. She informed more specifically to his point regarding the Legislative & Rules Committee, she had merged this with the advocacy piece under Governmental Advocacy & Operations and in the coming weeks they had multiple advocacy efforts, including the broadband resolutions and others that were important for advocacy purposes to the State, Local and Federal Government partners. She added she was appreciative of having an active Committee guided by the leadership of Supervisor Beaty. In regard to Supervisor Strough's suggestions as they related to the Majority and Minority Leader positions, the questions involving the development of the Rules of the Board and to offer alternatives was one that was clearly stated on January 8<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup> when she requested that the Board give these changes to the Committees a minimum of 90 days before they revisited the discussion as to whether additional changes were required at the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee meeting which Supervisor Beaty had as a priority following their trainings on the Rules of the Board, Robert's Rules of Order and the Parliamentary process. She said she hoped Supervisor Strough would bring many suggestions to the future Committee meeting where this would be discussed with the hopes of adopting a well thought out Rules of the Board for next year. She informed this addressed those questions from her perspective; however, she noted, she was aware there were additional questions. She added in addition to that she wanted to note when they discussed the responsibilities of the Chair of the Board they should refer to Local Law No. Of 1968 which established the authority of the Chair of the Board at that time that included several authorizations that fell on the Chair of the Board. She added they also needed to take into consideration the County and State Law when they were considering the responsibilities of the Chair

of the Board which called for specific duties. She mentioned Supervisor Strough could advocate for changes to the State Law pertaining to the responsibilities of the Chair of the Board, but in this case involving the Warren County Board of Supervisors she thought they should all be invested in advocating for changes to the Rules of the Board and could certainly review discussions to modify the Local Law that was still in place and was very detailed regarding the specific duties of the Chair of the Board. She continued, informing Supervisor Braymer, who was the Minority Leader and Chair of the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee discussed pending lawsuits at the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee meetings every month unless it was something that would have a significant impact to the County, such as a recent lawsuit, that had required special meetings and a Special Board Meeting. She voiced her appreciation of Ms. Kissane for providing updates on any pending litigation in executive session at these Committee meetings, adding Ms. Kissane also emailed a listing of these lawsuits to the Committee members, as well. Chairwoman Seeber asked Mr. Moore if he would like the opportunity to address the concerns expressed by Supervisor Strough prior to her allowing Supervisor Braymer to ask her question and so on to allow any Board member who may have any questions or concerns to voice them.

Supervisor Strough Expressed his desire to have an independent review of the concerns he expressed which he would be distributing to the full Board for review.

Chairwoman Seeber interjected, notifying Supervisor Strough he was out of order. Supervisor Wild repeatedly called for point of order, apprising this meant an item needed to be addressed immediately as per Robert's Rules of Order. Chairwoman Seeber responded according to the Rules of the Board which were adopted at the January 15, 2021 Board Meeting involving during Board Meetings every member had one opportunity to speak, adding these were more restrictive than Robert's Rules of Order. Supervisor Wild indicated he thought the purpose of point of order was to question a decision made by the Chair of the Board. Chairwoman Seeber advised the purpose was not to automatically interrupt the Chair while they were speaking and she asked Mr. Moore to respond to Supervisor Strough's comments. Supervisor Wild questioned whether this was listed in Robert's Rules of Order and Chairwoman Seeber replied Supervisor Wild was welcome to comment following Supervisors Braymer and Hogan; however, she noted Mr. Moore was asked to weigh in on this matter.

Mr. Moore provided an update on the Article 78 proceedings that Supervisor Strough had mentioned, informing the County's outside counsel on the matter had filed and served a motion to dismiss the petition on Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> for lack of standing, as well as a failure to state the claim for Mandamus and the return date for the proceeding and the return date for that proceeding was scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> for which the court had indicated it would be on submission. He indicated the County's outside legal counsel would advise of any opposition papers from the individual who brought forward the Article 78. He said in the meantime he felt there was a solid strategy in place and they should await the outcome of the case in court.

