

Warren County Board of Supervisors

BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY OCTOBER 17, 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>

Warren County's YouTube Channel - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSq6JI7mq_g

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened in the Supervisors' Room at the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York; meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Mr. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Gilligan.

Chairman Geraghty called for a moment of silence immediately following the salute to the flag in recognition of the recent passing of Pamela Vogel, who had served as the Warren County Clerk from 2004 to 2023. Following the moment of silence, Chairman Geraghty provided a brief overview of Ms. Vogel's career with Warren County, as well as an accounting of her volunteer work there, noting she would be sorely missed by everyone.

Roll called, the following members present:

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

Motion was made by Supervisor Bean, seconded by Supervisor Strough and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Diamond and Driscoll absent*) to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2025 Board Meeting and October 6, 2025 Special Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to John Bowe, *Executive Director Of Cornell Cooperative Extension Warren County*, who was in attendance to present the following 4-H awards:

- Top Superintendent 1 - Hafsa Gaffar, *Glens Falls City School District*;
- Top Superintendent 2 - Sofia Morrow, *Hadley Luzerne Central School District*; and
- The Spirit of 4-H - Tyler Brown, *Lake Luzerne Central School District*.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty presented a Proclamation to Ginelle Jones, *Director, Warren County Public Health/Patient Services*, proclaiming the month of October to be Warren County Health Services Month in recognition of the Department offering 100 years of professional and compassionate service to the residents of Warren County, following which Ms. Jones provided an overview of the history of the Public Health Department within the County.

Privilege of floor/Public Comment was called for:

Linda Clark, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, spoke regarding additional taxing in Warren County which she opposed, suggesting the Board of Supervisors review other avenues that would have

no financial impact on property owners in Warren County.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty declared the public hearing on proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2025, entitled "*A Local Law Imposing an Additional Mortgage Recording Tax in Warren County*", open at 10:20 a.m. and requested the Clerk of the Board read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud. Chair called for public account:

A discussion occurred regarding the additional mortgage recording tax which the County Attorney clarified it was part of a Municipal Home Rule request that was approved first by the Board of Supervisors and then the State Legislature earlier this year along with other Counties to permit them to charge a one time fee of \$0.25 per \$100 pertaining to the value of the mortgage when it was filed with the County Clerk's Office. He continued, noting this was an extension of the tax already in place and not a new tax being imposed. He added once the Municipal Home Rule was approved by the State Legislature and was signed by the Governor the County had to adopt a new Local Law which would permit the County to charge this tax over the next two years following which the entire process was repeated.

Chairman Geraghty once again called for public comment; there being no response he advised he would keep the Public Hearing open and proceeded with the Agenda review.

Continuing with the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty declared the public hearing on proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2025, entitled "*A Local Law to Authorize Overriding the Property Tax Levy Limit Established by General Municipal Law §3-C for the 2026 Warren County Budget*", open at 10:28 a.m. and requested the Clerk of the Board read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud. Chair called for public account:

There being no public comment, the Chair closed the Public Hearing at 10:29 a.m.

Returning to the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2025, entitled "*A Local Law Imposing an Additional Mortgage Recording Tax in Warren County*", Chairman Geraghty once again called for public comment; there being no response, he closed the public hearing at 10:29 a.m.

Report by the Committee Chairs (including the Chairman of the Board's Report) were given.

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 - Report of Real Property Tax Corrections for September 2025;
2. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation - Financial Report dated May 31, 2025;
3. Capital District Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation - Financial Report dated June 30, 2025;
and
4. ANCA - 2024 Annual Report.

Letters/emails from:

1. Hodgson Russ - On behalf of AC Power LLC and its affiliate AC Power 47 LLC providing Notice of Solar Energy Project Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 487 to be located on Ridge Road in the Town of Queensbury; and
2. NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation - Chestertown Historic District Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation.

Other:

1. Washington County - Resolution No. 250 of 2025, entitled "To Approve Contract Between SUNY Adirondack and the Educational Support Personnel Association for Years 2026-2028".

