

Warren County Board of Supervisors

BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY OCTOBER 18, 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=YClQp_-0Hx8

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 Crocitto

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Maday, Diamond, Gilligan, Turner, Bruno, Driscoll, Patchett, Geraci, Crocitto, Bean, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Magowan, Strainer, Etu, Thomas, Runyon and Geraghty; Absent - 0.

Motion was made by Supervisor Strainer, seconded by Supervisor Etu and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2024 Board Meeting and October 3, 2024 Special Board Meeting.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty extended privilege of the floor to John Bowe, *Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County*, who was assisted by Assemblyman Simpson and Chairman Geraghty in presenting the following 4-H awards: Clay Lord, *Citizenship Award*; Ronin Corr, *Spirit of 4-H Award*; and Elyse Morrow, *Top Superintendent*.

Supervisor Bean exited the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Chairman Geraghty declared the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No. 6 of 2024 entitled "*A Local Law to Authorize Overriding the Property Tax Levy Limit Established by General Municipal Law §3-c for the 2025 Warren County Budget*," open at 10:10 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.

Next, Chairman Geraghty called for privilege of the floor/public comment during which Assemblyman Simpson provided a legislative update and answered questions posed by the Board members.

Supervisor Bean re-entered the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Chairman Geraghty once again called for public comment on proposed Local Law No. 6 of 2024 entitled "*A Local Law to Authorize Overriding the Property Tax Levy Limit Established by General Municipal Law §3-c for the 2025 Warren County Budget*,"; there being no one wishing to speak, he closed the public hearing at 10:34 a.m.

The Agenda review resumed with the Report by the Committee Chairs (including the Chairman of the Board's Report), during which Supervisor Strough exited the meeting at 10:45 a.m. and re-entered at 10:53 a.m.

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 - September 2024 Real Property Tax Corrections;
2. Capital District Regional OTB - Financial Reports dated May 31, 2024 and June 30, 2024.

Other:

1. Washington County - Resolution No. 281 of 2024, "*To Consent to the Warren Washington IDA's Undertaking of an Industrial Development Project in the Town of Queensbury...*"

Supervisor Strainer exited the meeting at 11:01 a.m.

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

Resolution Nos. 333-396, were distributed to the Board and posted to the Warren County website on Monday, October 17, 2024, along with five Proclamations and the Report of Committee on Assessment Rolls, which met the deadline specified in the Rules of the Board. The five Proclamations were:

- Proclamation No. 35 - Fire Protection Week
- Proclamation No. 36 - Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Month
- Proclamation No. 37 - Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Proclamation No. 38 - Green Light for Military Service County
- Proclamation No. 39 - Appreciation to Accrisure

Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, advised while proposed Resolution No. 357, *Approving the Necessary Expenses Incurred by the County Clerk under Tax Law §262 and Authorizing Submission to the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance for Approval to Retain Same*, had been posted with both pages of Schedule A document, the second page was inadvertently left off of the printed copies distributed to the Board members and a motion was required to include both pages.

The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Bean, seconded by Supervisor Wild and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisor Strainer absent*) to approve the amendment as outlined above.

Mrs. Allen stated proposed Resolution No. 394 was amended after posting to add language allowing the County Treasurer to advance funding as requested by the Treasurer's Office and a motion was needed to approve the amendments, as presented.

The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Driscoll, seconded by Supervisor Merlino and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisor Strainer absent*) to approve the amendment as outlined above.

Mrs. Allen indicated a motion was required to withdraw proposed Resolution No. 395, which was no longer required as the language authorizing the Treasurer's Office to advance funding was included

in proposed Resolution No. 394.

Supervisor Strainer re-entered the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Bean, seconded by Supervisor Thomas and carried unanimously to withdraw proposed Resolution No. 395.

Mrs. Allen apprised there were several roll call votes this month and she inquired whether there was any objection to combining the roll call votes on proposed Resolution Nos. 377-382, as well as the roll calls for proposed Resolution Nos. 385-394. Following discussion it was determined the roll call votes for the following proposed Resolutions would be combined: Resolution Nos. 389-392; 385-388; and 393-394.

Discussion and public comment on proposed resolutions was called for:

Supervisor Magowan spoke regarding proposed Resolution No. 381, *Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the General Fund Unappropriated Fund Balance to the Medical Examiner & Coroner's Budget to Cover the Estimated Cost of Autopsies Through the Remainder of 2024; and Amending 2024 Warren County Budget*, indicating he believed it was necessary for them to move forward as quickly as possible on constructing a regional morgue which would reduce the cost of autopsies for the County. Supervisor Magowan also voiced his concern with proposed Resolution No. 384, *Authorizing Agreement with a Contractor to be Determined for Upgrades to the Board Room in the Warren County Municipal Center*, indicating he could not support renovations to the Board Room when there had recently been several significant expenditures further burdening the County Budget. He added he believed the audio system in the Board Room did require attention to ensure his constituents who viewed the meeting on YouTube could properly hear all of the discussions taking place at the Board Meetings.