Supervisor Dickinson exited the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Supervisor Braymer thanked Chairwoman Seeber for addressing the changes that were made to past protocol and ideas going forward, as well as improvements that were made to the County Board of Supervisors processes in the future, as she was well aware this had been something that was important to Chairwoman Seeber for some time now and other changes would be forthcoming, such as updates to the Ethics Policy that would be reviewed by the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee. In response to some of the earlier comments made she addressed Supervisors Strough and McDevitt directly, advising their attacks on the Chairwoman and herself as Minority Leader were antiquated. She stated they had a choice whom they voted for, neither of them had attended the

Democratic caucus nor had they contacted her in the last three months. She informed they were making democrats look bad with their “sour grapes attitude” and attacked fellow democrats. She mentioned the Democratic party had failed at previous attempts to appoint someone from their party to the Chair of the Board position, including herself and Supervisor McDevitt; however, she noted, following their defeat they did not continue to complain and attack the individual who was appointed to the Chair position and instead carried out their responsibility of serving their constituents and carrying out County business and she would ask that they both do that at this point. She addressed Supervisor Strough, indicating that he was having his wife FOIL (*Freedom of Information Law*) request she and Supervisor Hogan’s financial disclosures was absurd, adding she felt it was an inappropriate use of FOIL to attack fellow Supervisors. She apprised she had not nor would she seek Supervisor Strough’s financial disclosure, informing she had not done anything to provoke him or his wife and she believed his behavior was misogynist, as he was attacking Chairwoman Seeber, herself and Supervisor Hogan similar to how he had been unsupportive of Catherine Atherden, Jennifer Switzer and Amanda McGee when they were members of the Queensbury Town Board. She indicated this discussion was not benefitting the County residents and it needed to stop. She said if he had tangible ideas they should be brought before the Committee, similar to what the remaining Board members did, and get to work.

Supervisor Hogan stated she would like to echo Supervisor Braymer’s frustration with the wasted energy that was occurring here with these repeated attacks not only on the Chairwoman, but on the women who were members of the Board of Supervisor which as Supervisor Braymer had previously indicated was misogyny. She asked where the Chair of the Legislative & Rules Committee was in 2019 when the initial proposal for Committee Chairs left three of the four women in the Board without appointments as Chairs to Committees; she added she was appreciative of Supervisor Conover, who was the Chair of the Board at that time, for rectifying this. She continued, apprising she would also like to know where the Chair of Legislative & Rules was in 2020 when again two of the five women who were members of the Board at that time were not appointed as Chairs of Committees. She remarked this needed to end and they needed to move forward to focus on what was productive and move forward with completing the work of the day. She concluded by pleading that they end their repeated attacks.

Supervisor Wild advised in regard to the point of order he would research further whether calling for point of order ended a discussion. He voiced his concern with the current tone of the discussion and the fact that it was being implied the attacks were against women. He informed he did not believe that was the case, as he had never observed such behaviors with this Board and it was easy to say, but difficult to prove. He stated this all related to impressions and when a statement like that was made it was a strong one. He indicated although this was a strong statement he believed it was a weak one because they could not respond to the issues, as the topic would be changed. He mentioned in his career he like many others had to work with women, adding if an individual was unable to work with woman it was likely they would lose their job. He suggested they move on from this and treat one another as individuals, adding he could care less about what party anyone was associated with or their gender, but rather the value the Board of Supervisors added as a group and individually to the County. He apprised it was not that they represented their gender, the party they were affiliated with or their individual towns, as they were present to handle the County’s business and each of them should have the opportunity to opine on what they felt the Board should do to make the County as strong as they could. He stated they had done some incredible things; however, he noted, they were currently dealing with issues that should be resolved with open discussion.