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

Resolution Nos. 346-400, were distributed to the Board and posted to the Warren County website on Friday, October 10, 2025, along with four Proclamations and the Report of Committee on Assessment Rolls, which met the deadline specified in the Rules of the Board. The four Proclamations were:

Proclamation No. 40 - Warren County Health Services Month (*October 2025*)

Proclamation No. 41 - Breast Cancer Awareness Month (*October 2025*)

Proclamation No. 42 - Fire Protection Week (*October 5-11, 2025*)

Proclamation No. 43 - Green Light for Military Service County

Discussion and public comment on proposed resolutions was called for:

Jesse Jackson, *Representing Lake George TV*, spoke regarding proposed Resolution No. 370, *Amending and Extending Agreement with Hood Communications, Inc. for Tourism Revitalization and Rejuvenation Services (WC 33-22)*, advising he had distributed information to the Board members containing metrics, data and the campaigns they had produced over the past three years, as well as testimonials from local businesses and individuals in hopes that they would vote in favor of the proposed Resolution. Next, he provided an overview of Lake George TV which was a unique turnkey 24/7 connect to television streaming service dedicated to providing free marketing to Warren County businesses and was available on all digital platforms that was monitored all day everyday with daily updates.

Supervisor Patchett requested that Heather Bagshaw, *Director, Tourism*, opine on proposed Resolution No. 370, *Amending and Extending Agreement with Hood Communications, Inc. for Tourism Revitalization and Rejuvenation Services (WC 33-22)*.

Ms. Bagshaw apprised the proposed Resolution authorized a contract for a dashboard for a platform which was unique in its kind with regard to showcasing videos. She indicated following the research she conducted she determined over 200 platforms existed within the entertainment field, some of which were downloaded via an application to provide individuals with more information to assist them in making sound decisions. She continued, stating these applications were viewed by various individuals based upon their interests, noting there were over one million of these applications available as of today in the industry to view. She stated that of the 200 platforms within the entertainment field there were some which were paid subscriptions and others were free subscriber based applications, advising Lake George TV would be considered a free subscriber based application. She opined the missing link in this case was that the contract outlined in proposed Resolution No. 370 did not require the analytics or the details of the dashboard itself. She outlined the three types of interactions on the Lake George TV dashboard which consisted of the advertisers involving the local businesses who provided videos to be uploaded and/or to be edited by Hood Communications and uploaded and shared via the platform dashboard itself; the number of subscribers who sign up to access these videos through the application, adding those who did not wish the subscribe could access these videos through the online platform; and the visitors who were the individuals they were trying to attract to visit to the region. She explained she could not answer Supervisor Patchett's question directly because she was unsure how the dashboard worked itself within the advertisers represented or what the subscription base consisted of as far as how many were from the local region and how many were from outside of the region and how many did not subscribe to the application, but viewed the information through the online platform and their demographics. She apprised if this information was provided to her it would assist her with

showcasing how this platform compared to other unique products like this.

Supervisor Wild advised he was involved with negotiating the contract when it was originally approved, apprising he was in favor of additional metrics for all contracts to determine whether they were worthwhile investments.

Supervisor Crocitto advised anyone who entered the giveaways offered on the Lake George TV application and online platform provided their name and email address and he questioned whether it would be possible to collaborate with the County with regard to this information which would be a valuable component.

Ed Larkin, *Representing Lake George TV*, provided an overview of the six giveaways they had done in 2025, all of which were promoted through paid social media and google advertising. He stated all of the information derived from these giveaways was shared with their paid partners to allow them to market to those individuals. In regard to subscribers, he stated the Lake George TV platform did not require individuals to subscribe, as they wanted to ensure individuals could just visit the platform and access the information. He noted last year over 700,000 views had been accrued on the platform through their paid marketing efforts, advising several thousand email addresses had been collected from these views and shared with their paid partners. He added they were also aware of which videos were viewed and for how long; however, he noted, they were unable to measure certain data such as what impact being aired on televisions in local Chamber of Commerce offices such as how many area businesses attracted customers from individuals viewing their information on the platform due to the difficulty for businesses to track what drove customers to them. He stated packets had recently been distributed to the Supervisors containing all of their quarterly reports from the last three years, all of the presentations they had completed and testimonials from thirty individuals, most of whom were local business owners. Next, he read aloud testimonials from two individuals who had won their latest giveaways both of whom were previous visitors to the region who were inspired to return after many years.

