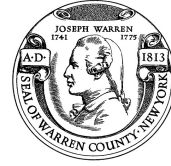


# Warren County Board of Supervisors

BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY JULY 21, 2023



*Please note that the following is a summarization of the Board Meeting; the meeting, in its entirety, can be viewed using the following links on the Warren County website:*

<https://warrencountyny.gov/mma>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2WpwpC5GkE>

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 10:01 a.m.

Mr. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Strough.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll, Frasier, Geraci, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Magowan, Thomas, Runyon and Geraghty - 15. Supervisors Leggett, Smith, Dickinson, Beaty, and Stec absent - 5.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bruno, seconded by Supervisor Merlino and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Leggett, Smith, Dickinson, Beaty and Stec absent*) to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2023 Board Meeting and June 30, 2023 Special Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Presentation of the Employee of the Month Award was made to Christine Latham, *Senior Legal Recording Clerk, County Clerk*.

Moving along, Chairman Geraghty presented Warren County Patrol Sergeant Pasquale "Rocky" Girard with a Proclamation recognizing him for his left saving efforts while off duty.

Supervisor Smith entered the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

Chairman Geraghty called for privilege of the floor/public comment:

Sheriff LaFarr spoke regarding proposed Resolution Nos. 358, *Amending Table of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2023 to Adjust Salaries Within the Sheriff's Department*, and 359, *Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2023, Entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 1 of 2023, 'A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County,' to Include Interim Salary Increase for the Warren County Sheriff," and Authorizing Public Hearing Thereon*, outlining why he believed the salary increases were justified.

Supervisor Braymer questioned whether the salary increases were comparable to the salary increases the employees within the union's received and Sheriff LaFarr replied the salary increases were justified with the direction they were heading toward with their union employees.

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**BOARD MEETING**

**FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023**

---

Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, provided information regarding the current salaries of the four non-Union employees within the Sheriff's Office that were being addressed in proposed Resolution Nos. 358, *Amending Table of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2023 to Adjust Salaries Within the Sheriff's Department*, and 359, *Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2023, Entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 1 of 2023, 'A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County,' to Include Interim Salary Increase for the Warren County Sheriff," and Authorizing Public Hearing Thereon*, , apprising he did not believe the salary increases were in line with what had been provided to the union employees, with the exception of the position within the Warren County Jail.

Continuing with the Agenda review, Chair declared the Public Hearing open on Warren County's community development needs and possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant applications for the 2023 program year open at 10:26 a.m. and requested the Clerk of the Board read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud. Chair called for public comment.

Wayne LaMothe, *Director, Planning & Community Development*, provided a brief summary on Warren County's possible submission of Community Development Block Grant applications for the 2023 program year which included housing assistance.

Chairman Geraghty advised he would keep the Public Hearing open and proceeded with the Agenda review.

Moving along, Chairman Geraghty declared public hearing open on the proposed adoption of a tentative operating budget for Adirondack Community College for the fiscal year 2023-24 open at 10:34 a.m. and requested the Clerk of the Board read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud. Chair called for public comment.

Supervisor Magowan advised following his discussion with Dr. Kristine Duffy, *President, SUNY Adirondack*, regarding the trade programs they were working on instituting he would be supportive of proposed Resolution No. 361, *Adopting and Approving Adirondack Community College Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024*.

Supervisor McDevitt noted how SUNY Adirondack was one of the most affordable higher education institutions when compared to its peer institutions.

Supervisor Braymer advised she believed SUNY Adirondack should have reduced their budget as a result of declining enrollment similar to what Paul Smith's College had done. She added it was necessary for the Board members to advocate harder on behalf of SUNY Adirondack to the State to provide them with more funding.

Chairman Geraghty once again called for public comments on proposed adoption of a tentative operating budget for Adirondack Community College for the fiscal year 2023-24 and Warren County's community development needs and possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant applications for the 2023 program year; there being no one else wishing to speak, he closed both public hearing's at 10:39 a.m.

Report by the Chairman of the Board was given.

Reports by Committee Chairs were given.

Report by the County Administrator was given.

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**BOARD MEETING**

**FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023**

---

---

Report of County Attorney was given by Robert Terwilliger, *First Assistant County Attorney*.

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

Reports from:

1. Warren County Auditor - Real Property Tax Corrections Reports for June of 2023.
2. Capital District Regional OTB - Financial Reports dated January 31, 2023; February 28, 2023; and March 31, 2023.

