

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025



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>

Part 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9m2u7aj3d2k>

Part 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kCFl3FfqXI>

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 11:59 a.m.

Mr. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Conover

Roll called, the following members present:

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

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

Privilege of the Floor was first extended to Ethan Gaddy, *County Planner*; Norbelle Greenberger, *Representing La Bella Associates*; and Sara Frankenfeld, *GIS Administrator*, who reviewed a powerpoint presentation regarding the Warren County Comprehensive Plan which outlined the plan vision, goals, objectives, priority actions, and implementation, as well as answered questions posed by the Board members. A copy of the presentation is on file with the February 10, 2025 Special Board Meeting minutes.

The Agenda review resumed with reading of resolutions by the Clerk of the Board as follows:

Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, indicated motions were needed to bring proposed Floor Resolution Nos. 1-2 to the floor, as well as proposed Floor Resolution Nos. 3 and 4 which were not in writing, but had been approved at this morning's meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee.

Motion was made by Supervisor Etu, seconded by Supervisor Maday and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Gilligan and Geraci absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 1 entitled "*Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement that all Resolutions be Approved through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Appointing Harold T. Hubbard as Republican Commissioner of Elections*", to the floor.

Motion was made by Supervisor Runyon, seconded by Supervisor Maday and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Gilligan and Geraci absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No.

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2, entitled "*Appointing Harold T. Hubbard as Republican Commissioner of Elections*", to the floor.

Motion was made by Supervisor Runyon, seconded by Supervisor Merlino and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Gilligan and Geraci absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 3 entitled "*Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement that all Resolutions be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Authorizing Agreement with the Town of Johnsborg for Municipal Award of Occupancy Tax Funding*" to the floor.

Motion was made by Supervisor Runyon, seconded by Supervisor Wild and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Gilligan and Geraci absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 4 entitled "*Authorizing Agreement with the Town of Johnsborg for Municipal Award of Occupancy Tax Funding*" to the floor.

Mrs. Allen announced proposed Floor Resolution Nos. 1 would now be known as proposed Resolution Nos. 33; proposed floor Resolution No. 2 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 34; proposed Floor Resolution No. 3 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 35; and proposed Floor Resolution No. 4 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 36.

Discussion and public comment on proposed resolutions was called for:

William VanNess, *Commissioner of Elections (R)*, thanked the Board for their support during his tenure at the County with the Board of Elections. He then spoke in favor of the appointment of Mr. Hubbard, who he believed was more than qualified to take over the position upon his retirement later this month.

Supervisor Etu requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution Nos. 34 and 36.

Following a brief discussion regarding proposed Resolution No. 36, "*Authorizing Agreement with the Town of Johnsborg for Municipal Award of Occupancy Tax Funding*", Chairman Geraghty called for a brief recess to allow time for the aforementioned proposed Resolution to be prepared in writing. The Board recessed from 12:33 p.m. until 12:42 p.m.

Upon reconvening, Chairman Geraghty once again called for discussion and public comment on proposed resolutions:

Supervisor Magowan apprised while he was concerned regarding the precedent approving proposed Resolution No. 36, "*Authorizing Agreement with the Town of Johnsborg for Municipal Award of Occupancy Tax Funding*", would set, he was fully supportive of it due to the time sensitive nature of the matter for the Town of Johnsborg.

Larry Elmen, *County Attorney*, cautioned the Board members that they could not restrict themselves in acting in the future; however, he noted, those present were well aware of why they would be voting in favor or against proposed Resolution No. 36 and would carry this forward while they were members of the Board. He stated in essence the Board could not bind themselves from taking action in the future only in recollection and memory of today, adding the purpose of their actions would serve to bind them and their individual votes going forward into the future.

Supervisor Bean noted the Hudson River was a significant tourist attraction for the Town of Lake Johnsborg due to its close proximity to the Town which was within a quarter of a mile. He stated many of the septic systems on properties were failing due to their age causing sewage to leak. He indicated the only reason this request was going before them today was because they had exhausted

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all other options and he implored with the Board to move proposed Resolution No. 36 forward.

Supervisor Strough voiced his concern with using such a significant amount of occupancy tax funding for infrastructure, as he believed if proposed Resolution No. 36 moved forward other municipalities would bring forth similar requests. He pointed out several of the not-for-profits had their requests for occupancy tax denied or reduced to a lower amount due to insufficient funding, apprising he believed ORDA (*Olympic Regional Development Authority*) needed to take responsibility for this expense.

A discussion ensued regarding proposed Resolution No. 36, "*Authorizing Agreement with the Town of Johnsbury for Municipal Award of Occupancy Tax Funding*", during which several Supervisors opined on the matter. Also during the discussion Mr. Elmen clarified the purpose for the occupancy tax award would be for the promotion of tourism in the North Creek region and Ski Bowl to include a 120 room hotel that was being constructed by ORDA and would tie into this sewer system, noting tying into the ORDA construction project was a key basis for the Board to use as a foundation for use of occupancy tax funding in this situation.

Voting on resolutions occurred; Resolution Nos. 33-36 were approved as presented.

Chairman Geraghty offered privilege of the floor:

Supervisor Bean thanked the Board members for their support of the Town of Johnsbury today.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Geraghty declared the Board meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.