

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COMMITTEE: OCCUPANCY TAX COORDINATION**

**DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2025**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS: CROCITTO  
PATCHETT  
GILLIGAN  
ETU  
THOMAS  
MERLINO

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

SUPERVISOR: RUNYON

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

REPRESENTING THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT:

HEATHER BAGSHAW, DIRECTOR  
PAUL TACKETT, TOURISM COORDINATOR  
JESSICA CARSON, FISCAL COORDINATOR  
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
JOHN TAFLAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
LARRY ELMEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY

AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD

SUPERVISORS STRAINER  
STROUGH  
TURNER  
WILD

TAMMIE DeLORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
MONICA STARK, DEPUTY COUNTY TREASURER  
AMY COLLINS, TOURISM AND BUSINESS COORDINATOR, CITY OF GLENS FALLS

ROBERT FLACKE, FORT WILLIAM HENRY CORPORATION  
SAM LUCIANO, FORT WILLIAM HENRY/WARREN COUNTY COALITION  
GINA MINTZER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAKE GEORGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & CVB

SASHA PARDY, ADIRONDACK WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

LESLIE LOVELACE, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

\*SEE SIGN IN SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

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*Please note, the following contains a summarization of the December 1, 2025 meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination 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=YJF6mDT6yNI>

Mr. Crocitto called the meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee to order at 11:30 a.m.

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

Copies of the meeting agenda were distributed; a copy of the agenda is on file with the meeting minutes.

Mr. Crocitto extended his appreciation to Messrs. Merlino and Thomas for their contributions to the Committee, noting they would be missed.

Privilege of the floor and public comments were called for:

Robert Flacke, *Fort William Henry*, spoke with regard to the reasons he opined a \$25,000 increase in Occupancy Tax Funding for the Adirondack Nationals event was warranted.

Sam Luciano, *Fort William Henry and Warren County Coalition*, informed during a meeting held by the Warren

County Coalition for major events financial concerns on September 30<sup>th</sup> he learned both Americade and Adirondack Nationals had lost money due to weather. He provided statistics and data on the economic impact the Adirondack Nationals, Americade and Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival had on the County. He requested the Committee consider additional funding to the three events in an effort to sustain them.

The Committee commenced with a review of the Action Agenda/New Business Items portion of the agenda, which included the following request:

- a. To award 2026 Special Events Occupancy Tax Funding in the amount of \$417,000, to fund those in the attached list in the agenda packet.

Motion was made by Mr. Etu and seconded by Mr. Patchett to approve the request as presented; following discussion, Mr. Crocitto called the question and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Ms. Runyon absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- b. To rescind Resolution No. 715 of 2005 to allow amendments to occupancy tax contracts and to include the addition of the Tourism Department's rules and guidelines.

Motion was made by Ms. Gilligan, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Ms. Runyon absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- c. To amend the contract with Up Yonda Farm Environmental Education Center to increase the annual funding amount from \$3,000 to \$5,000. (*Previous Resolution No. 82 of 2023*)

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Etu and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Ms. Runyon absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- d. To appropriate \$5,000 from Budget Code A.881.00, *Reserve, Occupancy Tax*, to Budget Code A.6417.0001 424, *Tourism, Postage*, to pay postage invoices for the remainder of the year.

Motion was made by Ms. Gilligan, seconded by Mr. Patchett and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Ms. Runyon absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and refer same to the Finance & Budget Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- e. To appropriate \$1,601.01 from Budget Code A.881.00, *Reserve, Occupancy Tax*, to Budget Code A.6417.0001 470, *Tourism Contracts*, for the addition of a business promotion module component to the Warren County Tourism Department's website [visitlakegeorge.com](http://visitlakegeorge.com).

Motion was made by Mr. Etu and seconded by Ms. Gilligan to approve the request as presented; following discussion, Mr. Crocitto called the question and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Ms. Runyon absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and refer same to the Finance & Budget Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, a review of the Discussion Items portion of the agenda proceeded with the following:

- a. Adirondack Nationals funding for 2026 - A request was received for additional funding for the event and would be brought back to Committee next month as an Action Item.
- b. Festival Commons - It was determined the concerns should be addressed at a Park Operations & Management (O&M) Committee meeting.

- c. Cash Flow Report was reviewed by Jessica Carson, *Fiscal Coordinator*.
- d. Treasurer's Report - Item was reviewed during the prior Tourism Committee meeting.

Privilege of the floor and public comments were extended to the following:

Chairman Geraghty spoke with regard to events receiving funding from the County and then returning to the County requesting more funding and he questioned why the other municipalities were not awarding the events funds from the Spending Plan they received from the County and if the events were requesting funding from the Towns and Village. Mr. Crocitto replied in the negative and stated he encouraged events to apply to the Village of Lake George and to the Towns. Chairman Geraghty opined the issue with the Festival Commons grounds was lack of management with the property not being well taken care of and lack of oversight to enforce rules.

Sasha Pardy, *Adirondack Wine & Food Festival*, spoke with regard to substantial increases in costs to hold her event, issues she recognized with the Festival Commons as well as the reduced funding awarded for her event. Mr. Crocitto commended Ms. Pardy on her event and encouraged her to apply for funding through the Town of Lake George and Village of Lake George. She indicated she was unaware that the Adirondack Wine & Food Festival was no longer considered a Signature Event by the County.

Mr. Etu exited the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

Mr. Thomas inquired what the status of reimbursement to the County from Winters Dream was. Mr. Crocitto replied this was a question that would need to be answered by the Warren County Coalition.

As there was no further business to come before the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, on motion made by Mr. Patchett, seconded by Ms. Gilligan and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Ms. Runyon and Mr. Etu absent*), Mr. Crocitto adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Leslie Lovelace, Legislative Office Specialist