

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: BEAN
TURNER
CROCITTO

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS: ETU
STROUGH
WILD
DIAMOND

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:

SARA FRANKENFELD, GIS ADMINISTRATOR
ETHAN GADDY, COUNTY PLANNER
LIZA OCHSENDORF, DIRECTOR, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOHN TAFLAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
LARRY ELMEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS GILLIGAN
STRAINER
TAMMIE DeLORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CHRISTINE NORTON, COUNTY TREASURER
TONY HALL, *LAKE GEORGE MIRROR*
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the February 28, 2025 meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following links:

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

Warren County's YouTube Channel - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbAjm3i_ON0

In the absence of Committee Chairman Etu and Vice-Chair Strough, Supervisor Bean, as Second Vice-Chair, called the Economic Growth & Development Committee meeting to order at 11:42 a.m. Please note due to a lack of attendance Chairman Geraghty served to make a quorum of the Committee.

Copies of the Planning & Community Development and Workforce Development meeting agendas were distributed; copies of the agendas are on file with the meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Mr. Crocitto, seconded by Ms. Turner and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Etu, Strough, Wild and Diamond absent*) to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor and public comments were called for, but there was no one wishing to speak.

The meeting commenced with a review of the Action Agenda/New Business portion of the Planning & Community Development agenda, which included the following requests:

1. To submit an application to Northern Borders Regional Commission for funding in an amount not to exceed \$1.5 million to support improvements to the Warren County Fish Hatchery, and authorizing the Chairman of the Board to execute the resulting grant agreement for same.

Motion was made by Ms. Turner, seconded by Mr. Crocitto and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Etu, Strough, Wild and Diamond absent*) to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 21st Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

2. To authorize conducting a State Environmental Quality Review (*SEQR*) process for the adoption of the Warren County Comprehensive Plan and declaring Warren County Board of Supervisors as the lead agency for same.
3. To authorize referring the Warren County Comprehensive Plan to all pertinent Town, Village and City boards per NYS GML 239-d in advance of the final adoption by Warren County.
4. To set the date of a public hearing to adopt the Warren County Comprehensive Plan.

The County Attorney noted that the public hearing would not be scheduled until after the SEQR process was complete.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Crocitto and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Etu, Strough, Wild and Diamond absent*) to approve the requests as presented and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the March 21st Board Meeting. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.*

5. To accept grant award in the amount of \$111,236 from the New York State Department of State Brownfield Opportunity Area Program and establish Capital Project No. H442, *Warren County BOA*, for same.

The Clerk of the Board advised based on the language in the request, the Committee would be approving two actions the first being authorizing the Chairman of the Board to execute the grant agreement, and the second would be a referral to the Finance & Budget Committee to establish the capital project.

Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty and seconded by Ms. Turner to approve the requests as outlined above.

The County Attorney questioned why the amount from the agenda page did not match the request and the County Planner replied the grant provided a \$100,000 cash award, but the actual total project cost was \$111,000, which included the \$11,000 local share match which would be met through Planning & Community Development staff time.

Mr. Bean called the question and the aforementioned motion was carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Etu, Strough, Wild and Diamond absent*). The necessary resolution relating to the execution of the grant agreement was authorized for the March 21st Board meeting and the request to establish Capital Project No. H442 was referred to the Finance & Budget Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes. Note: subsequent to the meeting it was determined that authority for the Chairman of the Board to execute the grant agreement was provided by prior Resolution No. 226 of 2024.*

6. To authorize submission of an application to Empire State Development for funding in an amount not to exceed \$2 million (*with a \$1 million local share to be provided by the municipal participant*) to support an infrastructure project via Empire State Development's County Infrastructure Program. It was noted there were two projects to be considered for the grant, one being a water infrastructure project for proposed housing in Lake George, and the other being the Town of Johnsbury sewer facility; the Committee was charged with determining which project the funding application would be completed for.

Discussion ensued during which the merits of each project were considered and the Committee was advised that the funding could not be split between the two; discussion was also held regarding other potential funding sources for the Lake George housing project. Motion was made by Mr. Geraghty and seconded by Mr. Crocitto to approve the request as presented, with the application to be completed on behalf of the Town of Johnsbury sewer facility project. County Attorney recommended that the motion be amended to include authority for the Chairman of the Board to execute any resulting grant agreement, as well as to accept any additional funding which may become available under the grant agreement without the need for further resolution of the Board; Messrs. Geraghty and Crocitto amended their motion and second accordingly to include the authorizations recommended by the County Attorney. Mr. Bean called the question and the motion, as amended, was carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Etu, Strough, Wild and Diamond absent*) and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 21st Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Review of the Discussion Items portion of the agenda included the following:

1. Project Updates.

There being no further Planning & Community Development business to discuss, review of the Action Agenda/New Business portion of the Workforce Development agenda, which included a request to authorize submission of an application to Champlain Hudson Power Express Green Economy Fund for grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 intended to cover expenses for a pilot program that would provide job training and readiness skills for formerly incarcerated individuals to obtain local manufacturing jobs, and authorizing the Chairman of the Board to execute the resulting grant agreement for same.

Motion was made by Ms. Turner, seconded by Mr. Crocitto and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Etn, Strough, Wild and Diamond absent*) to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the March 21st Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Finally, the Information for Discussion/Review items were addressed as follows:

1. 2024 Review and Data Share. A Power Point presentation was reviewed entitled “Warren County Workforce Development”; and
2. General Workforce Updates.

Privilege of the floor and public comments were called for, but there was no one wishing to speak.

As there being no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. Geraghty and seconded by Mr. Crocitto, Mr. Bean declared the meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist