

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: FINANCE & BUDGET

DATE: JANUARY 30, 2026

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS ETU
CONOVER
MADAY
BRUNO
STROUGH
RUNYON

OTHERS PRESENT:

JOHN TAFLAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
LARRY ELMEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISOR STRAINER
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
SARA FRANKENFELD, GIS ADMINISTRATOR
KEVIN HAJOS, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
MONICA STARK, DEPUTY COUNTY TREASURER
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR CROCITTO

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the January 30, 2026 meeting of the Finance & Budget Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed using the following links:

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

Warren County's YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJ5Swo3DxIY>

Mr. Etu called the meeting of the Finance & Budget Committee to order at 11:20 a.m.

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

Privilege of the floor was offered for public comment, but there was no one wishing to speak.

The agenda review commenced, as follows:

- 1) Request for transfers of funds as attached for Committee approval.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20th Board Meeting.

- 2) Requests/Items to be discussed by the County Administrator:
 - A) Journal Report of transfers approved by the County Administrator staff for November and December of 2025; provided for informational purposes.
 - B) Request to appropriate \$600,000 from Budget Code A.896.00, *Vehicle Reserve*, to Budget Code A.3110 230.01, *Sheriff's Law Enforcement, Automotive Equipment Reserve*, to cover the cost of purchasing vehicles.

It was noted this request did not go before the Support Services Committee for approval.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20th Board Meeting.

- 3) Referrals from the Criminal Justice, Public Safety & Emergency Services Committee:
 - A) Request to amend the 2026 Warren County Budget in the amount of \$93,031.18 to carry over unused FY 22 DHSES Domestic Terrorism Prevention Program grant funding.
 - B) Request to amend the 2026 Warren County Budget in the amount of \$171,919.05 to carry over unused FY 23 DHSES Domestic Terrorism Prevention Program grant funding.
 - C) Request to amend the 2026 Warren County Budget in the amount of \$1,803.91 to carry over unused FY 22 State

- Homeland Security Program grant funding.
- D) Request to amend the 2026 Warren County Budget in the amount of \$36,432.68 to carry over unused FY 23 State Homeland Security Program grant funding.
 - E) Request to amend the 2026 Warren County Budget in the amount of \$36,987 to carry over unused FY 24 State Homeland Security Program grant funding.
 - F) Request to amend the 2026 Warren County Budget in the amount of \$13,619.89 to carry over unused FY 22 Hazmat Grant Program funding.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Maday and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve Items 3A-F as outlined above and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the February 20th Board Meeting.

- 4) Referral from the Economic Growth & Development Committee pertaining to a request to authorize an agreement with New York State Office of Technology Services for upgrade of the image resolution of aerial imagery in an amount not to exceed \$32,000 for a term commencing upon execution by both parties and terminating February 1, 2027.

It was noted while this request was briefly discussed at the Economic Growth & Development Committee, no action was taken due to the matter not being included on the Committee meeting Agenda.

Motion was made by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20th Board Meeting.

- 5) Referrals from the Health Services Committee:
 - A) Request to appropriate \$506,381 from Budget Code A.900.01, *General Other Restricted, Opioid (Restricted)*, to Budget Code A.4310.0176 470, *Opioid Settlement, Restricted*, and \$282,464 from Budget Code A.900.02, *General Other Restricted, Opioid (Unrestricted)*, to Budget Code A.4310.0177 470, *Opioid Settlement, Unrestricted*, to utilize opioid settlement funding to address the impacts of the opioid crisis in Warren County.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Maday and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20th Board Meeting.

- B) Request to amend the 2026 Warren County Budget in the amount of \$103,974 to allow pass-through of 100% State Aid funding from New York State Office of Mental Health to cover the cost of the contract with Warren-Washington Association for Mental Health, dba Ascend Mental Wellness to implement court based mental health navigator services.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20th Board Meeting.

- C) Request to amend the 2026 Warren County Budget in the amount of \$33,034 to reflect receipt of additional grant funding from NYSDOH for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Maday and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20th Board Meeting.

- D) Request to amend the 2026 Warren County Budget in the amount of \$134,925.91 to carry over unused JUUL Settlement funding.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Maday and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20th Board Meeting.

- 6) Referral from the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee regarding a request to appropriate \$92,260 from Budget Code

A.881.00. *Occupancy Tax Reserve*, to Budget Code A.6417.002 480, *Special Events*, to cover the cost of approved funding awarded above the 2026 budgeted amount utilizing unused 2025 unused funding from special events and Warren County projects; and \$57,491.29 from Budget Code A.881.00. *Occupancy Tax Reserve*, to Budget Code A.6417.001 481, *Tourism Promotion*, to cover the cost of workshop invoices for work completed in 2025.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20th Board Meeting.

- 7) Referral from the Park Operations & Management Committee concerning a request to appropriate \$6,692.52 from Budget Code A.691.07, *Deferred Revenue- Gaslight Village Parking Fees*, to Budget Code A.1625 413, *Charles R. Wood Park, Repair & Maint - Bldg/Property*, and to authorize reimbursement in the same amount to the Village of Lake George for the purchase of light poles for Charles R. Wood Park.

Motion was made by Mr. Maday, seconded by Mr. Bruno and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20th Board Meeting.

- 8) Referrals from the Public Works Committee:

- A) Request to establish Capital Project No. H451, *Waste & Recycling Local Efficiency Grant*, in the amount of \$469,631.70.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20th Board Meeting.

