

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: OCCUPANCY TAX COORDINATION

DATE: MARCH 23, 2026

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: CROCITTO
WILD
STROUGH
TURNER
RUNYON
PATCHETT

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR: BUTLER

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE TOURISM DEPARTMENT:
HEATHER BAGSHAW, DIRECTOR
PAUL TACKETT, TOURISM COORDINATOR
JESSICA CARSON, FISCAL COORDINATOR
CHRISTINE NORTON, COUNTY TREASURER
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOHN TAFLAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
RYAN DICKEY, FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
NATHAN ETU, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS DIAMOND
GILLIGAN
STRAINER
TAMMIE DeLORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMY COLLINS, TOURISM AND BUSINESS COORDINATOR, CITY OF GLENS FALLS
LAURA KOHLS, COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT/MARINE VILLAGE
CRAIG LEGGETT, NORTH WARREN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
JEFF MEAD, GENERAL MANAGER, HARDING MAZZOTTI ARENA
ED MOORE, VICE PRESIDENT, ADIRONDACK CIVIC CENTER COALITION
MEGAN SEELEY, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, LAKE GEORGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & CVB
GARY THORNQUIST, LAKE GEORGE RV PARK
STEVE THURSTON, CHIEF OF STAFF, CITY OF GLENS FALLS
LESLIE LOVELACE, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST
*SEE SIGN IN SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the March 23, 2026 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=XdIF0GWHOfE>

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

Mr. Crocitto called the meeting of the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee to order at 12:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Ms. Turner, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Butler 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:

Gary Thornquist, *Lake George RV Park*, read aloud language included in Local Law No. 6 of 2015, "A Local Law Amending the Warren County Occupancy Tax as Authorized by Act of the New York State Legislature (Chapter 422 of the Laws of 2003)" and opined Action Item a, did not fall under "tourism promotion and tourist and convention development by using revenues to enhance the general economy of the County of Warren, and its city, towns and villages, through the promotion of tourist activities, conventions, trade shows, special events and other directly related

and supporting activities". Mr. Thornquist provided figures relating to the purchase of the Harding Mazzotti Arena and funds the arena received from occupancy tax. He apprised there were a lack of events being held at the arena from May through October per the online event schedule and he stated events were necessary during that time frame for tourists. He informed many event holders applied to the County for occupancy tax funding prior to seeking funding elsewhere due to the ease of the application process and requirements. He remarked due to a slow season last year and another possible slow season this year he suggested using funds on promotion only.

Steve Thurston, *Chief of Staff, City of Glens Falls*, apprised Mayor Diana Palmer sent her regrets for not being able to attend and hoped to attend a future meeting. He extended his appreciation to the Committee for the funding awarded to the City as well as their support. Mr. Thurston said he appreciated the help Heather Bagshaw, *Tourism Director*, Paul Tackett, *Tourism Coordinator*, and Jessica Carson, *Tourism Fiscal Coordinator*, had provided with the County portal to streamline the process. He welcomed those wishing to speak to him to contact him.

Laura Kohls, *Courtyard by Marriot/Marine Village Resort*, read aloud an email she had sent on March 10th to Messrs. Crocitto and Mr. Strough indicating her opposition to funding the Adirondack Civic Center Coalition infrastructure study and the Lake George TV contract renewal but that she was in support of the potential 2027, 2028 and 2029 Iron Man event. She invited those interested in a conversation to improve occupancy tax spending and moving the market forward to contact her.

Ed Moore, *Vice President, Adirondack Civic Center Coalition*, apprised the cost to purchase the rights to the Civic Center was \$600,000 which was paid over four years and the economic impact study they had provided two years ago showed a \$22.2 million direct income effect on the City of Glens Falls with \$1.2 million per year in occupancy tax and sales tax for Warren County and Glens Falls which he believed offset the \$250,000 yearly Occupancy Tax Special Event Funding they received. Mr. Moore stated the arena had a big effect on the community.

