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# Sheriff vs. Treasurer in Warren County's case of mis-paid millions

By Cathy DeDe  
Chronicle Managing Editor

At Friday's monthly meeting of the Warren County Board of Supervisors, Sheriff Jim LaFarr shared with the County Board new specifics of the more than \$3.3-million paid out last month to imposters purporting to be highway materials contractor Peckham Industries.

On December 12 and 23, the Treasurer's office made electronic "ACH" [Automated Clearing House] payments of about \$2.1 and \$1.2 million to a scam banking account.

Sheriff LaFarr said, "Everyone in this room knows the

**LaFarr: 'Human error' by Treasurer's office**



County Sheriff Jim LaFarr and County Treasurer Christine Norton speaking at Friday's meeting of the Warren County Board of Supervisors.  
Chronicle photo/Cathy DeDe

county lost approximately 3.3 million. **Again as a reminder: Not an elaborate scheme. Not sophisticated. Human error.** It started with an unknown person calling the treasurer's office. Multiple calls were made. Based on the interviews we conducted, the person who was calling had a thick foreign accent and this accent was very difficult to understand.

"The person engaged in conversations with several members of the treasurer's office staff, solicited information, requested the opportunity to establish, and set up an ACH payment account.

"That person was directed on how to set up that account. The

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## Norton: Sheriff investigation is 'one-sided'

By Cathy DeDe  
Chronicle Managing Editor

Warren County Treasurer Christine Norton twice addressed the County Board at their Friday meeting, with her view of the investigation into the \$3.3 million scam.

"I would like nothing more than a collaborative approach to this investigation. However it has not been collaborative since 12/26 and 12/30.

**"I do not think the Sheriff is objective.** He did not tell you objective facts. They were

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**'Fire waiting to happen,' warns Bob Landry about Ridge Street alley ▶ 5**



## Melissa Seale to challenge Sen. Dan Stec

By Ben Westcott  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Glens Falls resident Melissa Seale, owner of Well Child Pediatric Psychiatric Services on Broad Street, told *The Chronicle* she'll challenge third-term Republican State Senator Dan Stec of Queensbury in New York's 45th District.

"It's a Republican dominated district, but I think people know what's been going on and they're not happy," Mrs. Seale, 48, said. "I'm a moderate Demo-

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**Qby. Supervisor: Strough won't run, VanNess will run ▶ 6**



## It's ice bar season!

The scene last year at Fort William Henry. **Seven ice bars this January ▶ 4**

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