- B) To amend the County Budget in the amount of \$46,963.17 to increase Budget Code A.9950 910, *Transfers - Capital Projects*, in accordance with transfer of funds from Budget Code A.1628 230, *Waste Management Auto Equipment*, and Budget Code A.1628.110, *Waste Management Salaries*.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20th Board Meeting.

- 9) Referral from the Support Services Committee pertaining to a request to amend the 2026 Warren County Budget in the amount of \$34,383.55 to record Mental Health Office lease per GASB #87.

Motion was made by Mr. Maday, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the February 20th Board Meeting.

- 10) Finance Committee action is required on the following Personnel Agenda items, *contingent upon approval by the Personnel & Higher Education Committee - 3A-C and 4*.

PERSONNEL AGENDA ITEMS 3A-C and 4:

- 3) Referrals Criminal Justice, Public Safety & Emergency Services Committee (Chaired by Supervisor Geraci):

Sheriff (James LaFarr, Sheriff) -

- A) Request to amend the Table of Organization and Salary Schedule to create the new position of Patrol Sergeant #13, *Annual Salary \$67,794*, effective February 23, 2026.
- B) Request to amend the Table of Organization and Salary Schedule to create the new position of Patrol Sergeant #11-C, *Annual Salary \$67,794*, effective February 23, 2026.
- C) Request to amend the Table of Organization and Salary Schedule to create the new position of Security Guard (Part-Time), *\$25.17/hr*, effective February 23, 2026.

Motion was made by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mr. Maday and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve Personnel & Higher Education Agenda Items 3A-C as outlined above.

4) Referral from the Support Services Committee (*Chaired by Supervisor Gilligan:*

County Treasurer (Christine Norton, County Treasurer) -

Request to amend the Table of Organization and Salary Schedule to create the new position of Principle Account Clerk #3, Grade 10, Base Annual Salary \$52,138, and delete the position of Accounting Technician #3, Grade 19, Base Annual Salary \$64,153, effective February 23, 2026.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*) to approve Personnel & Higher Education Agenda Item 4 as outlined above.

Privilege of the floor was called for public comment:

Mr. Conover requested that the County Administrator provide some guidance at the next Committee meeting regarding the impact to the County finances as a result of a decrease in the funding provided by the Federal Government to certain programs, such as SNAP (*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*), as well as uncertainty regarding State funding.

John Taflan, *County Administrator*, indicated the Federal Governments "Big Beautiful Bill Act" included reducing the Federal Governments share of the cost of SNAP benefits from 50% to 25% resulting in the expense being passed on to the State, who placed this burden upon Counties. He advised the County had no control over the formula used to determine eligibility for this program and would be required to provide the SNAP benefits to all who met the required income thresholds in the fourth quarter of 2026. He added another additional expense the County would be dealing with was covering the cost of tuition to SUNY (*State University of New York*) colleges for anyone aged 55 and older due to the State determining this age group would be able to attend SUNY colleges at no cost them.

Ms. Runyon apprised she was unsure if there was any action the County could take regarding the delivery fees for electricity which in some cases were higher than the usage charge, noting this was a significant concern.

Mr. Conover stated the supply expense for electricity had also increased significantly which was also a substantial concern.

Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, advised the reason these rates had increased considerably related to the New York State Public Service Commission (*NYSPSC*) approving the electricity companies request for rate increases last year.

Mr. Taflan spoke regarding how the 2026 County Budget had exceeded the State Tax Cap by \$6 million which resulted in property taxes within the County being increased. He explained even the rates were minimal the property evaluation rates had increased significantly resulting in the towns with higher evaluations increasing the County's property taxes by up to 19% which was one of the largest tax increases in several years. He said this was another example that would be impacting the budgeting process for next year.

Chairman Geraghty noted although there was an increase in property taxes, Warren County's remained the lowest increase within the State. He added he read an article that mentioned municipalities in the State of Massachusetts were also struggling with significant increases in property taxes due to rising evaluation rates.

Mr. Conover apprised he believed going forward the Board needed to be mindful of expenses during the budgeting process and search for areas where expenses could be reduced to prevent another significant tax increase for next year.

Mr. Bruno voiced the importance of educating the public regarding the County's budgeting process, apprising a significant amount of the expenses were mandated.

Chairman Geraghty spoke regarding how all the budgeting cuts being made by the Federal and State Governments were significantly impacting local governments which was a significant concern. He stated while they could discuss their concerns with their State representatives, ultimately the financial burdens were being placed upon the local governments. He stated with regard

to budgeting and how property taxes would be impacted, he advised he believed commencing the budget preparation process earlier would assist them with compiling a better understanding of the rising costs they were dealing with and what the impact on property taxes could be.

Mr. Conover expressed his concern with the policies being set by the State that resulted in substantially increasing the cost of a tandem plow truck with a blade to over \$300,000, adding it also took almost two years following the purchase of them to be delivered.

Mr. Hajos spoke regarding proposed legislation to reduce salt usage Statewide by no more than 300 pounds per mile on an average through an entire winter which would result in trackers needing to be installed in all trucks, creating another unfunded cost increase.

Mr. Taflan mentioned there was a Bill going before the State Legislature that would outlaw the sale of all gas powered lawn equipment including snow blowers by 2027. A brief discussion ensued.

There being no further business to come before the Finance & Budget Committee, on motion made by Mr. Bruno, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Crocitto absent*), Mr. Etu adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board