

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

ORGANIZATION MEETING  
TUESDAY JANUARY 6, 2026



*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=q5bdID4WuGA>

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York, at 11:00 a.m.

Board called to order by Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board of Supervisors*.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Conover.

Roll was called and the following members were present:

Bolton	-Ronald F. Conover
Chester	-John Maday Sr.
City of Glens Falls	
Ward 1	-John Diamond
Ward 2	-Haley Gilligan
Ward 3	-Nancy Turner
Ward 4	-Daniel F. Bruno
Ward 5	-Bennett F. Driscoll Jr.
Hague	-Joshua Patchett
Horicon	-Wayne Butlet Jr.
Lake George	-Vincent Crocitto Jr.
Lake Luzerne	-James Niles
Queensbury	-John F. Strough
	-Michael Wild
	-Douglas Beaty
	-David Strainer
	-Nathan Etu
Stony Creek	-John F. O'Neill
Thurman	-Debra Runyon
Warrensburg	-Kevin B. Geraghty
<i>Town of Johnsburg Supervisor Mark Smith - Absent</i>	

Mrs. Allen advised the first order of business was to ask the members of the Board of Supervisors to stand and subscribe to their Oath of Office as administered by Carrie Black, *Warren County Clerk*.

Mrs. Allen advised the next order of business would be the selection of a Board Chair for 2026. She stated that any Board Member could be nominated for the Chair and a second to a nomination was not required. She apprised any person nominated could decline the nomination if they so choose. She added when a nomination was made members of the Board could speak in favor of a candidate; however, she noted, they were required to exercise caution to avoid any personal criticisms regarding other nominees. She informed the floor was now open to nominations for the Chair.

**Warren County Board of Supervisors  
Organization Meeting  
Tuesday January 6, 2026**

---

---

Supervisor Conover nominated Supervisor Geraghty; Supervisor Crocitto seconded the nomination.

Mrs. Allen then called for nominations a second and third time; there being none, Mrs. Allen advised they would proceed to a vote, which would be taken in a roll call fashion, with each Supervisor indicating whether they were in favor of Supervisor Geraghty's nomination or not. Following the vote it was determined Supervisor Geraghty would serve as Chair, receiving 880 votes (*Supervisors Conover, Maday, Diamond, Gilligan, Turner, Bruno, Driscoll, Patchett, Butler Jr., Crocitto, Niles, Strough, Wild, Etu, Strainer, O'Neill, Runyon and Geraghty*); 89 opposed (*Supervisor Beaty*); and 33 absent (*Supervisor Smith absent*).

Chairman Geraghty subscribed to the Constitutional Oath, as administered by Ms. Black, following which a round of applause was given.

Chairman Geraghty voiced his appreciation for being selected as Chair of the Board for 2026, indicating he looked forward to working with everyone. Next, he welcomed the following new members to the Board of Supervisors: Supervisor Butler Jr., Town of Horicon; Supervisor Smith, Town of Johnsbury; Supervisor Niles, Town of Lake Luzerne; Supervisor Beaty, At-Large Supervisor, Town of Queensbury; and Supervisor O'Neill, Town of Stony Creek. He stated the County would be dealing with a significant financial issues this year; however, he noted, if they worked through this together the issue would be fully investigated following which the appropriate information would be provided to prevent future occurrences. He announced he would be appointing Supervisor Etu as the Budget Officer, indicating he was aware the Department Heads would work with the Board to ensure the County remained in good financial standing. He apprised this year marked the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the United States as a Country, noting Warren County played a significant part in its formation. He concluded by indicating their work as a Board commenced today.

Continuing with the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty offered privilege of the floor to James LaFarr, *Sheriff*, who proceeded to provide an update on the Phishing Investigation. Sheriff LaFarr indicated the County Treasurer's Office had been the victim of fraud which was concerning to all County residents. He noted some information would be withheld until the investigation process was concluded. He stated he would be making statements in open session, noting if the Board opted to enter into an executive session he would not be participating. He proceeded to provide an overview of the investigation being conducted by five members of the Sheriff's Office including himself and the Undersheriff in conjunction with the New York State Police and the United States Secret Service, noting \$1.2 million off the \$3.3 million lost had been recovered.

