

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & ADVOCACY

DATE: MAY 24, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS BEATY
LEGETT
WILD
CONOVER
DIAMOND

OTHERS PRESENT:

PAM VOGEL, COUNTY CLERK
RACHEL E. SEEBER, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
ROBERT TERWILLIGER, ACTING COUNTY ATTORNEY
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER
GERAGHTY
HOGAN
MAGOWAN
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
MOLLY GANOTES - GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the May 24, 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". Supervisors Beaty and Conover were physically present while Supervisors Leggett, Wild and Diamond attended virtually.

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

Copies of the County Clerk/DMV and Governmental Operations & Advocacy agendas were distributed to those present; those participating remotely accessed the agenda via the Warren County website. *Copies of the agendas are on file with the meeting minutes.*

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

Privilege of the floor was extended to Pamela Vogel, *County Clerk*, who apprised she had no action agenda items to present and proceeded with a review of the Discussion Items portion of the County Clerk/DMV agenda, as follows:

- A. Discussion: Warren County Mortgage Tax: Jan - April 2021 - Mrs. Vogel provided a review of the January through April 2021 mortgage tax records. She indicated mortgage tax reports were generated at the end of each month which had been distributed via e-mail to the Committee members for the months of January, February, March and April 2021; copies of which are on file with the minutes. She informed the local and additional tax amounted to \$909,000, noting that amount remained within the County. She stated the report was submitted to the State of New York who maintained the reports. She said the basic mortgage tax was sent to the towns as a semi-annual payment. Mrs. Vogel apprised the other report she included was the annual Receipt and Disbursement Report for 2020 which was used in transmitting information to show the

Committee where the local and additional tax was coming in. She noted the local mortgage tax was subject to renewal in 2023; however, she said, the mortgage tax additional was a different type of tax and was passed in 1999 at the State level and did not require renewal even though it remained within the County.

B. Good News: Mrs. Vogel apprised since the re-opening of the County Building to the public on April 12th it was going well with the County Clerk divisions and she continued to receive good reports from DMV. She informed the Pistol Permit vacancies advanced, as well as additional services on the front counter. She apprised the Donate Life Awareness campaign in DMV had been successful and she thanked both Chairwoman Seeber for attending and Don Lehman, *Director, Public Affairs*, and the DMV staff for their assistance, as well as to those who signed up as organ donors. She indicated a note written to the employees at the front counter and the public records room at the County Clerk's office was received from a local attorney and his abstract company, which she read aloud.

Mr. Beaty apprised when he entered the building today he noticed a lot of activity at the entrance and he indicated he was stopped by a constituent he did not know the previous day to convey the County did a phenomenal job led by Chairwoman Seeber and Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, during the pandemic and continued to do so.

There being no further County Clerk/DMV business to discuss, Mr. Beaty apprised on the Governmental Operations & Advocacy agenda under the Discussion Items portion of the agenda was a resolution distributed by Ms. Braymer at the April 19, 2021 Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee Meeting to establish a County Charter Commission.

Mr. Beaty stated Ms. Braymer was not present due to a prior commitment and indicated the item could be brought back to the Committee next month when she was present.

Mr. Diamond stated despite the absence of Ms. Braymer he was in favor of having discussion today regarding the resolution in an effort to advance the item for the Committee to review.

Motion was made by Mr. Diamond and seconded by Mr. Beaty to authorize a resolution establishing a County Charter Commission made up of the individuals described in the resolution.

Mr. Leggett apprised the Chester Town Board had passed a resolution in opposition to change the structure of the legislative body of the County. Ms. Hogan requested the resolution from the Town of Chester be distributed to the entire Board and Mr. Diamond requested the minutes of the meeting where this was approved as well for the purpose of reviewing the dialogue in regards to the resolution.

Chairwoman Seeber suggested it may be more appropriate to table the item so it could be presented and discussed at the next Committee meeting due to the absence of Ms. Braymer.

Motion was made by Mr. Diamond and seconded by Mr. Beaty to table the resolution, Mr. Conover stated this subject was introduced five years ago with extensive discussion and was rejected by the Board. Mr. Conover remarked he was opposed then, just as he was opposed now. He said the County Charter Commission would take the voice or Home Rule away from the towns and he believed the County Charter Commission was bad government. He said it would be replacing a government that worked appropriately, just as it did in Saratoga, Washington and Essex Counties. Mr. Wild stated he concurred with Mr. Conover and inquired why this had previously been rejected. Chairwoman Seeber said Mr. Wild brought up a good point, stating it was her understanding that changing the Board structure was best brought forth after a Census which had just happened. She indicated the opportunity only

came along every ten years.

A discussion ensued following which Mr. Beaty called the question and motion to table the matter until next month failed due to a lack of majority vote, with Messrs. Leggett, Wild and Conover voting in opposition.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the motion to approve a resolution establishing a County Charter Commission made up of individuals described in the resolution. Mr. Beaty called the question and the motion failed due to a lack of majority vote, with Messrs. Leggett, Wild and Conover voting in opposition.

Mr. Beaty requested the item be put on the agenda for discussion next month.

Mr. Wild requested adding the Ethics and Financial Disclosure Law to the agenda as a discussion item for the next meeting even though it was on the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee agenda, apprising he felt it was appropriate for the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee to review and discuss local laws.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Diamond and carried unanimously, Mr. Beaty adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes - Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist
(As transcribed by Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board)

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