Jeff Mead, *General Manager, Harding Mazzotti Arena*, apprised he submitted all arena events to the Supervisors quarterly which were public and he explained not all events were listed on their website, only events that had tickets available for sale to the public. He indicated the twenty-two million dollar economic impact of the arena could disappear if they were not able to produce ice and hold hockey events.

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

- a. To award Adirondack Civic Center Coalition an amount not to exceed \$200,000 in occupancy tax to assist in funding the design phase for replacement of the Ice Pro Chiller Plant and Machine Room of the Harding Mazzotti Arena for a term commencing upon execution and terminating June 30, 2027.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild and seconded by Mr. Strough to approve the request as presented. Mr. Wild inquired what resources would fund the construction phase of the project once the design had been completed.

Following a lengthy discussion which included input from Mr. Moore and Mr. Mead, Mr. Crocitto called the question and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Butler absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 17th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- b. To appropriate \$200,000 from Budget Code A.881.00, *Tourism-Occupancy Tax Reserve*, to Budget Code A.6417.0002.480.08, *Tourism-Civic Center Capital Costs*, to cover the cost of funding the design phase for replacement of the Ice Pro Chiller Plant and Machine Room of the Harding Mazzotti arena.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Butler 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.

- c. To extend the contract with North Warren Chamber of Commerce, Inc. for the North Warren Three-town Regional Branding project in the amount of \$150,000 for a term commencing December 31, 2025 and terminating December 31, 2026. *(Previous Resolution No. 478 of 2024)*

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon and seconded by Mr. Wild 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 *(Mr. Butler absent)* to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 17th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

- d. To authorize the 2026 Spending Plan between Municipalities in Warren County for tourism promotion and disbursements in the amount of \$450,000. *(Previous Resolution No. 149 of 2025)*

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon and seconded by Ms. Turner to approve the request as presented. Ryan Dickey, *First Assistant County Attorney*, clarified there were restrictions on what occupancy tax funds could be used for according to State and Local Laws and grant applications would need to be determined if they met the promotion, community and tourism development criteria.

Mr. Crocitto excused himself from role of Chair to participate in discussion, at which time Supervisor Wild, as Vice-Chair, assumed the role of Chair at 12:49 p.m.

Discussion continued.

Mr. Crocitto resumed the role of Chair at 12:51 p.m.

Following discussion, Mr. Crocitto called the question and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote of those present *(Mr. Butler absent)* to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 17th Board meeting. *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. Tourism Department Overview was reviewed by Heather Bagshaw, *Tourism Director*.
- b. Cash Flow Report was reviewed by Jessica Carson, *Fiscal Coordinator*.
- c. Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Christine Norton, *County Treasurer*.

Privilege of the floor and public comments were called for:

Craig Leggett, *North Warren Chamber of Commerce*, expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Chamber and the Tri-town Branding Committee to the Committee for the funding awarded for the North Warren Three-Town Regional Branding project and informed of the projects progress.

Mr. Thornquist opined there appeared to be confusion among the Committee members for the use of occupancy tax funding and the law for the funding. He indicated he would appreciate more participation from the County Attorney regarding the law. He commented on the amount of work returning event applicants put into the application process and presentations only to have the amount award lowered yet other events with less information were awarded a higher amount. He said the Harding Mazzotti Arena would not go away as they had business leaders that had knowledge of the issues relating to it when they bought it and he said they could receive funding from the State.

Mr. Diamond expressed his appreciation to the Committee for approving the funding award to allow the study as Mr. Strough was correct when he commented that the grant application would not be accepted without the design phase. He agreed with Mr. Thornquist's statement that the arena would not go away due to the success of the current owners

and apprised the City could not afford the undertaking of the building and had it not been sold it would have had to close. Again he extended his appreciation to the Committee members for their support.

As there was no further business to come before the Occupancy Tax Coordination Committee, on motion made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Ms. Turner and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Butler absent*), Mr. Crocitto adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Legislative Office Specialist