The County Treasurer inquired whether she would be able to provide a statement on behalf of her Office regarding the Phishing incident and Chairman Geraghty replied in the affirmative, noting the appropriate time would be during privilege of the floor.

Proceeding with the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty called for the reading of resolutions. Mrs. Allen announced proposed Resolution Nos. 1-10 were distributed to the Board members on Friday January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Floor Resolution Nos. 1-4 were distributed to the Board members on January 6, 2026 and motions were required to bring them to the floor.

Motion was made by Supervisor Runyon, seconded by Supervisor Etu and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisor Smith 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 Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the General Fund Unappropriated Fund Balance to the*

**Warren County Board of Supervisors**  
**Organization Meeting**  
**Tuesday January 6, 2026**

---

---

*Department of Public Works Budget to Cover the Cost of Funds Lost to a Phishing Case; and Amending 2026 Warren County Budget*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen advised proposed Floor resolution No. 1 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 11.

Motion was made by Supervisor Gilligan, seconded by Supervisor Turner and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisor Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor resolution No. 2 entitled "*Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the General Fund Unappropriated Fund Balance to the Department of Public Works Budget to Cover the Cost of Funds Lost to a Phishing Case; and Amending 2026 Warren County Budget*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen indicated proposed Floor resolution No. 2 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 12.

Motion was made by Supervisor O'Neill, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisor Smith 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 the Reclassification of Debt by the County Treasurer to Signify Losses from Fraud as a Result of a Phishing Case; and Amending 2026 Warren County Budget*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen stated proposed Floor resolution No. 3 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 13.

Motion was made by Supervisor Runyon, seconded by Supervisor Wild and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisor Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor resolution No. 4 entitled "*Authorizing the Reclassification of Debt by the County Treasurer to Signify Losses from Fraud as a Result of a Phishing Case; and Amending 2026 Warren County Budget*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen announced proposed Floor resolution No. 4 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 14.

Chairman Geraghty called for discussion on resolutions and requests for roll call votes and the following took place:

Supervisor Diamond requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No, 12, *Authorizing the Appropriation of Funds from the General Fund Unappropriated Fund Balance to the Department of Public Works Budget to Cover the Cost of Funds Lost to a Phishing Case; and Amending 2026 Warren County Budget*".

Mrs. Allen noted proposed Resolution Nos. 12 and 14, "*Authorizing the Reclassification of Debt by the County Treasurer to Signify Losses from Fraud as a Result of a Phishing Case; and Amending 2026 Warren County Budget*", would both require roll call votes.

Voting on resolutions occurred; Resolution Nos. 1- 14 were approved as presented.

Chairman Geraghty offered privilege of the floor:

Christine Norton, *County Treasurer*, requested the Board consider entering into an executive session during which she would read aloud a prepared statement regarding the phishing scheme.

Chairman Geraghty inquired whether anyone would like to make a motion to enter into an executive session. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Diamond and seconded by Supervisor Beaty. Chairman Geraghty requested a roll call vote on the motion to enter into an executive session. He called the question and the motion to enter into an executive session failed to obtain the majority vote, with 404 in favor (*Supervisors Diamond, Gilligan, Turner, Patchett, Butler, Niles, Etu, Beaty and O'Neill*); 565 opposed (*Supervisors Conover, Maday, Bruno, Driscoll, Crocitto, Strough, Wild, Strainer, Runyon and Geraghty*); and 33 absent (*Supervisor Smith*).

*Warren County Board of Supervisors  
Organization Meeting  
Tuesday January 6, 2026*

---

---

Ms. Norton provided a brief overview of what she felt comfortable stating in open session regarding her own recollection of the phishing scheme, noting her Office was cooperating with all parties investigating the matter, adding she looked forward to working with the State Comptrollers Office when they commenced their own investigation of the incident. She added she welcomed an audit of the Treasurer's Office; however, she noted, in order for it to be impartial she believed it should be conducted by a third party.

Brad Magowan, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, voiced his concerns with the County leadership.

Ms. Norton spoke once again regarding additional actions she neglected to mention earlier regarding the phishing scheme by County leadership.

Chairman Geraghty called for announcements:

Supervisor Runyon questioned what would occur to the funding being appropriated from the General Fund to cover the cost of the Road Projects if any of this funding was recovered and the County Administrator replied the Road Projects listed in Resolution Nos. 12 and 14 were the ones handled by the contractor who was impacted by the phishing scheme which needed to be paid. He added any funding recovered would be returned to the General Fund.

Supervisor Beaty inquired whether the New York State Police were doing an independent investigation of the phishing scheme and Chairman Geraghty replied the New York State Police were conducting their investigation in conjunction with the Warren County Sheriff's Office. Supervisor Beaty then asked whether an independent investigation was being completed by an outside agency and the County Administrator replied it had been determined the Chairman of the Board and the County Administrator would not be involved in the investigation process. He stated he was requesting \$25,000 in funding to be transferred from the Contingent Account to cover the cost of hiring an external law firm to handle an investigation of the Treasurer's Office. Supervisor Beaty indicated he was fully supportive of an independent investigation being conducted.

Next, Supervisor Beaty questioned whether the State Comptroller's Office was also conducting an investigation and the County Administrator replied affirmatively, indicating the investigator for the State Comptroller's Office was meeting with the Sheriff's Investigative Team to review their findings thus far with the matter and lay the ground work to ensure their investigation did not intercept with the criminal investigation. Supervisor Beaty requested clarification that there were two investigations going on and a third independent one would be completed if the Board approved the transfer of funds and authorized a contract with an outside law firm and the County Administrator replied in the affirmative.

The County Attorney apprised should the desire of the Board be to go in that direction he would recommend a motion to authorize the County Attorney's Office to enter into an agreement with Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC to provide legal advice and recommendations following an internal investigation of the phishing scheme fraud to the Warren County Attorney and to represent County Officers and employees in the non criminal investigation regarding the phishing scheme for a term commencing January 1, 2026 and to continue until terminated upon thirty days written notice at a rate not to exceed \$325 per hour and such other rates below that rate at a rate mutually agreed upon between both parties for a total amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Motion was made by Supervisor Wild, seconded by Supervisor Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisor Smith absent*) to Waive the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the

**Warren County Board of Supervisors**  
**Organization Meeting**  
**Tuesday January 6, 2026**

---

---

Requirement That All Resolutions Be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution to authorize the County Attorney's Office to enter into an agreement with Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC to provide legal advice and recommendations following an internal investigation of the phishing scheme fraud to the Warren County Attorney and to represent County Officers and employees in the non criminal investigation regarding the phishing scheme for a term commencing January 1, 2026 and to continue until terminated upon thirty days written notice at a rate not to exceed \$325 per hour and such other rates below that rate at a rate mutually agreed upon between both parties for a total amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Motion was made by Supervisor Beaty and seconded by Supervisor Wild to authorize the County Attorney's Office to enter into an agreement with Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC to provide legal advise and recommendations following an internal investigation of the phishing scheme fraud to the Warren County Attorney and to represent County Officers and employees in the non criminal investigation regarding the phishing scheme for a term commencing January 1, 2026 and to continue until terminated upon thirty days written notice at a rate not to exceed \$325 per hour and such other rates below that rate mutually agreed upon between both parties for a total amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Supervisor Wild exited the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

A brief discussion ensued following which Chairman Geraghty called the question and the motion to authorize the County Attorney's Office to enter into an agreement with Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC as outlined above was carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Smith and Wild absent*).

