

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS & REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES

DATE: APRIL 30, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS DICKINSON
BRAYMER
SIMPSON
STROUGH
MCDEVITT
MERLINO
LOEB
HOGAN
HYDE

OTHERS PRESENT:

LEXIE DELUREY, DIRECTOR, REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES
RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BEATY
GERAGHTY
LEGGETT
MAGOWAN
SOKOL
WILD
MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER
TRAVIS WHITEHEAD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the April 30, 2018 meeting of the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services 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/2018/environmental/>

Mr. Dickinson called the meeting of Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services to order at 9:47 a.m.

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

Privilege of the floor was extended to Lexie Delurey, *Director, Real Property Tax Services*, who distributed copies of the agenda to Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Ms. Delurey presented a request to approve the deletion of outstanding water and sewer charges for Town of Queensbury Tax Map No. 302.8-1-2, as per Town of Queensbury Resolution No. 145 of 2018.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Merlino and carried unanimously to approve the request and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 15th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mrs. Hogan requested the resolution wording on the resolution request form included in the agenda packet be corrected to read that the changes were being made in connection with the Certificate of "Prospective" Cancellation received, rather than "Perspective" Cancellation. Ms. Delurey confirmed this would be corrected for the resolution which would be produced by the County Attorney's Office. Chairman Conover inquired if removal of the water and sewer charges for this particular parcel would be in effect in the future and Ms. Delurey replied affirmatively, advising this needed to be done in order to cancel out this year's taxes and going back to 2015, as well.

Moving on to the Environmental Concerns portion of the meeting, Mr. Dickinson informed he and Ms. Braymer had been working on proposed legislation in the form of a local law to introduce a ban on

plastic bags; however, he said, this was a very involved process. He informed the focus of the ban was on the light weight plastic bags obtained at grocery stores which flooded the market and could be carried by the wind for a long distance. Mr. Dickinson apprised Governor Cuomo was proposing a State-wide ban on plastic bags and he mentioned he and Ms. Braymer had brought the matter before the Inter-County Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks last month. He said Ms. Braymer had drafted the proposed resolution included in the agenda packet for the purpose of obtaining approval from this Committee, and subsequently the full Board; he added that once the resolution was adopted by the Board, he and Ms. Braymer would seek the support of the Inter-County Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks. Ms. Braymer commented the ban would only be for plastic grocery bags and would not impose any fees or place prohibitions on use of paper bags or the type of plastic bags used to put meat and poultry in.

Motion was made by Ms. Braymer to approve the proposed local law included in the agenda packet aimed at banning the use of plastic grocery bags in Warren County.

Mr. Strough asked for clarification if the motion before them was to ban the use of plastic bags in Warren County, rather than support the State-wide ban proposed by Governor Cuomo, and Ms. Braymer replied affirmatively.

Mrs. Hogan voiced her support for the proposed local law, commenting there was proven evidence that these types of bags were only used for an average of twelve minutes following which they were thrown away. She added that she had observed twelve plastic bags stuck in trees while driving to the meeting this morning; she noted this area was known for the beauty of its environment and she felt Warren County should step up and be a leader in bringing forth the proposed plastic bag ban. Mr. Dickinson inquired if Mrs. Hogan would like to second Ms. Braymer's motion, and she replied in the affirmative.

Chairman Conover noted the enforcement of the local law needed to be more specific, with more thought given to who would be enforcing the proposed law and what the consequences for violating it would be.

A lengthy discussion ensued with regard to the implication of the proposed local law, including what stores the law would apply to, and how it would impact staff, specifically with regard to public relations, notifications and regulations. During this discussion, Ms. Braymer informed a copy of what was being proposed had been completed in November and distributed to the Committee members for feedback; she indicated she had only received one response from Mr. Simpson who was opposed to the wording "no old growth fiber" under the reusable bag section, which she said could be removed. A concern was also raised as to whether imposing this local law solely on grocery stores, as opposed to all stores using the type of plastic bag they sought to ban, could lead to a question of discrimination on the County's part. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to request that the County Attorney's Office review the proposed local law, following which the law and any changes proposed by the County Attorney would be referred to the Legislative & Rules Committee for further review.

Ms. Braymer agreed to amend her motion, and Mrs. Hogan her second, to refer the proposed local law to the County Attorney's Office, and then on to the Legislative & Rules Committee; Mr. Dickinson called the question and the motion was carried unanimously.

In closing, Ms. Delurey provided an update on the previously approved installment agreements for taxpayers with parcels in default status, noting thirty-nine of these agreements had defaulted. Mr. Dickinson inquired how many agreements there were, and Michael Swan, *County Treasurer*, replied there were over one hundred installment agreements that were not in default. Ms. Delurey informed petitions had gone out earlier this month and indicated she would start making phone calls tomorrow to the

individuals with defaulted agreements; she noted the response from the petitions had been successful thus far and the Treasurer's Office was busy receiving payments.

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee, on motion made by Mrs. Hogan and seconded by Mr. McDevitt, Mr. Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board