

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

**BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY JULY 19, 2024**



*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=FR2fWEMHVDA>

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York; meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Patchett

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Maday, Diamond, Gilligan, Turner, Bruno, Driscoll, Patchett, Bean, Geraci, Crocitto, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Strainer, Etu, Thomas and Geraghty; Absent - 2 Supervisors Magowan and Runyon

Motion was made by Supervisor Diamond, seconded by Supervisor Merlino and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Magowan and Runyon absent*), to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2024 Board Meeting.

Supervisor Magowan entered the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty declared the Public Hearing on Warren County's community development needs fund possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant applications for the 2024 Program Year open at 10:04 a.m. and requested the Clerk of the Board read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud. Chair called for public comment, but there was no one wishing to speak.

Chairman Geraghty advised he would keep the Public Hearing open and proceeded with the Agenda review.

Moving along, Chairman Geraghty declared the public hearing on the proposed adoption of a tentative operating budget for Adirondack Community College for the fiscal year 2024-25 open at 10:05 a.m. and requested the Clerk of the Board read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud. Chair called for public comment, but there was no one wishing to speak.

Chairman Geraghty once again called for public comment on Warren County's community development needs fund possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant applications for the 2024 Program Year; there being no one else wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing at 10:06 a.m.

Chairman Geraghty called for privilege of the floor/public comment, but there was no one wishing to speak.

Report by the Committee Chairs (including the Chairman of the Board's Report) were given; County Treasurer provided an update during Supervisor Thomas' report as Finance & Budget Committee Chair.

Report by the County Administrator was given.

Report by the County Attorney was given.

Reading of communications by Clerk of the Board was provided, as follows:

**Reports from:**

1. County Auditor - June 2024 Real Property Tax Corrections.

**Letters/emails from:**

1. Town of Queensbury Planning Board - Notice of Public Hearing to consider application from Montcalm Housing Development Fund Co..
2. Washington County BOS - Resolution No. 195 of 2024, *"To Consent to the Warren Washintong IDA's Undertaking of an Industrial Development Project in the Town of Queensbury; 326 Sherman Avenue Assoc., LLC ("The Dome Project")"*

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

Resolution Nos. 220-243 were distributed to the Board and posted to the Warren County website on Monday, July 15, 2024, along with two Proclamations; Resolution No. 244 was distributed to the Board and posted to the Warren County website in Tuesday, July 16, 2024, which met the deadline specified in the Rules of the Board. The four Proclamations were:

- Proclamation No. 26 - National Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week
- Proclamation No. 27 - Parks and Recreation Month

Discussion and public comment on proposed resolutions was called for:

Supervisor Magowan apprised he would be recusing himself from the vote on proposed Resolution No. 223, *Ratifying the Actions of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors in Executing a Grant Application to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for 13-A Classification Funding to Support the Pre-trial Release Program Within the Probation Department.*

A discussion ensued regarding proposed Resolution No. 237, *Amending Resolution No. 573 of 2023, Which Authorized Agreements with Certain Applicants for the Disbursement of 2024 Occupancy Tax Revenues, to Authorize Agreements and Funding to Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival*, during which several Supervisors spoke in favor of providing the additional funding for the event. During the discussion it was clarified that the additional funding was specific to this year's event and would not be carried over into future years.

Motion was made by Supervisor Driscoll and seconded by Supervisor Conover to amend proposed Resolution No. 239, *Rescinding Resolution No. 73 of 2020, Which Authorized Use of Paid Administrative Leave in the Event of a Medical Quarantine for Disease Prevention*, to extend the policy through the end of the year. A discussion ensued following which Supervisors Driscoll and Conover amended their motions to instead withdraw proposed Resolution No. 239. Chairman Geraghty called the question and the motion, as amended to withdraw proposed Resolution No. 239, was carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisor Runyon absent*).

Voting on resolutions occurred. Resolution Nos. 220-244 were approved as presented, with the

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exception of proposed Resolution No. 239, which was withdrawn. Supervisor Magowan exited the meeting at 11:10 a.m. and re-entered the meeting following the roll call vote on Resolution No. 223, *Ratifying the Actions of the Chair of the Board of Supervisors in Executing a Grant Application to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for 13-A Classification Funding to Support the Pre-trial Release Program Within the Probation Department*, at 11:11 a.m.

