

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COMMITTEE: GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & ADVOCACY**

**DATE: APRIL 19, 2021**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS: BEATY  
LEGETT  
WILD  
CONOVER  
DIAMOND

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

RACHEL E. SEEBER, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD  
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD  
ROBERT TERWILLIGER, FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY  
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER  
HOGAN  
MAGOWAN  
SMITH  
STROUGH  
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
JOHN BOWE, CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION 4-H & FAMILY LIVING  
COACH  
GEORGE GEDNEY, HUDSON FALLS FISH & GAME BOARD MEMBER  
ERIKA PATTON, YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR  
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

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*Please note, the following contains a summarization of the April 19, 2021 meeting of the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <https://warrencountyny.gov/mma>*

***Note: As per Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 202.1: “Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed”. All of the Committee members were in attendance aside from Supervisor Conover who participated remotely.***

Mr. Beaty called the meeting of the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee to order at 12:25 p.m.

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

Copies of the Governmental Operations & Advocacy agenda were distributed to those in attendance and those participating virtually accessed the agenda via the Warren County website; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. Beaty presented a request to introduce Local Law No. 4 of 2021 to expand the age range for youth hunting to 12 and 13 for big game, as permitted within the Enacted 2021 State Budget, and authorizing a public hearing for same.

Privilege of the floor was extended to George Gedney, *Hudson Falls Fish & Game Club Board Member*, who spoke about the proposal, informing he was a hunting and 4-H firearms instructor who had been involved in the sport for

25 years. He apprised he was a huge advocate for lowering the hunting age and had been advocating for the measure for 27 years.

Mr. Wild asked if this local law would require a public hearing and Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, replied affirmatively. Mr. Leggett noted that if the local law passed it would be in effect for the upcoming fall hunting season. Mr. Gedney advised this change was allowed through the State Budget, but required County opt-in by local law; he added that if Warren County adopted and submitted their local law before June 1<sup>st</sup> the authorized lower hunting age would be published in the NYS DEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*) hunting and trapping regulations guide, which was preferable. Mr. Moore advised that unless a special Board Meeting was held, the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline could not be met as the Board would introduce the proposed local law and set the public hearing at their May 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting, to be held at their June 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Mr. Diamond entered the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

Ms. Braymer indicated she was happy to support the request and Mr. Magowan concurred. Mr. Wild inquired if comments via YouTube would be allowed during the public hearing. Mr. Beaty announced that the Warren County Municipal Center had been re-opened to the public and he invited and encouraged anyone interested in attending the public hearing to do so in person. A brief discussion ensued.

Privilege of the floor was extended to John Bowe, *Cornell Corporative Extension 4-H & Family Living Team Coordinator*, who informed he was a hunter education teacher. He said individuals aged 12-13 had to be accompanied by a mentor, and were typically the safest hunting age group. He explained in the past 30 years the 4-H program had never had an accident. He remarked New York State was one of four states that did not allow this age group to hunt big game.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Erika Patton, *Youth Hunter Education Instructor*, who said the feedback regarding the proposed law had been positive, noting youth in this age range could already bow-hunt for big game. Mr. Gedney stated most hunting families who had young children taught them gun safety and how to hunt at a very young age.

Returning to the topic of public comment, Mr. Wild commented that given the recent instances of gun violence, he felt they should allow for public input through all means and he stated his desire for public comment to be allowed via YouTube during this public hearing and he suggested including language relating to this requirement in the local law. A discussion ensued during which it was determined that public hearing on this local law would be permitted through the YouTube chat function.

Motion was made by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mr. Wild and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Beaty advised the next agenda item pertained to Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks Resolution No. 2 of 2021 “Urging the Governor and Federal Government to Expand Broadband and Rural Cellular Coverage to all New Yorkers”.

Motion was made by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mr. Diamond and carried unanimously to authorize a resolution of this nature for presentation at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Braymer distributed a draft resolutions entitled “*Resolution Establishing a County Charter Commission*” which she outlined briefly, *a copy of the draft resolution is on file with the meeting minutes*. It was the consensus of the Committee for this to discussed further at their next meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding conduct at Board and Committee meetings.

As there was no further business to come before the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee, on motion made by Mr. Diamond, seconded by Mr. Beaty and carried unanimously, Mr. Beaty adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist