

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: OCCUPANCY TAX COORDINATION

DATE: JULY 25, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: MERLINO
WILD
GERACI
STROUGH
RUNYON
DIAMOND

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR: DICKINSON

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT:

HEATHER BAGSHAW, DIRECTOR
LEISA GRANT, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK
MICHAEL R. SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
ROBERT TERWILLIGER, FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS BRUNO

DRISCOLL

FRASIER

TAMMIE DeLORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
JARED HENNINGSEN, VICE PRESIDENT, ICE CASTLES, LLC
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
DAVID STRAINER, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD
*SEE SIGN IN SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the July 25, 2023 meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed using the following links:

Warren County website - <https://warrencountyny.gov/mma>

Warren County's YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhDI7jtPdsg&t=8s>

In the absence of Committee Chair Dickinson, Mr. Merlino, as Vice-Chair, called the meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee to order at 10:58 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Dickinson and Diamond absent*) 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, as follows:

- a. Application from Ice Castles for Winter event - Jared Henningsen, *Vice President, Ice Castles, LLC*, presented a request for occupancy tax funding in the amount of \$150,000 for a weather resistant winter event different than their previous events. A request for occupancy tax funding was included in the application provided.

Mr. Diamond entered the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

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 the request from Ice Castles, LLC, a motion was made by Mr. Strough and seconded by Mr. Geraci to authorize an agreement with Ice Castles, LLC, for the disbursement of 2023 Occupancy Tax Revenues in the amount of \$150,000 to provide funding for the event to be held November 24, 2023 - February 25, 2024. Following discussion, Mr. Merlino called the question and the motion carried by a majority vote of those present (*Mr. Dickinson absent*), with Mr. Diamond abstaining, to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the August 18th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing to the Discussion Items portion of the agenda the following items were reviewed:

- b. Occupancy Tax Budget update was provided by Heather Bagshaw, *Tourism Director*, who distributed handouts entitled, "Occupancy Tax Appropriation" and "Occupancy Tax Revenue & Expenditures"; copies of which are on file with the meeting minutes.
- c. Lake George TV update was provided by Jesse Jackson, *Executive Director, Lake George TV*.
- d. Cool Insuring Arena Second Quarter update was provided by Jeffrey Mead, *General Manager, Cool Insuring Arena*.
- e. Lake George Regional CVB Second Quarter Report was provided by Gina Mintzer, *Executive Director, Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce & CVB*; a copy of which is on file with the meeting minutes.

Leisa Grant, *Principal Account Clerk*, requested to appropriate funds in the amount of \$150,000 from Budget Code A.881.00, *Reserve - Occupancy Tax*, to Budget Code A.6417.0002 480, *Special Events Funding*, to cover the award made to Ice Castles, LLC.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Geraci and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Dickinson 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.*

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. Robert Terwilliger, *First Assistant County Attorney*, apprised he and Larry Elmen, *County Attorney*, were continuing their review, but no update was provided.

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. Strough, seconded by Mr. Wild and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Dickinson absent*), Mr. Merlino adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

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