Letters/emails from:

1. Supervisor Hilary Stec - email resigning as Town of Queensbury At-Large Supervisor effective July 31, 2023.

Other:

1. Town of Johnsbury - Resolution No. 23-114, Rescinding Town of Johnsbury Resolution No. 140-18, regarding partial tax payments.

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

Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, advised Resolution Nos. 329-366 were distributed to the Board and posted to the Warren County website on Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, along with three Proclamations. She stated four Floor Resolutions were distributed to the Board on Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, adding these distributions met the deadline specified in the Rules of the Board. The three Proclamations were:

- PR25 - Proclamation of Appreciation to Sgt. Pasquale "Rocky" Girard
- PR26 - National Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week.
- PR27 - Parks and Recreation Month

Floor Resolution Nos. 1-4, included in the Board packet, were outlined individually and motions were requested to bring each to the floor.

Motion was made by Supervisor Bruno, seconded by Supervisor Strough and carried by unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Leggett, Dickinson, Beaty and Stec absent*), to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 1, *Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement That All Resolutions Be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Amending Tables of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2023 to Provide Interim Salary Increases for Non-bargaining Unit Employees, with the Exception of the Sheriff, Undersheriff, Corrections Captain and Systems Maintenance Coordinator Positions*, to the floor.

Mrs. Allen announced Floor Resolution No. 1 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 367.

Motion was made by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Merlino and carried by unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Leggett, Dickinson, Beaty and Stec absent*), to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 2, *Amending Tables of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2023 to Provide Interim Salary Increases for Non-bargaining Unit Employees, with the Exception of the Sheriff, Undersheriff, Corrections Captain and Systems Maintenance Coordinator Positions*, to the floor.

Mrs. Allen apprised Floor Resolution No. 2 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 368.

Motion was made by Supervisor, Driscoll and seconded by Supervisor Bruno to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 3, *Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement That All*

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023**

---

---

*Resolutions Be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2023, Entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 1 of 2023, 'A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County', to Include Interim Salary Increases", and Authorizing Public Hearing Thereon, to the floor.*

Supervisor Braymer voiced her opposition to the proposed Floor Resolution, advising she believed the proposed salary increases should be handled through the budgeting process.

A discussion ensued following which Chairman Geraghty called the question and the motion to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 3, *Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement That All Resolutions Be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2023, Entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 1 of 2023, 'A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County', to Include Interim Salary Increases", and Authorizing Public Hearing Thereon, to the floor* was carried by majority vote, with Supervisors Braymer and Magowan voting in opposition.

Mrs. Allen stated Floor Resolution No. 3 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 369.

Motion was made by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Merlino and carried by majority vote of those present (*Supervisors Leggett, Dickinson, Beaty and Stec absent*), with Supervisors Braymer and Magowan voting in opposition, to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 4, *Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2023, Entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 1 of 2023, 'A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County', to Include Interim Salary Increases", and Authorizing Public Hearing Thereon, to the floor.*

Mrs. Allen advised Floor Resolution No. 4 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 370.

Discussion and public comment on proposed resolutions was called for.

Motion was made by Supervisor Wild to table proposed Resolution Nos. 358, *Amending Table of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2023 to Adjust Salaries Within the Sheriff's Department*, 359, *Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2023, Entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 1 of 2023, 'A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County,' to Include Interim Salary Increase for the Warren County Sheriff," and Authorizing Public Hearing Thereon*, and 370, *Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement That All Resolutions Be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2023, Entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 1 of 2023, 'A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County', to Include Interim Salary Increases", and Authorizing Public Hearing Thereon*. Following a brief discussion Supervisor Wild amended his motion to indicate proposed Resolution No. 370, *Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2023, Entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 1 of 2023, 'A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County', to Include Interim Salary Increases", and Authorizing Public Hearing Thereon*, was being tabled and not 369. Supervisor Magowan seconded the motion to table as amended; discussion ensued following which Supervisors Wild and Magowan amended their motions to indicate proposed Resolution Nos. 358, 359 and 370 would be tabled until the August 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Further discussion ensued during which Supervisors Wild and Magowan further amended their motions to include tabling proposed Resolution No. 368, *Amending Tables of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2023 to Provide Interim Salary Increases for*

