

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE: SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS WILD
CROCITTO
PATCHETT
BEATY
NILES

LIZA OCHSENDORF, DIRECTOR, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
REPRESENTING THE PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:
SARA FRANKENFELD, GIS ADMINISTRATOR
ETHAN GADDY, COUNTY PLANNER
ASHLEY LEEMANS, JUNIOR PLANNER
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOHN TAFLAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
CHRISTOPHER BRIGGS, SECOND ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
NATHAN ETU, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS STRAINER
STROUGH
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
REPRESENTING THE SARATOGA-WARREN-WASHINGTON COUNTY WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT BOARD:
GRETCHEN STEFFAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KASSANDRA PURCELL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
LESLIE LOVELACE, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS BRUNO
DIAMOND

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the September 23, 2026 meeting of the Economic Growth & Development 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=Ug9XU5EPH08>

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

Mr. Wild called the meeting of the Economic Growth & Development Committee to order at 12:11 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Crocitto, seconded by Mr. Niles and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Bruno and Diamond absent*) to approve the minutes from the previous Economic Growth & Development Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

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

- A. To amend the County Budget in the amount of \$410,249.84 to reflect receipt of Federal WIOA (*Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act*) funding for program year 2026.

Motion was made by Mr. Crocitto and seconded by Mr. Niles to approve the request as presented; following discussion, Mr. Wild called the question and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Bruno and Diamond 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.*

The Information for Discussion/Review portion of the agenda was reviewed, which included the following:

- A. General workforce updates.
 - a. Unemployment rate.

- b. Seasonal updates.
- c. Upcoming initiatives.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Gretchen Steffan, *Executive Director, Saratoga-Warren-Washington County Workforce Development Board*, who informed her last day before retirement was next Tuesday and she introduced Kassandra Purcell, *Deputy Director*, who would be the Acting Director. Ms. Steffan spoke with regard to future organizational changes and budget cuts.

There being no further Workforce Development business to discuss, review of the Action Agenda/New Business Items portion of the Planning & Community Development agenda commenced which included the following requests:

1. To authorize the Chair of the Board to execute an agreement with New York State (NYS) Department of State (DOS) to accept grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$350,000 under the LWRP Grant Program for the First Wilderness Project, as well as to authorize an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Johnsburg.
2. To establish Capital Project No. H458, *Mill Creek Recreation Area*, in the amount of \$350,000.
3. To authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$23,000 from Budget Code A.8021 470, *Planning & Comm. Dev. - Contract*, to Budget Code A.9950 910, *Transfers - Capital Projects*, for the local share associated with Capital Project No. H458, *Mill Creek Recreation Area*.

Motion was made by Mr. Crocitto and seconded by Mr. Niles to approve the requests as presented; following discussion, Mr. Wild called the question and the motion was carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Bruno and Diamond absent*) to approve Items 1 - 3 as outlined above; the necessary resolution for Item 1 was authorized for the October 16th Board meeting and Items 2 and 3 were referred to the Finance & Budget Committee. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.*

4. To authorize the Chair of the Board to execute an agreement with NYS DOS to accept grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$295,944 under the LWRP Grant Program for the Mountain to River Downtown Connection Initiative - Phase 2 project, as well as to authorize an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Johnsburg.
5. To establish Capital Project No. H457, *Mountain to River*, in the amount of \$295,944.
6. To authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$50,000 from Budget Code A.8029 470, *First Wilderness - Contract*, to Budget Code A.9950 910, *Transfers - Capital Projects*, for the local share associated with Capital Project H457, *Mountain to River*.

Motion was made by Mr. Crocitto, seconded by Mr. Niles and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Bruno and Diamond absent*) to approve Items 4 - 6 as outlined above; the necessary resolution for Item 4 was authorized for the October 16th Board meeting and Items 5 and 6 were referred to the Finance & Budget Committee. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.*

7. To authorize the Chair of the Board to execute an agreement with NYS DOS to accept grant funding in the amount of \$100,000 under the Local Government Efficiency (LGE) program for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) DOS Study.
8. To establish Capital Project No. H460, *EMS DOS Study*, in the amount of \$100,000.
9. To appropriate funds in the amount of \$50,000 from a source to be determined for the local share of the EMS DOS Study.

Motion was made by Mr. Niles, and seconded by Mr. Crocitto to approve the requests as presented; following discussion, Mr. Wild called the question and the motion was carried by a majority vote of those present (*Messrs. Bruno and Diamond absent*) with Mr. Beaty voting in opposition, to approve Items 7 - 9 as outlined above; the necessary resolution for Item 7 was authorized for the October 16th Board meeting and Items 8 and 9 were referred to the Finance & Budget Committee. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.*

10. To authorize submission of an application to the NYS DOS for CRISP grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 to prepare a Countywide Resilience Implementation Strategy Plan.

Motion was made by Mr. Crocitto, seconded by Mr. Patchett and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Bruno and Diamond absent*) to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 16th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

11. To increase Capital Project H437, Board Room Renovations, in the amount of \$10,000.

Motion was made by Mr. Niles, seconded by Mr. Patchett and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Bruno and Diamond 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.*

12. To authorize a new contract with the lowest responsible bidder for the installation of septic systems associated with the CDBG Septic Replacement Program, pursuant to the terms and provisions of the specifications (WC 36-26) for a term commencing upon execution and terminating January 26, 2027.

Motion was made by Mr. Patchett, seconded by Mr. Beaty and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Bruno and Diamond absent*) and the necessary resolution was authorized for the October 16th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Next, the Discussion Items portion of the agenda was reviewed, which included the following item:

1. 2027 Budget request.

Mr. Wild announced he would be attending the EDC (*Economic Development Corporation*) Annual Luncheon held on September 30th at Fort William Henry on the topic of “Talent, Innovation, Place, Building Communities Where Talent Thrives” and he urged other Supervisors to attend.

Ethan Gaddy, *County Planner*, informed the Adirondack Research Consortium was hosting the 2026 Annual Fall Forestry Roundtable on October 14th at The Queensbury Hotel which he recommended Supervisors consider attending.

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

There being no further business to come before the Economic Growth & Development Committee, on motion made by Mr. Niles and seconded by Mr. Crocitto, Mr. Wild declared the meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Legislative Office Specialist