

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE & RULES

DATE: JANUARY 24, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: STROUGH
MONTESI
BROCK
BRAYMER
GIRARD
SOKOL
MCDEVITT
SEEBER

OTHERS PRESENT:

RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, ACTING COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
BRIAN REICHENBACH, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, WARREN COUNTY BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS FRASIER
MACDONALD
MERLINO
SIMPSON
VANSELOW

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR: LEGGETT

TERI ROSS, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY ASSESSOR
JUSTIN GONYO, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT SARATOGA NORTH
CREEK RAILROAD
KURT AUSTIN, RAILS TO TRAILS
MARK MATTEO, ADIRONDACK SAFARI
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
MOLLY GANOTES, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the January 24, 2017 meeting of the Legislative & Rules Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link:

<http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2017/legislative/>

Mr. Strough called the meeting of the Legislative & Rules Committee to order at 11:02 a.m.

Copies of the agenda were distributed to the Committee members and a copy of same is on file with the minutes.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. Strough stated he would begin with Referral/Pending Item No. 2, which pertained to a referral from the November 18, 2016 Board Meeting regarding the local Assessors request for a resolution urging the State to return the management of the School Tax Relief (STAR) Tax Incentive Program back to the local Assessors rather than the State.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Teri Ross, Town of Queensbury Assessor, who spoke regarding the STAR program. She informed the program was applicable to homeowners whose income was less than \$500,000 a year as this entitled them to a \$450 school tax credit.

Supervisor Girard entered the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Ms. Ross explained the abundant problems with the program being managed by the State. She expressed checks were due to homeowners in September, many of which were not received and seniors who were part of the program only received half the money. She said the State stopped sending checks in November in hopes of fixing the problem. She informed changing the program was supposed to save the State money; however, she noted, she did not see the benefits of the State managing the program considering they had to send thousands of individual checks at a cost of \$2 a check, when in the past a single money transfer was all the State was responsible for. She apprised there was a desire to repeal the States decision to manage the STAR Program, or amend the decision to let the local assessors manage the senior portion of the program.

A brief conversation ensued, following which it was determined the best course of action would be to authorize a resolution urging the State to return the management of the STAR Tax Incentive Program back to the local Assessors rather than the State. At Mr. Strough's suggestion, Ms. Ross agreed to forward the draft resolution proposed by the New York State Board of Assessors.

Motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried unanimously to authorize the aforementioned resolution to be presented at the February 17th Board Meeting, subject to review and approval by the County Attorney.

Regarding Referral/Pending Item No. 1, pertaining to the draft resolution proposed by Robert Schulz, Town of Queensbury Resident, Mr. Strough reminded the Committee of Mr. Schulz's concerns that it would be a conflict of interest for certain individuals regulated by the New York State Constitution to be a delegate at a New York State Constitution Convention.

Following some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Girard, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to table this item until the Committee could discuss revisions with Mr. Schulz.

Concerning Referral/Pending Item No. 3, Mr. Strough informed Pat Auer, Director of Public Health/Patient Services, had requested that no action be taken on the item, as she was currently awaiting further information on the matter. Ms. Braymer apprised she and Ms. Seeber would be meeting with Ms. Auer on this matter and would prepare to provide an update next month.

Mr. Simpson raised concerns about the cumbersome nature of the current approval process for in-State, budgeted staff travel which required Committee approval. He suggested revising the approval process to allow permissions to be granted and approved by the Department Head, then report to the Committee at their next meeting. A discussion ensued, following which it was the consensus of the Committee that the revised procedure suggested should be drafted for review at the next Committee meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Legislative & Rules Committee, on motion made by Mr. Montesi and seconded by Ms. Braymer, Mr. Strough adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes, Legislative Office Specialist