During Supervisor Magowan's comments, Supervisor Strough exited the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Supervisor Patchett requested clarification on the purpose of proposed Resolution No. 374, *Introducing Proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2024, Entitled "A Local Law Repealing Local Law No. 4 of 2008, 'A Local Law Adopting and Ratifying Certain Employee Benefits for County Employees Outside Various Bargaining Units,'" and Authorizing Public Hearing Thereon*, and the County Attorney responded Resolution No. 54 of 2008 and Resolution No. 499 of 2021 were essentially invalid because Local Law No. 4 of 2008 held more weight than them. He stated what proposed Resolution No. 374 would do if adopted today was introduce proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2024 which would rescind Local Law No. 4 of 2008 and make changes to the County benefits policies relating to paying out sick time accrued or unused upon the retirement of non-bargaining unit employees hired after the January 18, 2008 Board Meeting; and to reimbursement for non-bargaining unit employees for costs of job-related certifications and course work. He added this would align the benefits offered to the non-bargaining and bargaining unit employees to ensure consistency.

Supervisor Diamond indicated he would be voting in opposition of proposed Resolution No. 384, *Authorizing Agreement with a Contractor to be Determined for Upgrades to the Board Room in the Warren County Municipal Center*, due to his concerns with the lack of information regarding the amount of funding that would be expended on the Board Room renovations, as well as the absence of details regarding who the contracts for this work would be awarded to.

John Taflan, *County Administrator*, advised there was about \$700,000 in ARPA (*American Rescue Plan Act*) that had been unexpended and would need to be returned to the Federal Government if it was not obligated to a contract before the end of the year. He stated about \$300,000 of this

funding would be used to renovate the Board Room which when completed would be used for both Committee and Board Meetings. He apprised he anticipated a design for the project to be completed next week; however, he noted, there would not be enough time to move forward with the bidding process and award contracts for this renovation before the end of the year if they did not move forward with proposed Resolution No. 384 today. He stated the remainder of the unobligated ARPA funds would be allocated for repairs to the roof of the Warren County Municipal Building which was in a state of disrepair.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding proposed Resolution No. 384 *Authorizing Agreement with a Contractor to be Determined for Upgrades to the Board Room in the Warren County Municipal Center*, and the remaining ARPA funding.

Voting on resolutions occurred. Resolution Nos. 333-396 were approved as presented, with the exception of Resolution Nos. 357 and 394, which were approved as amended from the floor, and Resolution No. 395 which was withdrawn.

Chairman Geraghty offered privilege of the floor, but there was no one wishing to speak.

Announcements were called for:

Supervisor Strainer announced the Adirondack Thunder season opening game would be held on October 26th and he encouraged all to attend. He apprised November 1-2, 2024 the Adirondack Stampede Rodeo would be held at the Cool Insuring Arena which was an exciting event.

Supervisor Conover voiced his support of the County Administrator, the Chairman of the Board and the Superintendent of Public Works taking the steps required to ensure any remaining ARPA funds were obligated prior to the end of the year.

Supervisor Driscoll advised the Tri-County United Way Fall Gala would be held Thursday, October 24th and on Friday, October 25th the Ben Osborn Memorial Fund's Baskets for Ben fundraiser was scheduled with many local organizations, youth and families benefitting from this event. He informed November 1st was the opening day of HEAP (*Home Energy Assistance Program*) and the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics New York State Fall games would be held this evening in the City Park in the City of Glens Falls, with several events being held in the City of Glens Falls and the Town of Queensbury over the weekend.

Supervisor Wild indicated as a member of the Board of Directors of the Warren County Economic Development Corporation (*WCEDC*) he was welcoming any public comment on the direction of this organization, noting there would be a strategic planning session held by the WCEDC Board on November 13th.

Supervisor Crocitto apologized for missing the photograph for the Board this morning prior to the meeting. Chairman Geraghty interjected due to a number of Supervisors missing from the photograph, another picture was scheduled to be taken immediately following the adjournment of the meeting on the front steps of the Warren County Municipal Building.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Wild and seconded by Supervisor Magowan, Chairman Geraghty adjourned the Board Meeting at 11:55 a.m.