

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: OCCUPANCY TAX COORDINATION

DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: DICKINSON
MERLINO
WILD
GERACI
STROUGH
RUNYON
DIAMOND

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT:
LEISA GRANT, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK
PAUL TACKETT , ASSISTANT TOURISM COORDINATOR
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOHN TAFLAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
LARRY ELMEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY
SARAH MCLLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISOR DRISCOLL
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
REPRESENTING SILVER BAY YMCA
ZACK SMALLY, DIRECTOR OF GUEST SERVICES
LINDSEY BUTLER, VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES
GINA MINTZER, LAKE GEORGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CVB,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the February 1, 2023 meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <https://warrencountyny.gov/mma>

Mr. Dickinson called the meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee to order at 10:32 a.m.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the meeting agenda were distributed; a copy of the agenda is on file with the meeting minutes.

Commencing review of the Occupancy Tax Coordination agenda the following request was presented.

1. To reappropriate funds in the amount of \$26,386.54 from Budget Code, *A.881.00 Reserve-Occupancy Tax*, for the Planning Department's De-Icing Device Education and Awareness Initiative (\$3,386.54) and the County Historian funding for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution Commission (\$23,000).

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Zack Smally, *Director of Guest Services*, and Lindsey Butler, *Vice President of Sales*, both of Silver Bay YMCA, who were in attendance to advocate for their request for Occupancy Tax Funding.

Motion was made by Mr. Merlino, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to award Silver Bay YMCA \$15,000 in Occupancy Tax Funding for a Bluegrass in Heaven Festival to be held September 15-17, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 17th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving into the Workshop portion of the meeting a brief discussion took place regarding changing the Occupancy Tax Application. Following it was consensus of the Committee for the County Attorney to work with the Tourism Department

to revise the application process that was used in 2014.

Copies of a chart reflecting 2023 funding requests were distributed to the Committee members; a copy of same is on file with the meeting minutes. Committee proceeded with a review of the Special Events Funding requests section, during which the following motions were made:

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Wild and carried by a majority vote, with Mr. Strough abstaining, to award Adirondack Cycling Advocates a disbursement of \$20,000 for 2023, with the award to continue on an annual basis to provide the same amount of funding for three years provided that annual updates were made to the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 17th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried unanimously to award Adirondack Festivals, LLC (ADK Wine & Food Festival) a disbursement of \$45,000 for 2023, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 17th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

A motion was made by Ms. Runyon and seconded by Mr. Strough to award Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival a disbursement of \$90,000 for 2023. A discussion ensued regarding whether the Committee was able to exceed the \$50,000 award cap; Ms. Runyon subsequently amended her motion, and Mr. Strough his second, to award \$50,000 to the Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 17th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Consensus of the Committee was to request that the County Attorney's Office research the Occupancy Tax law to determine whether additional funds could be distributed to the Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival to meet their full funding request.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild, seconded by Mr. Diamond and carried unanimously to award Adirondack Sports Complex a disbursement of \$50,000 for 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 17th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Diamond and carried unanimously to award Albany Rods & Kustom, Inc. a disbursement of \$35,000 for 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 17th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Committee discussed the future of the Albany Rods & Kustom, Inc. event; consensus was to invite Mayor Blais, *Village of Lake George*, to attend an upcoming meeting to discuss further.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried unanimously to award Americade, Inc. a disbursement of \$50,000 for 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 17th Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Committee determined another Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee meeting would be held on February 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. to consider the remaining requests listed in the chart provided.

As there was no further business to come before the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, on motion made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Diamond and carried unanimously, Mr. Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist