

Warren County Board of Supervisors

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3, 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=4L2X-QlQnl8>

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WARREN COUNTY:

You are hereby notified that I, Kevin B. Geraghty, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, pursuant to the power vested in me by Rule A.3 of the Rules of the Board of Supervisors, hereby call and convene a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County to be held in the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Town of Queensbury, New York, on **November 3, 2023 AT 11:00 A.M.**, for the purpose of:

1. Presentation of the 2024 Tentative Budget
2. Any other such business which may appropriately be brought before the Board of Supervisors.

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby directed to call for the meeting and give written notice to all members of the Board of Supervisors of such meeting.

Dated: October 13, 2023

KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN
Warren County Board of Supervisors

To the Members of the Board of Supervisors: At the direction of the Chairman of the Board, I am notifying you of the Special Meeting called for the time, place and purposes set forth above.

AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK
Warren County Board of Supervisors

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 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.

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Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Thomas.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Leggett, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll, Geraci, Smith, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Magowan, Etu, Thomas, Runyon and Geraghty -17; Absent -3 Supervisors Frasier, Dickinson and Beaty

Chairman Geraghty called for public comments:

Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, spoke regarding the 2024 Tentative County Budget, urging the Board of to review the County Jail portion of the Budget which he believed could be reduced significantly, in addition to reducing the Sheriff's proposed salary and the funding provided to the Warren County Economic Development Corporation.

Chairman Geraghty noted the purpose of the Special Board Meeting was to present the 2024 Tentative County Budget. Privilege of the floor was extended to Frank Thomas, *Budget Officer*, who thanked Chairman Geraghty for the opportunity to serve as Budget Officer this year. He then extended his gratitude to John Taflan, *County Administrator*; Tammie DeLorenzo, *Assistant to the County Administrator*; Rob Lynch, *Deputy County Treasurer*; and Jackie Figueroa, *County Human Resources Director*, for all their time and effort put into organizing this 2024 Budget. He recognized the Committee Chairs and Department Heads for meeting the challenge of preparing respective Budget requests for 2024. Supervisor Thomas then proceeded to review the a Power Point presentation on the 2024 Tentative Budget, copies of which are on file with the items distributed at the Board Meeting which included: the 2024 Budget Officer's Recommendations; 2024 Equalization & Apportionment Table; and Personnel Requests for 2024. At the conclusion of the Power Point presentation, Supervisor Thomas answered questions posed by the Supervisors and listened to their suggestions.

This concluded the comments on the 2024 Tentative Budget, and Chairman Geraghty resumed the Chair.

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

Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, apprised Resolution No. 478, along with two Floor Resolutions were distributed to the Board and posted to the Warren County website on Tuesday, October 31st Floor Resolution Nos. 1-2, 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 majority vote of those present (*Supervisors Frasier, Dickinson and Beaty absent*), with Supervisors Braymer and Magowan voting in opposition, 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 accepting tentative budget providing appropriations for the conduct of County business for the fiscal year 2024 and authorizing public hearing on the Budget*, to the floor. Mrs. Allen announced Floor Resolution No. 1 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 479.

Motion was made by Supervisor Leggett, seconded by Supervisor Runyon and carried by majority vote of those present (*Supervisors Frasier, Dickinson and Beaty absent*), with Supervisors Braymer and Magowan voting in opposition, to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 2, *Accepting tentative budget providing appropriations for the conduct of County business for the fiscal year 2024 and authorizing public hearing on the Budget*, to the floor. Mrs. Allen announced Floor Resolution No. 2 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 480.

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Mr. Taflan advised of a need to amend Resolution No. 397 of 2023, *Amending Resolution No. 159 of 2023, Amending Table of Organization and Warren County Salary and Compensation Plan for 2023, to Extend the Termination Date of the Assistant Social Services Attorney - Temporary - Part Time*, to further extend the termination date of the Assistant Social Services Attorney - Temporary - Part-Time.

Motion was made by Supervisor Driscoll, seconded by Supervisor Geraci and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Frasier, Dickinson and Beaty absent*) to waive the standing Rules 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 Resolution No. 397 of 2023 as outlined above. Mrs. Allen apprised this would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 481 of 2023.

Motion was made by Supervisor Geraci, seconded by Supervisor Smith and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Frasier, Dickinson and Beaty absent*) to authorize a resolution amending Resolution No. 397 of 2023 as outlined above. Mrs. Allen stated this would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 482 of 2023.

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

Motion was made by Supervisor Diamond and seconded by Supervisor Magowan to increase the salary of the Director of Weights and Measures from \$75,346 to \$81,644. A discussion ensued during which a motion was made by Supervisor Conover and seconded by Supervisor Strough to table the proposed salary increase until the November 17th Board Meeting. Further discussion ensued during which a roll call vote was called for on the motion to table and it was noted if the motion was carried a special meeting of the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee would be scheduled to discuss the matter further. Chairman Geraghty called the question on the motion to table the proposed Salary increase for the Director of Weights and Measures; the motion failed to obtain the majority vote, with 387 votes in favor (*Supervisors Thomas, Runyon, Conover, Strough, Wild, Etu and Geraghty*); 463 opposed (*Supervisors Leggett, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll, Geraci, Smith, Merlino and Magowan*); and 152 absent (*Supervisors Frasier, Dickinson and Beaty*).

Returning to the original motion to increase the salary of the Director of Weights & Measures from \$75,346 to \$81,644, Chairman Geraghty called the question and the motion failed to obtain a majority vote with 475 votes in favor (*Supervisors Runyon, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll, Geraci, Smith, Magowan and Etu*); 375 opposed (*Supervisors Thomas, Conover, Leggett, Merlino, Strough, Wild and Geraghty*); and 152 absent (*Supervisors Frasier, Dickinson and Beaty*).

Motion was made by Supervisor Diamond and seconded by Supervisor Bruno to remove the \$60,000 appropriation for the LDC (*Local Development Corporation*) from the 2024 Tentative County Budget. A discussion ensued during which a roll call vote was called for on the motion. Chairman Geraghty called the question and the motion failed to obtain a majority vote, with 224 votes in favor (*Supervisors Diamond, Braymer, Bruno and Magowan*); 626 opposed (*Supervisors Thomas, Runyon, Conover, Leggett, McDevitt, Driscoll, Geraci, Smith, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Etu and Geraghty*); and 152 absent (*Frasier, Dickinson and Beaty*).

Motion was made by Supervisor Diamond and seconded by Supervisor Magowan to reduce the appropriation included in the 2024 Tentative County Budget for the Warren County Economic Development Corporation from \$450,000 to \$350,000. A discussion ensued during which a roll call vote was requested. Chairman Geraghty called the question and the motion failed to obtain

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a majority vote, with 302 votes in favor (*Supervisors Conover, Leggett, Diamond, Braymer, Bruno and Magowan*); 548 opposed (*Supervisors Thomas, Runyon, McDevitt, Driscoll, Geraci, Smith, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Etu and Geraghty*); and 152 absent (*Frasier, Dickinson and Beaty*).

Motion was made by Supervisor Diamond and seconded by Supervisor Braymer to reduce the salary of the Warren County Sheriff in the 2024 Tentative County Budget to provide just the 2.85% increase all other exempt employees were receiving. A discussion ensued during which it was clarified that the motion was to reduce the proposed salary for the Sheriff's position to \$123,933; a roll call vote was called for on the motion. Chairman Geraghty called the question and the motion failed to obtain a majority vote, with 236 votes in favor (*Supervisors Thomas, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer and Magowan*); 614 opposed (*Supervisors Runyon, Conover, Leggett, Bruno, Driscoll, Geraci, Smith, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Etu and Geraghty*); and 152 absent (*Frasier, Dickinson and Beaty*).

Motion was made by Supervisor Braymer and seconded by Supervisor Diamond to reduce the proposed salaries for the Board of Supervisors from \$25,000 to a 2.85% salary increase over what they were currently being paid, as well as to increase the salaries for the County Treasurer and County Clerk positions to the current 2023 salaries plus the 2.85% increase afforded to all other employees. A discussion ensued during which it was clarified that the motion was to: decrease the salaries proposed for members of the Board of Supervisors from \$25,000 to \$19,932; increase the salary for the County Treasurer position to \$118,236; and increase the salary for the County Clerk position to \$96,081. A roll call vote was called for. Chairman Geraghty called the question and the motion was carried by majority vote, with 539 votes in favor (*Supervisors Leggett, Diamond, McDevitt, Braymer, Bruno, Driscoll, Strough, Magowan and Etu*); 311 opposed (*Supervisors Thomas, Runyon, Conover, Geraci, Smith, Merlino, Wild and Geraghty*); and 152 absent (*Frasier, Dickinson and Beaty*).

Supervisor Braymer requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 480, *Accepting Tentative Budget Providing Appropriations for the Conduct of County Business for the Fiscal Year 2024 and Authorizing Public Hearing on the Budget*,

Chairman Geraghty called for a vote on resolutions, following which Resolution Nos. 479-482 were approved as presented, with the exception of Resolution No. 480 which was approved as amended from the floor. Supervisor Thomas voted in opposition of the collective vote on Resolutions not subject to roll call vote.

Chairman Geraghty called for public comments:

Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, urged the Board of Supervisors to be cautious of appropriating funds from the General Fund Unappropriated Surplus and encouraged them to consider having the County Treasurer prepare the County Budget in the future, rather than designating a member of the Board to serve as Budget Officer, noting many other Counties handled their budget preparation in this manner.

Chairman Geraghty called for announcements:

Chairman Geraghty recognized Supervisor Driscoll for being nominated as one of the Warren County Senior Citizens of the Year which was an accomplishment; a round of applause followed.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Conover, Chairman Geraghty declared the meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m.