

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2022



**Note: Pursuant to New York State Legislation (S.50001/A.40001): “Notwithstanding the provisions of article 7 of the public officers law to the contrary, any state agency, department, corporation, office, authority, board, or commission, as well as any local public body, or public corporation as defined in section 66 of the general construction law, or political subdivisions as defined in section 100 of the general municipal law, or a committee or subcommittee or other similar body of such entity, shall be authorized to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorize 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.”**

**Please note that the following is a summarization of the Board Meeting; the meeting, in its entirety, can be viewed on the Warren County website: <https://warrencountyny.gov/mma>**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York; meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Mr. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Seeber.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Leggett, McDevitt, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll, Frasier, Geraci, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Magowan, Seeber, Beaty, Thomas, Runyon and Geraghty - 17. Supervisor Diamond, Hogan and Wild absent - 3.

Motion was made by Supervisor McDevitt, seconded by Supervisor Braymer and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Diamond, Hogan and Wild absent*) to approve the minutes of the September 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Presentation of the Employee of the Month Award was made to Nancy Ross, *Senior Building Maintenance Mechanic, Buildings and Grounds*.

The following individual was recognized for completing their Leadership Badge Training in Senior Management which was offered to Department Heads and individuals in Senior Management positions: Bobbie Bradway, *Senior Social Welfare Examiner, Department of Social Services*.

Privilege of the floor and public comment was offered.

Supervisor Magowan spoke regarding the Special Olympics event that would be held this Fall in Warren County and he encouraged all to volunteer. He concluded by thanking Chairman Geraghty for appointing him to represent the County at City Hall for the Press Conference pertaining to this event.

Report by the Chairman of the Board was given.

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Reports by Committee Chairs were given.

Report by the Acting County Administrator was given.

Report of County Attorney was given.

Reading of communications by Clerk of the Board was provided, as follows:

Letters/emails from:

Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce - Copy of letter to Governor Hochul requesting that she veto the Farm Labor Board 40-hr overtime mandate.

Reading of resolutions by the Clerk of the Board was announced as follows:

Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, advised Resolution Nos. 436-493 were distributed to the Board and posted to the Warren County website on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, along with five Proclamations, adding this distribution met the deadline specified in the Rules of the Board. The five Proclamations were:

PR33 - September 11<sup>th</sup> Day of Service and Remembrance

PR34 - Suicide Prevention Month in Warren County

PR35 - Preparedness Month in Warren County

PR36 - Special Olympics Support and Awareness Day

PR37 - Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Warren County

Mrs. Allen indicated there were three Floor Resolutions which were not approved and would require a waiving of the rules to be entertained:

Motion was made by Supervisor Dickinson, seconded by Supervisor Bruno and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Diamond, Hogan and Wild absent*) to Waive the Standing Rule of the Board relating to the requirement that all Resolutions be distributed to the Board no later than the Tuesday before the Board Meeting in order to entertain a Resolution regarding appointing members to the Warren-Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency and Civic Development Corporation. Mrs. Allen announced the waiving of the rules resolution would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 494.

Mrs. Allen advised a motion was required to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 1 to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Bruno, seconded by Supervisor Strough and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Diamond, Hogan and Wild absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 1, *Amending Resolution No. 31 of 2022, Appointing Members to the Warren-Washington Counties Industrial Development Agency and Civic Development Corporation, to Fill a Vacancy Due to Resignation*, to the floor. Mrs. Allen advised proposed Floor Resolution No. 1 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 495

Mrs. Allen stated a motion was required to Waive the Standing Rule of the Board relating to the requirement that all Resolutions be distributed to the Board no later than the Tuesday before the Board Meeting in order to entertain a Resolution regarding Appointing representative to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 5 Regional Advisory Committee (RAC.). The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Magowan, seconded by Supervisor Frasier and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Diamond, Hogan and Wild absent*) to Waive the Rules as outlined above. Mrs. Allen indicated the waiving of the rules resolution would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 496.

Mrs. Allen apprised a motion was required to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 2 to the floor. The

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necessary motion was made by Supervisor Runyon, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Diamond, Hogan and Wild absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 2, *Appointing Representative to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Region 5 Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)*, to the floor. Mrs. Allen advised proposed Floor Resolution No. 2 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 497.

Mrs. Allen advised a motion was required to Waive the Standing Rule of the Board relating to the requirement that all Resolutions be distributed to the Board no later than the Tuesday before the Board Meeting in order to entertain a Resolution ratifying the actions of the Warren County Sheriff in executing an application to the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the 2021-2022 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) Operations Grant Program; Authorizing a Grant Agreement; and Amending the Warren County Budget for Same. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Strough, seconded by Supervisor Thomas and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Diamond, Hogan and Wild absent*) to Waive the Rules as outlined above. Mrs. Allen indicated the waiving of the rules resolution would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 498.

Mrs. Allen apprised a motion was required to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 3 to the floor. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Magowan, seconded by Supervisor Bruno and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Diamond, Hogan and Wild absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 3, *Ratifying the Actions of the Warren County Sheriff in Executing an Application to the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the 2021-2022 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) Operations Grant Program; Authorizing a Grant Agreement; And Amending the Warren County Budget for Same*. Mrs. Allen advised proposed Floor Resolution No. 3 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 499.

Discussion and public comment on proposed resolutions was called for.

Supervisor Driscoll requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 463, *Authorizing Continuation of Contractual Relationships for Special Delinquency Prevention Programs*, apprising he would be abstaining.

Supervisor Magowan requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 466, *Resolution Further Altering the Standing Rules of the Board of Supervisors, as Adopted by Resolution No. 32 of 2022 and Amended by Resolution No. 68 of 2022, to Eliminate Language Imposing a Second Monthly Meeting of the Board of Supervisors and Requiring a Two-thirds Majority Vote of the Board for the Creation of New Positions*.

Supervisor Beaty voiced his concerns with proposed Resolution No. 466, *Resolution Further Altering the Standing Rules of the Board of Supervisors, as Adopted by Resolution No. 32 of 2022 and Amended by Resolution No. 68 of 2022, to Eliminate Language Imposing a Second Monthly Meeting of the Board of Supervisors and Requiring a Two-thirds Majority Vote of the Board for the Creation of New Positions*, noting he would be voting in opposition.

Supervisor Seeber spoke regarding the Proclamation concerning Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Warren County and the Proclamation pertaining to Suicide Prevention Month in Warren County. She requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 461, *Authorizing Agreement with the Landing at Queensbury/Pegasus Senior Living to Provide Alternative Housing for up to Six Countryside Adult Home Residents During Interior Construction Renovations*, indicating she would be voting against the proposed Resolution due to her concerns with ARPA (*American Rescue Plan Act*) funding being used to pay for the renovations at Countryside Adult Home. She concluded by voicing her concerns with proposed Resolution No. 466, *Resolution Further Altering the Standing Rules of the Board of Supervisors, as Adopted by Resolution No. 32 of 2022 and Amended by Resolution No. 68 of 2022, to Eliminate Language Imposing a Second Monthly Meeting*

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*of the Board of Supervisors and Requiring a Two-thirds Majority Vote of the Board for the Creation of New Positions, which she would also be voting in opposition of.*

Chairman Geraghty requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 477, *Appointing Members to the Warren County Board of Ethics.*

Supervisor Braymer voiced her unease with proposed Resolution No. 466, *Resolution Further Altering the Standing Rules of the Board of Supervisors, as Adopted by Resolution No. 32 of 2022 and Amended by Resolution No. 68 of 2022, to Eliminate Language Imposing a Second Monthly Meeting of the Board of Supervisors and Requiring a Two-thirds Majority Vote of the Board for the Creation of New Positions, which she would be voting against.*

Supervisor Dickinson exited the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

During the roll call votes Supervisor Leggett exited the meeting at 10:50 a.m. and re-entered the meeting along with Supervisor Dickinson at 10:51 a.m.

Voting on resolutions occurred; Resolution Nos. 436-499 were approved as presented, with the exception of Resolution No. 466, which failed to obtain the majority vote required.

Privilege of the floor and public comment was called for.

Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, advised as a result of the recent compromise of the LDC's (*Local Development Corporation*) bank accounts, the County Treasurer's Office was working to ensure all of the Counties main bank accounts were protected to ensure no unauthorized transactions were processed. In regard to establishing a regional morgue in Warren County, Mr. Swan voiced his support of doing so, but indicated the County should first determine which neighboring Counties they would be partnering with and what their involvement would be before moving this forward any further.

