

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COMMITTEE: OCCUPANCY TAX COORDINATION**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2023**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS: MERLINO  
RUNYON  
DIAMOND

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

SUPERVISORS: DICKINSON  
WILD  
GERACI  
STROUGH

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

REPRESENTING THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT:

PAUL TACKETT, ASSISTANT TOURISM COORDINATOR  
LEISA GRANT, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK

KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

JOHN TAFLAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD

RYAN DICKEY, SECOND ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY

SUPERVISORS LEGGETT

MAGOWAN

TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AMY COLLINS, TOURISM & DOWNTOWN BUSINESS COORDINATOR

GINA MINTZER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAKE GEORGE REGIONAL  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & CVB

LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

\*SEE SIGN IN SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL MEETING ATTENDEES

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*Please note, the following contains a summarization of the February 22, 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>*

In the absence of Committee Chairman Dickinson, Supervisor Merlino, as Vice Chairman, called the meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee to order at 11:45 a.m. Due to a lack of Committee member attendance, Chairman Geraghty served to make a quorum of the Committee.

Copies of the meeting agenda were distributed to those in attendance; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

The meeting commenced with a review of the Action Agenda/New Business Items which included the following:

- a. Committee to address applications for Occupancy Tax funding per the attached spreadsheet.

Committee watched a brief video presentation by Miriam Weisfeld, *Producing Artistic Director, Adirondack Theatre Festival*, outlining the impact COVID had on her organization and how the funding would be used to recover and expand the event.

Motion was made by Mr. Diamond, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci, and Strough absent*) to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Motion was made by Mr. Diamond and seconded by Ms. Runyon to authorize agreement with Adirondack Theatre Festival for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$30,000 to provide funding for the event held May 15 - August 15, 2023. Following discussion, Mr. Merlino called the question and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of*

*the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Representatives from Glens Falls Collaborative spoke regarding their application for the volunteer - based 2023 Adirondack Christkindlmarkt event which included an attendance of 6,000 resulting in occupancy at The Queensbury Hotel, Belle House Inn and Fairfield Inn and Suites.

Motion was made by Chairman Geraghty, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with Glens Falls Collaborative for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$25,000 to provide funding for the 2023 Adirondack Christkindlmarkt event held December 1 - 3, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Representatives from Glens Falls Collaborative spoke regarding their application for the Wingfest event, noting prior to 2022 there had been 1,500 attendees and in 2022 there was over 3,000 attendees which resulted in occupancy at The Queensbury Hotel and Belle House Inn.

Motion was made by Mr. Diamond, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with Glens Falls Collaborative for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$10,000 to provide funding for Wingfest to be held April 29, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Motion was made by Mr. Diamond, seconded by Chairman Geraghty and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with LARAC for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$11,000 to provide funding for new event to be held June 16 - 19, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

A representative from The Sembrich spoke with regard to the application submitted and their effort to increase cultural tourism in the capital region.

Motion was made by Chairman Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Diamond and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with The Sembrich for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$20,000 to provide funding for the 2023 Summer Festival to be held June 1 - September 1, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Tim Cianciola, *representing Craftproducers*, attended via Zoom and spoke with regard to the application for the Lake George Arts & Craft Festival, noting it was a family friendly event and hoped it would become a destination event.

Motion was made by Chairman Geraghty, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with Craftproducers for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$5,000 to provide funding for the Lake George Arts & Craft Festival to be held July 29 - 30, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Thomas Struzzieri, *representing GenZHomes, Inc. dba Alpha Win*, spoke with regard to the application submitted

for the 2023 Lake George Triathlon, noting it was a growing event and provided event statistics.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Diamond and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with GenZHomes, Inc. dba Alpha Win for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$30,000 to provide funding for the 2023 Lake George Triathlon to be held August 28 - September 3, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Motion was made by Chairman Geraghty, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with Improv Records for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$35,000 to provide funding for Memorial Meltdown to be held May 26 - May 29, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Motion was made by Chairman Geraghty, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with Improv Records for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$45,000 to provide funding for Lake George Independence Festival to be held September 1 - 3, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Sharon Reynolds, *representing Lake Theatre Productions Inc.*, spoke with regard to the Lake George Dinner Theatre application, noting three weeks had been added to the season.

Motion was made by Chairman Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Diamond and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with Lake Theatre Productions, Inc. for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$12,000 to provide funding for the Lake George Dinner Theatre to be held July 6 - August 26, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Motion was made by Chairman Geraghty and seconded by Mr. Diamond to authorize agreement with Lake George J/Boat Racing LLC for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$13,500 to provide funding for J/24 US National Championship Regatta to be held May 17 - 21, 2023. Following discussion, Mr. Merlino called the question and the motion carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Alexander Lombard, *representing Lake George Music Festival*, spoke with regard to the new venue, marketing efforts and application submission.

Motion was made by Chairman Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Diamond and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with Lake George Music Festival for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$30,000 to provide funding for the Lake George Music Festival to be held August 6 - 17, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

George Normandin and Joel Holden, *representing Eastern NY Marine Trades Association*, distributed information on the Great Upstate Boat Show and spoke regarding their application; copies are on file with the minutes.

Motion was made by Chairman Geraghty, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with Eastern NY Marine Trades Association for the disbursement of the 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$25,000 to provide funding for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Boat Show to be held March 31 - April 2, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Diane Brooks, *representing Northeastern District Barbershop Harmony Society*, spoke with regard to her application and provided information for the event held at the Queensbury School.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Diamond and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with Northeastern District Barbershop Harmony Society for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$21,100 to provide funding for a division contest and convention to be held April 28 - 29, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Motion was made by Chairman Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Diamond and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with South Queensbury Fire Company for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$5,000 to provide funding for 2022/2023 Adirondack Balloon Festival expenses and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Clint Braidwood and Paul Connolly, *representing Hickory Legacy Foundation*, were in attendance and spoke with regard to their application submission and provided information on the Hickory Legacy Foundation.

Motion was made by Chairman Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Diamond and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to authorize agreement with Hickory Legacy Foundation for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$10,000 to boost marketing efforts for event to be held June 1 - September 30, 2023 and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Leisa Grant, *Principal Account Clerk*, requested to appropriate funds in the amount of \$750,000 from Budget Code A.881.00, *Reserve Occupancy Tax*, to various budget codes to cover approved occupancy tax requests since the 2023 County Budget was approved.

Motion was made by Chairman Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Diamond and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson, Wild, Geraci and Strough absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

As there was no further business to come before the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, on motion made by Chairman Geraghty and seconded by Mr. Diamond, Mr. Merlino declared the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board