Motion was made by Supervisor Driscoll, seconded by Supervisor Turner and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Smith and Wild absent*) to Waive 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 a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$25,000 from Budget Code A.1990 489, *Contingent Account, Other Payments/Contributions*, to the County Attorney's Budget to cover the cost of the contract with Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC.

Motion was made by Supervisor Turner, seconded by Supervisor Driscoll and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Smith and Wild absent*) to authorize a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$25,000 from Budget Code A.1990 489, *Contingent Account, Other Payments/Contributions*, to the County Attorney's Budget to cover the cost of the contract with Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC.

Supervisor Wild re-entered the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Supervisor Runyon inquired whether the County had insurance to cover the lost money and the County Attorney replied affirmatively, indicating a claim had been filed under the cyber liability insurance policy from 2025 and their investigation of the matter would be commencing shortly. He stated his hope was the information from the criminal investigation would assist the insurance company in determining whether the incident was covered under the county's policy; however, he noted, the coverage was limited to \$250,000 which was not sufficient based on the total loss without considering what funding may be recovered from the criminal investigation.

Supervisor Etu asked the County Attorney for his legal opinion as to whether the County Treasurer had the authority to make ACH (*Automated Clearing House*) payments prior to when the Board adopted Resolution No. 515 of 2025 at the December 19, 2025 Board Meeting which authorized the Wire

*Warren County Board of Supervisors  
Organization Meeting  
Tuesday January 6, 2026*

---

---

Transfers and E-Banking Policy. The County Attorney responded he had not identified any prior authorization by the Board of Supervisors authorizing the County Treasurer's Office to engage in ACH payments to the particular vendor impacted by the phishing scheme. He continued, indicating his understanding was the \$2.1 million payment made prior to the adoption of Resolution No. 515 of 2025 was only the second ACH payment the County Treasurer's Office undertook to pay a County vendor of this type. He added historically County vendors of this type had been paid through a paper check in 2025 other than a vendor for the Tourism Department and the two ACH payments that were involved with the Phishing scheme. He added there were some standard ACH transfers the County had been doing for a period of time which he believed was to New York State, as well as one or two utility companies. He apprised he believed the purpose was to change from using paper checks to all County vendors to utilizing ACH payments.

Supervisor Patchett questioned whether there would be a task description for the law firm the County was entering into a contract with for an amount not to exceed \$25,000 and the County Attorney replied the purpose was to provide legal advice and recommendations following an internal investigation of the phishing scheme fraud to the County Attorney and to engage in representation of County Officers and employees in any pending investigations.

Supervisor Runyon inquired whether the County utilized Positive Pay for paper checks to prevent counterfeit or altered checks from clearing and the County Treasurer replied affirmatively. Supervisor Runyon noted this should eliminate any issues with fraudulent checks.

Supervisor Beaty asked for clarification that the County Treasurer's Office had been utilizing ACH payments prior to the ones involved with the Phishing scheme and the County Attorney responded this circumstance differed because in 2024 the County Treasurer's Office commenced developing a plan, policy and procedure to govern the use of ACH payments instead of paper checks across all vendors. He continued, indicating he was unsure historically who the County Treasurer's Office paid utilizing ACH; however, he noted, ACH was being used by the Treasurer's Office prior to this incident. A discussion ensued during which the County Attorney recommended the Board hold off on making any decisions until all of the investigations concluded so they had clear information before them to make an informed decision.

Ryan Moore, *Warren County Resident*, inquired whether County Policy still existed that required all employees to take training to better assist them with identifying fraudulent activities which would require employees to call the bank and verify banking information when banking information changed.

Ms. Norton noted ACH payments began in 2024 when some of the information Technology Departments vendors no longer accepted paper checks as payments and would require all payments be made via ACH, noting many vendors were changing over to this method to prevent check fraud and be able to receive payments quicker.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Etu and seconded by Supervisor Turner, Chairman Geraghty declared the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.