

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: OCCUPANCY TAX COORDINATION

DATE: MAY 23, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: DICKINSON
MERLINO
WILD
GERACI
STROUGH
RUNYON
DIAMOND

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT:
HEATHER BAGSHAW, DIRECTOR
LEISA GRANT, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK
JOHN TAFLAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BRUNO
FRASIER
LEGGETT
MAGOWAN
SMITH
TAMMIE DeLORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
MICHAEL R. SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
JESSE JACKSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAKE GEORGE TV
ED LARKIN, SR. VICE PRESIDENT, HOOD COMMUNICATIONS
GINA MINTZER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAKE GEORGE REGIONAL CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & CVB
DON RITTNER, RITTNER'S PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the May 23, 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 10:51 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 minutes.*

Privilege of the floor and public comment were called for, but there was no one wishing to speak.

The Committee commenced with a review of the Action/New Business Items portion of the agenda with the following:

- a. To re-appropriate funds in the amount of \$25,000 from Budget Code A.881.00 *Reserve - Occupancy Tax*, to Budget Code A.6417.0002 469.05, *Municipal Application Funding*, to cover the matching funds requirement for the Multi-Use Trail Study Grant for the Northern Borders Regional Commission.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried unanimously 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.*

- b. To appropriate funds in the amount of \$50,000 Budget Code A.881.00, *Reserve - Occupancy Tax*, to Budget Code A.6417.0002 469.05, *Municipal Application Funding*, to fund the Adirondack Region Winter Lights Experience, Phase I charette.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Wild and carried unanimously 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.*

Skipping ahead in the agenda to the Discussion Items section, privilege of the floor was extended to Michael Swan, *County Treasurer*, who reviewed the Treasurer's Occupancy Tax Report, a copy of which is on file with the meeting minutes.

Returning to Action Agenda/New Business Item "c", a request was presented to authorize agreement with Rittner's Performing Arts Company for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$36,400 for the production of "History on the Road" featuring Warren County.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon and seconded by Mr. Strough to approve the request as presented.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Don Rittner, *Director/Producer, Rittner's Performing Arts Company*, who presented a brief clip of "History on the Road" which can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/nPL68PQl4Qk>. Mr. Rittner answered questions posed by Committee members.

Mr. Dickinson called the question and the motion carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the June 14th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- d. Application from Warren County Department of Public Works for the Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival expenses- \$30,000 yearly; \$20,000 for 2023.

Leisa Grant, *Principal Account Clerk*, informed an item not included in the agenda was an application from Warren County Sheriff's Office for \$110,000 to cover overtime costs incurred for police presence provided during regional events which brought tourism to the area; a copy of the Sheriff's application is on file with the minutes.

Discussion ensued following which a motion was made by Mr. Wild and seconded by Mr. Geraci to table the Warren County Department of Public Works request until next month, as there was no representative from the Department of Public Works in attendance to answer the Committee's questions. Following further discussion, Mr. Dickinson called the question and motion carried unanimously to table the item for discussion at the next meeting.

Although the Warren County Sheriff's Office application was referenced, no action was taken to address it.

Concluding the agenda review, the Referrals Item was addressed as follows:

- a. County Attorney to review Occupancy Tax Spending Plan History and Local Law and provide any updates required. Mr. Elmen apprised the item would be addressed over the next couple of months with the new Tourism Director - As there being no representative from the County Attorney's Office present, this item was not addressed.

Privilege of the floor and public comment was called for but there was no one wishing to speak.

As there was no further business to come before the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, on motion made by Mr. Wild, seconded by Mr. Geraci and carried unanimously, Mr. Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

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