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023**

---

*Non-Bargaining Unit Employees, with the Exception of the Sheriff, Undersheriff, Corrections Captain and Systems Maintenance Coordinator Positions, until the August 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting; discussion ensued during which Supervisors Wild and Magowan further amended their motions to indicate proposed Resolution Nos. 358, 359, 368 and 370 would be tabled and referred back to the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education and Finance Committees for further discussion at their August 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings and then to the August 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Chairman Geraghty called for a roll call on the motion to table proposed Resolution Nos. 358, 359, 368 and 370 as amended. Chairman Geraghty called the question and the motion to table proposed Resolution Nos. 358, 359, 368 and 370 as outlined above failed to obtain the majority vote, with 223 voting in favor (Supervisors Wild, Magowan and Bruno); 501 opposed (Supervisors Strough, Thomas, Runyon and Conover, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Driscoll, Frasier, Geraci, Smith, Merlino and Geraghty); and 278 absent (Supervisors Beaty, Stec, Leggett and Dickinson).*

Motion was made by Supervisor Braymer and seconded by Supervisor Bruno to table proposed Resolution Nos. 358, *Amending Table of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2023 to Adjust Salaries Within the Sheriff's Department*, 359, *Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2023, Entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 1 of 2023, 'A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County,' to Include Interim Salary Increase for the Warren County Sheriff," and Authorizing Public Hearing Thereon*, and 370, *Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement That All Resolutions Be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2023, Entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 1 of 2023, 'A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County,' to Include Interim Salary Increases"* and refer them back to the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education and Finance Committees for further discussion. A roll call vote was called for on the motion to table. Following a brief discussion, Chairman Geraghty called the question and the motion to table proposed Resolution Nos. 358, 359 and 370 as outlined above failed to obtain the majority vote, with 268 voting in favor (Supervisors Wild, Magowan, Braymer and Bruno); 456 opposed (Supervisors Strough, Thomas, Runyon, Conover, Diamond, McDevitt, Driscoll, Frasier, Geraci, Smith, Merlino and Geraghty); and 278 absent (Supervisors Beaty, Stec, Leggett and Dickinson).

Supervisor Braymer requested roll call votes on proposed Resolution Nos. 358, *Amending Table of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2023 to Adjust Salaries Within the Sheriff's Department*, 359, *Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2023, Entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 1 of 2023, 'A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County,' to Include Interim Salary Increase for the Warren County Sheriff," and Authorizing Public Hearing Thereon*, and 370, *Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement That All Resolutions Be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2023, Entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 1 of 2023, 'A Local Law Fixing the Salaries of Certain County Officers and Employees of Warren County,' to Include Interim Salary Increases"*.

Voting on resolutions occurred. Resolution Nos. 329-370 were approved as presented, with the exception of proposed Resolution No. 359, which failed to obtain the majority vote.

Privilege of the floor and public comment was called for.

Sheriff LaFarr thanked the Board of Supervisors for supporting the salary increases for his non-Union employees today, adding he hoped they would reconsider adjusting his salary within the budgeting process for next year.

Philip Clark, *Washington County Resident*, spoke regarding his concerns with the 2023-2024

Operating Budget for SUNY Adirondack.

Supervisor Braymer apprised there would be a discussion regarding climate change at the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee. She also indicated she was notified by representatives of Adirondack Welcome Center that a Welcome Plan for asylum seekers and refugees had been submitted which she hoped the County Administrator would review and discuss with their organization. Last, she voiced her displeasure with the fact that the Supervisors were not provided with the option to attend meetings virtually, apprising she hoped they would reconsider allowing Board members to attend meetings virtually when extraordinary circumstances arose next year.

Supervisor Strough spoke in favor of SUNY Adirondack, noting their exceptional fundraising efforts which exceeded the salary of Dr. Duffy. He then outlined for the Board the honoree's of this year's Heroes for Hospitality event he attended along with Supervisor Merlino.

With regard to the flooding in nearby regions, John Taflan, *County Administrator*, stated the Superintendent of Public Works had contacted the neighboring Counties impacted to offer assistance to them. He also noted the work completed on culverts in Warren County over the past few years had likely reduced the impact of flooding in those areas.

Supervisor Merlino apprised he had met a family from Luzerne, Switzerland at the concert and food truck event in the Town of Lake Luzerne the other day.

Supervisor Driscoll spoke regarding the pending vacancy on the Board, with the anticipation that Supervisor Stec would be resigning and the importance of ensuring the vacancy was filled as soon as possible to ensure full representation on the Board.

Chairman Geraghty announced the 60<sup>th</sup> annual Smoke Eaters Jamboree would be held next weekend in the Town of Warrensburg and he encouraged all to attend.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Conover, seconded by Supervisor Geraci and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Beaty, Stec, Leggett and Dickinson absent*), Chairman Geraghty declared the meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.