

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & ADVOCACY

AGENDA

MAY 24, 2021

Committee Members: Supervisors Beaty, Leggett, Wild, Conover and Diamond

- I. Committee meeting called to order by Committee Chair
- II. Approval of minutes of prior Committee meeting
- III. Action Agenda/New Business Items: None.
- IV. Discussion Items:
 1. Resolution distributed by Supervisor Braymer at April 19th meeting - "Resolution Establishing a County Charter Commission"
- V. Referrals/Pending Items: None.
- VI. Privilege of the Floor to discuss any additional items to come before the Committee
- VII. Motion to adjourn

Attachments:

Item 1 - Draft Resolution "Resolution Establishing a County Charter Commission.

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Warren County government is a major enterprise and employer in the County, with a substantial payroll and a budget of \$165 million, and

WHEREAS, Warren County has numerous departments and Department Heads, and

WHEREAS, Warren County's government currently maintains no executive branch separate from its legislative body, nor does it employ a County Executive to supervise its departments, and

WHEREAS, Warren County's governmental structure is the default under the State Constitution, a default structure that has not been substantially changed since the 1894 Constitution, and which predates the 1777 Constitution, and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has adopted the Municipal Home Rule Law, which empowers Counties to seek out and implement a more professional and potentially more viable and efficient form of government, and

WHEREAS, only a handful of Counties, including Warren County, continue to use the default form without alteration, while many Counties have adopted County Charters, and

WHEREAS, Article 4 of the Municipal Home Rule Law sets forth the method for a Board of Supervisors to appoint a Commission for the express purpose of studying, drafting and presenting to that Board a proposed County Charter, and

WHEREAS, a County Charter Commission should represent a broad cross-section of the community, and

RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 33, Subdivision 5, of the Municipal Home Rule Law a Charter Commission shall be and is hereby created and appointed for the express purpose of studying county governance, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commission should not consist of any current Supervisors or current County employees or officers, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that at least two members of the Commission shall be residents of the City of Glens Falls, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission shall consist of ten persons who will be appointed by the Board of Supervisors, by recommendations that are made from the Government Operations & Advocacy Committee, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission shall consider whether to transfer legislative functions to a County Legislature comprised of legislators elected from districts or to retain a Board of Supervisors, with or without changes to the current structure, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Charter Commission shall consider whether a County Executive would be helpful or needed for Warren County, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Charter Commission shall solicit and consider the views of the community, including business leaders, elected officials, hospitality leaders, professionals, and others who, in its judgment, are invested in governance of the County, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Charter Commission shall hold no fewer than four public hearings to solicit input from the public, one such meeting to be held in the City of Glens Falls, one to be held in the Village of Lake George, one to be held in the Town of Chester, and one to be held in the Town of Queensbury, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that members of the Charter Commission shall receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed by Warren County for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the course of performing their duties as a member of the Charter Commission, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Attorney shall be available to the commission for legal consultation and advice, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all County agencies and departments are hereby directed to assist and fully cooperate with the Commission in its work.