Chairman Geraghty offered privilege of the floor.

An individual who identified himself as Mark spoke regarding the intentional act of releasing climate controlling chemicals referred to as “*chemtrails*” in an effort to stop global warming and how he would like the State to adopt legislation similar to what was adopted in the State of Tennessee which banned this practice. He noted he believed this practice was harmful to humans and their environment. Chairman Geraghty requested this gentleman provide him with the information he had regarding this matter and he would forward it to the appropriate oversight Committee.

Supervisor Magowan voiced his concerns with the impact AirBnb rentals were having on the cost of housing within the region, noting housing prices were atrocious. A discussion ensued during which it was noted this matter had been and would continue to be discussed by the Economic Growth & Development Committee.

Jim Niles, *Town Councilmen, Town of Lake Luzerne*, advised the Town of Lake Luzerne had issued a cap of allowing 120 AirBnb’s in the Town in order to address issues with AirBnb.

Supervisor Geraci spoke regarding the importance of the Office of Emergency Services “Read Warren County” mobile app during times like the storm that impacted the County earlier this week, indicating something needed to be done to attract more users. Next, he addressed the need to discuss better communication with the representatives of National Grid when they attended the August 1, 2024 meeting of the Legislative, Rules & Governmental Operations Committee to discuss the potential rate hike. In conclusion, he once again brought up the need to address County-wide internet access, noting although satellite service was available in the under-served areas, it was not affordable.

With regard to the Adirondack Balloon Festival, Supervisor Strough noted the not-for-profit that held the Albuquerque International Balloon Festival in New Mexico had total expenses of \$7.7 million which included salaries totaling \$614,000, while the Adirondack Balloon Festival organizers were comprised solely of volunteers. He remarked the benefits of the Adirondack Balloon Festival to the County far outweighed its financial contribution to the event.

Supervisor Strainer announced they were seeking sponsors and basket raffle donations for the annual Dr. James Seeley Memorial Golf Tournament for Cornell Cooperative Extension which would be held August 24, 2024 at Cronin’s Golf Resort in Warrensburg, New York and he encouraged all to attend. He then recognized Jeff Mead, *General Manager, Cool Insuring Arena*, for being awarded the ECHL Executive of the Year. He noted the Adirondack Thunder had one of the highest ticket sales within the league. Next, he spoke regarding how many of the local graduating students referenced in the *Glens Falls Chronicle* all had been working since around the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, apprising this proved that the hype today that kids were lazy was untrue. In conclusion he mentioned the upcoming Heroes of Hospitality event where former Town of Lake George Supervisor Dennis Dickinson would be honored, as well as Supervisors Merlino and Crocitto and he encouraged all to attend.

Supervisor Conover suggested the County Facebook page highlight the Office of Emergency Services

app, as well as the National Grid power outage map to attract more users to these sites.

Supervisor Etu announced the Project Advisory Group for the County's Comprehensive Plan would be meeting at 3:30 p.m. at the Town of Warrensburg Fire Company on August 15<sup>th</sup> and he encouraged the Supervisors to notify the public.

Supervisor Bruno spoke regarding the presentation done by the Mark Donohue pertaining to the Adirondack Balloon Festival at the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Tourism & Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee which was impressive. He suggested this be forwarded to all of the Board members for the purpose of clarifying why the additional funding had been provided above and beyond what was requested.

Supervisor Patchett thanked Supervisor Driscoll for coming to the Town of Hague and providing residents with information regarding programs they may qualify for. He recognized the County Planning Department for assisting the Town of Hague in achieving the certified pro-housing community which their town would benefit from. In conclusion, Supervisor Patchett apprised the Town of Hague had commenced the process to become a Local Waterfront Revitalization Community which could open up their community to more grant opportunities in the future.

Christine Norton, *County Treasurer*, clarified some figures pertaining to occupancy tax funding, noting the bulk of the collections were comprised from hotels. She then spoke regarding the County Budget process which would begin soon, indicating she was looking forward to being a part of this process. She stated she hoped to not only look for where expenses could be decreased, but also to find sources of additional revenue during the process.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Bean, Chairman Geraghty adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:41 a.m.