In response to Supervisor Wild’s comments, Chairwoman Seeber informed he was correct to state that they should be afforded every opportunity to speak to one another respectfully, value their differences and play on each others strengths and weaknesses. She remarked this should be a united Board. She

stated since they were a Board with Committees she would be appreciative of the Supervisors bringing their suggestions to Committee. She advised all of the previous Chairs of the Board had been provided with the opportunity to put together a team. As it related to calling a point of order, Chairwoman Seeber apprised when a member had been assigned the floor and began speaking unless he or she began to discuss a subject when no motion was pending or speaks longer in debate than the Rules of the assembly allows, he or she could not be interrupted by another member or by the Chair except for the following purposes and only when the urgency of this situation justifies it. She informed if they reviewed Section C of 42-18 of Robert's Rules of Order they would also know that it was noted the Chair of the Board at this point in time based on the training that they had been provided by the County Attorney and until such time that the experts attended the Board Workshop meeting to speak to them the Chair of the Board was the Parliamentarian. She stated at the training they were notified by the experts this was in fact not the best course of action and a resolution had been prepared in advocacy and efforts to go before the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee in the upcoming Committee cycle to request designating the Clerk of the Board as per the experts suggestion. She indicated if the resolution was approved the Clerk of the Board could be asked to make a ruling and advise the Chair of the Board in making the official enforcement of that request. She said this was how the Parliamentarian should function, adding she was looking forward to that discussion when it went before the Governmental Operation & Advocacy Committee which she hoped Supervisor Wild would take the opportunity to attend. She concluded by indicating she was appreciative of his comments.

Supervisor Wild asked if he could respond to those comments and Chairwoman Seeber replied he would be provided with the opportunity to respond when anyone else who had not spoken, but would like to had the chance to do so. She stated the Rules of the Board provided Supervisors with one opportunity to speak; however, she noted, she was more than willing to provide an additional opportunity at the time everyone else was done speaking. She asked if anyone else would like to make a comment.

In response to the comments made by Supervisor Braymer, Supervisor McDevitt advised he was unsure where the suggestion that he personally attacked anyone was coming from, adding he was flabbergasted by that observation. He indicated his issue was he objected to the Minority and Majority Leader positions with one being a Democrat and the other being a Republican because they were paying two Supervisors an additional stipend of \$6,000 each which was hard earned taxpayers money during a pandemic and individuals could not even afford food. He apprised there was something fundamentally wrong with these positions obtaining that stipend, adding this would continue to rattle this Board until the Board had the opportunity to vote on these positions. He asked whether they would be voting on this form of government which he believed should take place at their next Board Meeting as to whether they would accept these two positions within the structure of the Board. He voiced his objection to the Minority and Majority Leader positions, as well as to Supervisor Braymer's characterization of a personal attack.

Chairwoman Seeber stated Supervisor McDevitt's objections had been noted, adding they had voted on the Majority and Minority Leader positions on two occasions at the January 15<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. She suggested that he bring his concerns before the appropriate Committee if it was his desire to continue to discuss a topic that had been repeatedly discussed at Committee meetings and now 95 days since she had been appointed as the Chair of the Board. She advised to be clear the Board was no longer going to continue to violate the law by paying the Chair of the Finance Committee, who also served as the Vice-Chair of the Board. She indicated they were following County Law which permitted them to have a Majority and Minority Leader, Chair of the Board and Budget Officer. She noted in addition to that they had also reduced the overall compensation salary. She thanked Supervisor McDevitt for his remarks and asked whether anyone who had not yet spoken would like to do so.

Supervisor Magowan apprised he fully concurred with the comments made by Supervisors Braymer and Hogan, adding maybe the implication had not been spoken, but he wanted everyone to know there were a few on this Board that have felt this. He stated he may have used the wrong word when he said it was becoming annoying to have this issues repeatedly come up; however, he noted, he was attempting to not isolate and point the finger at anyone. He apprised he believed they had a noble Board and he enjoyed working with all of his colleagues on the Board, but he believed the decisiveness had separated some of them resulting in the trust being lost which was what he found to be the most troubling. He remarked he believed Chairwoman Seeber was doing a phenomenal job and he had followed her, stood next to her, campaigned with her and he had faith in her. He stated he had been proud to stand behind Chairwoman Seeber at the Tree Dedication Ceremony and listen to what she was stating because she involved everyone with the main point aside from remembering those lost to COVID was the unity it was going to bring. In regard to the argument that the \$6,000 stipends being paid to the Minority and Majority Leaders could be used to feed the hungry, Supervisor Magowan pointed out those funds were previously being expended and in act the changes made by the Chairwoman actually resulted in a savings of \$3,000 for the County. He apprised while some may disagree with the positions he felt it was working well, as he had been working closely with the Minority Leader, adding he enjoyed the openness and discussions they had. He concluded by indicating he concurred that it was time to move past this, unite and act like mature adults who carried out the work they were elected to do.

