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Warren County buys the Brooklyn Bridge

Warren County has purchased the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City, *The Chronicle* has learned.

The price was \$7.7-million, a county official confirmed, exclaiming, "Lucky sevens!"

The purchase grew out of an unsolicited phone call received in the County Treasurer's Office.

"Psst. Want to buy a bridge?" began the recorded conversation.

"At first we weren't interested," the county source said. "I mean, who wants to buy a bridge? But when it turned out to be the Brooklyn Bridge, that piqued our interest, especially when they let us know Lake Placid was trying to buy it."

Extended phone conversations ensued.

County officials said they took precautions to make sure the dealings were trustworthy.

Late last year the County Treasurer deposited \$3.3-million into bogus accounts after a caller posing as a trusted vendor told the county to redirect a payment of money actually owed to the contractor.

"We specifically asked the broker offering the Brooklyn Bridge if he was on the up and up," said a county official.

"He said he was, although it was somewhat difficult to make out all his words. He definitely said, 'Don't worry. You can

'Want to buy a bridge?' the caller asked.



County eyes possible locations for bridge

Sources tell *The Chronicle* that the county is considering three landing sites for the Brooklyn Bridge.

- At North Creek, connecting Gore Ski Area with the downtown.
- In Lake George, at Charles R. Wood Park, for locals & tourists to stroll.
- Replacing the Route 9 bridge between Glens Falls and South Glens Falls, "but only if Saratoga County antes up \$3.35 million."

The County turned down buying the Empire State Bldg. 'at this time'

trust me.' He said Lake Placid was really pushing to buy the bridge, but the process was slow because the money was coming through the state Olympic Regional Development Authority."

The source said, "The key factor was how fast we could make the payment. 'Mamdani needs the money,' the caller said" (referring to New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani). "Fortunately we've got so much occupancy tax money pouring in that it was easy to make the \$7.7-million remittance in Bitcoin, as the caller instructed."

Warren County has been looking hard for a new attraction ever since Winter's Dream failed to complete a single season after the county funded it with \$3-million of Occupancy Tax money.

The caller also offered the county the Empire State Building. "The price — '12.7-million, cash on the barrelhead,' the guy said — was in our ballpark, but we were concerned about the lack of park-

ing in downtown Glens Falls."

The seller said the Brooklyn Bridge will be "shipped in May to the Glen Falls-Lake George Region."

Officials said it will come up the Hudson River on a barge and pass through the locks of the Champlain Canal — and then directly to Glens Falls on the historic Feeder Canal "if the locks can be restored by then."

"Welcome Brooklyn Bridge" festivals are planned all along the bridge's journey. Apply now for Occupancy Tax grants.



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