Supervisor McDevitt asked Mr. Swan whether the County had any insurance in place in the event that one of the County's bank accounts was compromised and Mr. Swan replied affirmatively, indicating although there was no insurance policy, the bank had measures in place to make the County's bank account whole again should this occur.

Supervisor Beaty spoke regarding the recent compromise by a member of the South Warren Snowmobile Club's bank account and he asked Larry Elmen, *County Attorney*, whether the County, as a financial contributor to this organization, had any involvement. Mr. Elmen responded he would defer to the County Treasurer regarding this incident. Mr. Swan stated following a review of the contract by his office it was determined the County was not liable for any of the funds that were stolen. He added the contracts did not provide the County with the authority to audit their organizations books; therefore, he said, financially speaking the County remained on solid ground.

Chairman Geraghty apprised according to the County Auditor the County may have to tighten up the process for which pass-through funding was awarded to all of the Snowmobile Club's the County had contracts with going forward. Mr. Swan added he was working with his staff to develop a manner in which contracts, such as the ones with the Snowmobile Club's were more secure to prevent incidences like this in the future.

Supervisor Seeber mentioned last year this contract had been changed from the Town of Lake Luzerne to the South Warren Snowmobile Club, adding the County Auditor was required to verify receipts before issuing reimbursement for any expenses similar to how the contracts with the

other Snowmobile Club's were handled and she asked Mr. Elmen to verify that this change had occurred. Mr. Elmen replied he would review the contract and contact her directly with an answer. He added he would not be making any comments on the case, as it was being handled by the District Attorney's Office and until the prosecution was made public his office had been unaware of any investigation regarding this matter. He indicated as the case moved forward there would be more information becomes public knowledge through the criminal prosecution to determine what if any steps could be taken to attempt to tighten up some of those aspects with the contracts with the Snowmobile Club's. Supervisor Seeber advised her question related more to how much money the County was contributing to the Snowmobile Club's versus pass through grant funding, as she was aware there was an additional contribution from the County.

Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, explained the State provided grant funding that was passed through the County. He said as of 2006 the County reviewed the material submitted by the Snowmobile Club's, certified their receipts, provided them to the Treasurer's Office to cut a check to their organization and then the Treasurer's Office was reimbursed by the State. He indicated there was no way for them to determine the receipts were falsified. With regard to the contracts that used to go through the towns, Mr. Hajos apprised the County certified all of the receipts in-house through their office, as well as the County Auditor's office to ensure they were submitting the proper receipts.

Supervisor Braymer spoke regarding the grant funding provided by the State to assist homeowners with their septic systems which was already spoken for and she encouraged them to advocate for additional funding due to their being a significant need for financial assistance for this purpose. She then noted the World University Games would be using Gore Mountain as one of their primary venues in 2023. She added she believed the County should assist with promoting this event, as well as consider being a sponsor.

Supervisor Driscoll remarked he felt compelled to note that the issue of compromised bank accounts was not limited to the Snowmobile Club Organizations, as this occurred in not-for-profit and private industry businesses, as well.

Supervisor Bruno apprised he concurred with Mr. Swan's comments regarding the creation of the regional morgue, indicating this facility would be beneficial for the entire area even if they only broke even. He added he and Mr. Hajos had discussed this matter and determined a good definition of what was being proposed was required to present to the potential partners in this endeavor. He stated the discussion would continue at the next Committee meeting.

Announcements were called for.

Mr. Hajos noted volunteers were needed for the upcoming Adirondack Balloon Festival and he asked anyone interested in volunteering to contact him.

Supervisor Driscoll announced the Glens Falls Senior Center was sponsoring a "Senior Expo" on Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup> at Heritage Hall in the Cool Insuring Arena and he encouraged all to notify their senior citizen constituents and caregivers.

Chairman Geraghty advised the World's Largest Garage Sale was scheduled for September 30 to October 1, 2022 and he encouraged all to attend.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Conover and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Diamond, Hogan and Wild absent*), Chairman Geraghty adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:11 a.m.