Supervisor Strough indicated he would like to comment. Chairwoman Seeber restated she would like to provide the opportunity to those who had not yet spoken and adhere to the Rules of the Board.

Supervisor Beaty apprised he believed the comments made by Supervisors Braymer and Hogan were accurate, as he had never observed attacks like this on females before which he was disgusted by and felt it should be below those who were doing it, but it did not appear to be. He stated he was fully supportive of Supervisors Braymer and Hogan and could understand their point of view which had been well spoken and accurate. Supervisor Beaty informed Supervisor McDevitt failed to mention in his remarks that there had been a 9% reduction in the amount of compensation which was significant, adding a savings had never been achieved under compensation in the departmental budget. He cautioned Supervisor McDevitt about providing misinformation, as this would come back to haunt him and he asked going forward that he provide the entire story and not just a small portion of it. In conclusion, he stated the fact that this Board was attempting to do the best it could and yet there were Supervisors who continually attempted to waste the County's time, resources and energy on juvenile issues was beyond what he could comprehend. He remarked it was time they grew up, lead by example and take part in a great County that was continuing to grow instead of attempting to tear down individuals and Committees.

Supervisor Leggett informed Chairwoman Seeber had a big heart and had always stood for transparency and open dialogue and as they approached the privilege of the floor at the end of the Board Meeting it may be more suitable forum to allow Supervisors to make statements, not respond to them, as there could be another area where a response could be more effective. He concluded by indicating this was just a recommendation.

Chairwoman Seeber apprised she was appreciative of Supervisor Leggett's recommendation; however, she noted, she had a personal Commitment to answer questions from the public and during privilege of the floor. She added she would do her best to answer any questions that were directed at her and as Chair of the Board she still had that opportunity and right to not only represent the Warren County Board of Supervisors, but also the constituents that had elected her. She stated she did concur and felt Supervisor Leggett had made an excellent suggestion, as there could be a better forum for Supervisors to make statements then during privilege of the floor and she was hopeful a number of the questions

and/or concern being expressed by Board members could be funneled through the appropriate Committees in order to continue to have that positive dialogue.

Supervisor Frasier exited the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Chairwoman Seeber inquired whether there were any other Supervisors who had not yet spoken who would like to do so to which she received no response. She stated at this point in time the Rules of the Board only permitted one opportunity for individuals to be heard, adding they did not have an automatic right to make a second comment. She said in light of the comments that Supervisor Leggett had made she would like to call for a roll call vote to determine whether they would like to continue to discuss items that had been discussed already since it did not adhere to the Rules of the Board. She asked Mrs. Allen to prepare a roll call vote, informing those who wished to continue the discussion under privilege of the floor to allow individuals who had already commented to do so again to vote should vote in the affirmative.

Following the roll call vote it was determined the discussion regarding the Minority and Majority Leader positions would end, with a vote of 165 in favor (*Supervisors Leggett, McDevitt and Braymer*), and 676 opposed (*Supervisors Hogan, Merlino, Wild, Magowan, Beaty, Thomas, Shepler, Geraghty, Conover, Diamond, Bruno, Driscoll, Frasier and Seeber*), 53 Absent (*Supervisor Dickinson*) and 106 not voting (*Supervisors Smith and Strough*).

During the roll call vote, Supervisor Smith expressed that she did not wish to cast a vote on whether to continue the discussion, advising during her experience working for a major corporation she had never observed the lack of professionalism that was occurring with this Board. She indicated each and everyone of them had skills and talents and it was necessary for them to recognize that each of them were different and each of them had those talents. She stated she concurred with Supervisor Leggett that upon occasion Chairwoman Seeber liked to speak and not allow others to comment; however, she said, her suggestion would be to allow them to make their comment and then sit and digest what had been stated before rushing to respond. She indicated while she herself could empathize with Chairwoman Seeber's frustration she believed it would be more appropriate for her to hold off on responding to the comments and consider how professional the Board could be. She remarked she did not feel the majority of the members of the Board were professional, adding she had been disappointed prior to her assuming her seat on the Board because of some of the phone calls she had received that prodded her regarding what was occurring on the Board. She suggested they begin to work as a team, grow up and respect each others skills and talents.