Supervisor Patchett requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 370, *Amending and Extending Agreement with Hood Communications, Inc. for Tourism Revitalization and Rejuvenation Services (WC 33-22)*. Next, he advised the contract for tourism revitalization and rejuvenation services had not been sent out as an RFP (*Request for Proposal*), indicating while an RFP was not required, he believed it should have been due to these services being a benchmark for what the County and its local municipalities were seeking to ensure they were receiving the most benefit for their investment for their constituents. He apprised he believed a third party review was required, noting he reviewed the data that was recently provided by Lake George TV; however, he said, he did not believe the minimal information provided was sufficient to justify the \$800,000 in total that had been expended over the last three years for this contract. He added he was unsure the information provided within the quarterly reports could be authenticated, noting he believed this was what the Director of Tourism was seeking in order to opine on the matter. He said the Tourism Department should be provided with access to the platform and its dashboard to allow them to identify whether this was a sound investment of occupancy tax funding. He pointed out this was the only business he was aware of that was fully funded with occupancy tax funding, indicating he was unsure this was an appropriate use of these funds. He stated because this was fully funded with occupancy tax he believed the intellectual data including the email listing, the URL (*Uniform Resource Locator*) and the application should belong to the County. Last, he spoke regarding transparency which he believed was not occurring with regard to this contract. He concluded by stating he felt the Board of Supervisors had a fiduciary responsibility to Warren County taxpayers to vote in opposition of proposed Resolution No. 370, *Amending and Extending Agreement with Hood Communications, Inc. for Tourism Revitalization and Rejuvenation Services (WC 33-22)*.

Chairman Geraghty inquired whether Supervisor Patchett would like to amend proposed Resolution No. 370 to reduce the term of the contract from one year to six months and Supervisor Patchett replied affirmatively, indicating he was still opposed to the proposed Resolution. Motion was made by Supervisor Patchett to amend proposed Resolution No. 370, *Amending and Extending Agreement with Hood Communications, Inc. for Tourism Revitalization and Rejuvenation Services (WC 33-22)*, to reduce the term of the contract from one year to six months with the additional requirement that the Warren County Tourism Department be provided access to the platform to substantiate the data provided, as well as noting the County would own the intellectual data associated with the platform. Chairman Geraghty called for a second to the motion, but no one responded. Chairman Geraghty noted proposed Resolution No. 370 remained in its original format.

With regard to Road Projects, Supervisor Wild pointed out there were several resolutions increasing and/or creating them going before them today and he questioned whether funding from the General Fund Unappropriated Reserve was used to cover these costs. Privilege of the floor was offered to Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, who responded these were all funded with leftover funding from other Federal Road Projects that were completed and could be transferred for use on other Road Projects.

A discussion ensued regarding proposed Resolution No. 381, *Enacting Local Law No. 4 of 2025, Entitled "A Local Law to Authorize Overriding the Property Tax Levy Limit Established by General Municipal Law §3-C for the 2026 Warren County Budget"*, during which it was noted the State Tax cap was 2.65% or \$1,383,000 and the Budget Officer and his team had received a total of \$10 million over this figure in budget requests, but this figure had been reduced to \$6 million thus far and they were completing further review in an attempt to reduce this figure to \$5 million which would still require them to exceed the State Tax Cap unless they made reductions in staffing and services. Also during the discussion it was noted unfunded mandates from the State had significant impacts to the County Budget. Supervisor Magowan suggested the County stop paying for some of these unfunded mandates such as the Court-ordered New York State Criminal Procedure Law Section 730 Competency Examination and Restoration Expenses and let the State sue the County, as he believed once this was done other Counties would follow suit.

Returning to the discussion on proposed Resolution No. 370, *Amending and Extending Agreement with Hood Communications, Inc. for Tourism Revitalization and Rejuvenation Services (WC 33-22)*, Supervisor Patchett opined if the contract was reduced from one year to six months, the cost of the contract should be reduced accordingly.

Supervisor Crocitto stated while he agreed with a number of points Supervisor Patchett had made regarding proposed Resolution No. 370, *Amending and Extending Agreement with Hood Communications, Inc. for Tourism Revitalization and Rejuvenation Services (WC 33-22)*, he noted he was unsure providing data was feasible due to this being a service and not an event which made it more difficult to measure. He stated since Lake George TV was now an established business he believed collaboration with the Tourism Department was feasible, adding this would allow them to work closely together over the next year to review the data and determine a clearer ROI (*Return on Investment*).

Motion was made by Supervisor Patchett and seconded by Supervisor Crocitto to amend proposed Resolution No. 370, *Amending and Extending Agreement with Hood Communications, Inc. for Tourism Revitalization and Rejuvenation Services (WC 33-22)*, to reduce the term of the contract from one year to six months. A discussion ensued during which Supervisor Etu noted due to the reduction in the term of the contract the total cost should be reduced accordingly to \$137,400. Chairman Geraghty called the question and the motion was carried by majority vote with 566 voting

in favor (*Supervisors Gilligan, Bruno, Patchett, Geraci, Bean, Crocitto, Wild, Strainer, Etu, Conover, and Geraghty*); 346 against (*Supervisors Turner, Merlino, Strough, Magowan, Thomas, Runyon and Maday*); and 90 absent (*Supervisors Driscoll and Diamond*).

The Clerk of the Board noted the roll call vote on proposed Resolution 370, *Amending and Extending Agreement with Hood Communications, Inc. for Tourism Revitalization and Rejuvenation Services (WC 33-22)*, would now be for the amended version with a reduced term and funding.

Supervisor Etu questioned whether proposed Resolution No. 357, *Authorizing Agreement with Ben Deeb Training & Consulting to Establish Terms with a Trainer to Pilot a Training Program for the Department of Workforce Development*, needed to be amended to correct the term of the agreement which should be ending November 28, 2025. The Clerk of the Board apprised an amendment was not required, as she could fix the typographical error to the termination date for the agreement with a Clerk's correction.

Returning to proposed Resolution No. 370, *Amending and Extending Agreement with Hood Communications, Inc. for Tourism Revitalization and Rejuvenation Services (WC 33-22)*, Supervisor Wild advised while he concurred with some of Supervisor Patchett's thoughts regarding the contract he voiced his concern that the media may be taking the comments out of context, as he believed there was more to the platform than they were aware of. He added it was imperative for the representatives of Lake George TV to regularly engage with the County on their activities during the six month contract extension to ensure the public was aware of the benefits of this service.

Supervisor Merlino inquired what the reduced term for the contract with Lake George TV was and the County Attorney advised the term commenced November 1, 2025 and if the contract was not renewed it would terminate April 30, 2026.

Voting on resolutions occurred during which Chairman Geraghty inquired whether anyone objected to combining the roll call votes on proposed Resolution Nos. 388-393 and no one objected; Resolution Nos. 346-400 were approved as presented, with the exception of proposed Resolution No. 370 which was approved in its amended form.

Privilege of floor/Public Comment was called for but there was no one wishing to speak.

Announcements were called for:

Chairman Geraghty apprised there was a reception being held in the first floor conference room of the Human Services Building in celebration of 100 years of service offered by Warren County Health Services Department and he encouraged all to attend.

Supervisor Magowan questioned when hard copies of the 2026 Tentative County Budget would be available and the Supervisor Thomas responded hard copies would be available on November 7th. Supervisor Magowan expressed his concern the Board would be provided hard copies on the day they would be voting on the 2026 Tentative County Budget at the Special Board Meeting. Chairman Geraghty interjected on November 7th a Special Board Meeting was scheduled for the purpose of introducing the 2026 Tentative County Budget and authorizing a Public Hearing thereon. A discussion ensued during which the Clerk of the Board advised the Budget Officer would submit his recommendations to her Office prior to October 31st, following which the document would be uploaded to the County website and hard copies would be provided to the Supervisors at the November 7th Special Board Meeting.

Next, Supervisor Magowan requested hard copies of all of the requests for salary increases that were

submitted during the budgeting process and how they were evaluated. The Clerk of the Board advised she did not receive copies of those requests when the Budget Officer's recommendations were submitted, noting if those were provided it would be included within the Budget Officer's presentation at the November 7th Special Board Meeting.

In conclusion, Supervisor Magowan reiterated it was necessary to continue to lobby to the State requesting that they reinstate the funding for all of the mandated programs they were no longer providing their share of the funding for.

Supervisor Conover suggested the Town Supervisors all review Report of Committee on Assessment Rolls for 2025, as this provided valuations for the Towns, as well as their District totals. He apprised this report displayed how much the tax base for the County had grown over the last year.

Chairman Geraghty apprised they had addressed a number of matters during the meeting and he thanked everyone for being cordial to one another.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Bean and seconded by Supervisor Etu, Chairman Geraghty declared the meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.