Supervisor Merlino apprised he would be voting in opposition; he added he would like to note for the record that he would like to meet with Chairwoman Seeber.

Supervisor Strough remarked he was unaware that making some suggestions that would be considered independently and objectively be a sovereign and impartial group would lead to a discussion such as this. He indicated he concurred with Supervisor Leggett that the suggestions he had made should be impartially and unbiasedly reviewed, as he was well aware of what it was like not to be a member of the "Good Old Persons Club". In regard to the comments made regarding the FOIL request his wife submitted, Supervisor Strough apprised this was the first time he was made aware of it today, as he did not dictate the actions of his wife. He said all he had done was make some suggestions and it was disingenuous to imply her was a misogynist or that if had anything to do with males or females nor was it of his character. He advised this solely related to some of the issues he mentioned that he felt merited review, adding he never mentioned anyone by name.

Supervisor Wild apprised it appeared as if they were bending the Rules of the Board and allowing everyone to comment. Chairwoman Seeber interjected that she had not called a point of order; she added in light of Supervisor Smith's comments and suggestions she would like to remind the Board Members this was a roll call vote. She informed she was listening closely to the concerns expressed outside of the parameters of the Rules of the Board and Robert's Rules of Order as a matter of courtesy. Supervisor Wild stated he was unsure what Chairwoman Seeber meant by that and she responded it meant Supervisor Wild was permitted to comment if he chose to do so. Supervisor Wild thanked Supervisor Leggett for noting there were issues that needed to be discussed, but in a different forum. He said it was imperative for the Board not to limit debate, as there was an appropriate time and place to discuss all of the issues in order to resolve them. He stated he would be voting in opposition and suggested that it was forwarded on to the appropriate Committee to work in resolving these issues.

Supervisor Frasier re-entered the meeting at 12:33 p.m.

Supervisor Geraghty remarked he believed in adhering to the Rules of the Board and therefore would not be making any comments.

Supervisor McDevitt voted in favor of continuing the discussion, informing legislative bodies could not limit debate.

Supervisor Braymer indicated she concurred with Supervisor McDevitt that debate should not be limited and she casted a vote in favor of continuing the discussion.

Supervisor Frasier voiced her disappointment in the current direction the Board of Supervisors was headed in and she believed they needed to take a hard look at themselves and determine if they wanted to continue down their current path or work to get back on track.

Supervisor Driscoll apprised he believed the most paramount issue taxing this Board and local governments nationwide was whether they had made a positive impact with regard to sharing information pertaining to COVID. He stated both Mr. Moore and Ms. Jones had shared useful information regarding the pandemic to them. He said just because someone was vaccinated did not mean they did not have responsibilities as community leaders to set a good example by continuing to wear face masks, practice social distancing, avoid large gatherings whenever possible and pass along that there was still a lot to be done. He indicated he did not want to lose sight of that fact while they deliberated on this issue that they should be concentrating daily on COVID because it impacted multiple areas of the County's economy and the quality of life here.

Chairwoman Seeber informed she had been notified by Thom Randall, *The Adirondack Journal*, that this had been one of the best County meetings he had watched with regard to the sound quality. She said he expressed her appreciation to hear all of the dialogue which was a result of all of the upgrades that were done to improve their ability to communicate remotely. She recognized the Information Technology Department, Mrs. Allen and Tammie Delorenzo, *Assistant to the County Administrator*, for working hard to ensure everything ran smoothly. Chairwoman Seeber apprised she too was also disappointed, as the privilege of the floor should never be used as an attack. She indicated they should be professional and work together to represent the community.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Thomas and seconded by Supervisor Braymer, Chairwoman Seeber adjourned the Board Meeting at 12:36 p.m.

