

GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & ADVOCACY  
AGENDA  
AUGUST 23, 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) Discussion on Warren County Local Laws pertaining to the sale of fireworks.
- V. Referrals/Pending Items:
  - 1) Referral from the Economic Growth & Development Committee to discuss issues regarding the difficulties facing small broadband companies, such as SLIC Network Solutions and request that Kevin Lynch, *Vice-President for Technical Operation, SLIC Network Solution*, participate. (02.23.21)
  - 2) Discussion to continue regarding the draft resolution distributed by Supervisor Braymer entitled "*Resolution Establishing a County Charter Commission*" at the next meeting. (04.19.21)
  - 3) At the request of Supervisor Wild, Supervisor Beaty agreed to include discussion of the Ethics and Financial Disclosure Law to the next agenda. (05.24.21)
  - 4) Referral from the Criminal Justice Committee requesting a letter of support for funding to the District Attorney's Office to assist with the additional costs incurred in relation to Discovery Reform.(07.19.21)
  - 5) Discussion regarding Warren County Local Laws pertaining to the sale of fireworks to continue with the Committee requesting the Director of the Office of Emergency Services provide statistics pertaining to injuries sustained as a result of the use of fireworks, comparing the figures for those sustained before and after the County's Local Laws were enacted; and Clerk of the Board to reach out to the City of Glens Falls Common Council for their feelings on the possibility of the County's Local Laws being rescinded and report back to the Committee. (07.19.21)
  - 6) Referral from the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee requesting that a letter be sent to the State indicating Counties were required to spend more of their own funding to cover the cost of the changes made to the legal system by the State. (07.29.21)
  - 7) Referral from the Finance Committee regarding the abandonment and clean-up of Town of Johnsbury Tax Map Parcel No. 133.8-1-27 (*Mosher's Garage*), and to consider exploring the possibility of adopting a local law permitting the County to hold property owners of polluted properties who abandoned them accountable and be entitled to recoup any money spent on cleanup efforts. (07.29.21)
- VI. Privilege of the Floor to discuss any additional items to come before the Committee
- VII. Motion to adjourn

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Attachments:

Discussion Item 1 - Fireworks Local Laws enacted by Resolution Nos. 223 of 2015; 238 of 2016; 239 of 2016 and Village of Lake George Resolution No. 131 of 2021 which requests that the Warren County Board of Supervisors ban the sale of fireworks within Warren County permanently.

Referral/Pending Item 2 - Draft resolution entitled "*Resolution Establishing a County Charter Commission*"

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

## RESOLUTION NO. 223 OF 2015

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Monroe, Girard, Sokol, Wood, Frasier, Westcott and Strough

### TO ENACT LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2015

WHEREAS, a proposed Local Law was duly presented to the Board of Supervisors and considered by them, said proposed Local Law entitled, "A Local Law Allowing for Common, Safe Items to be Excluded from the Dangerous Fireworks Definition as Permitted by New York State Penal Law Section 405.00 (5)(b)", and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 167 of 2015 on March 20, 2015, authorizing a public hearing to be held by the Board of Supervisors on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. in the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center on the matter of the proposed Local Law, and notice of such public hearing having been duly published and posted as required by law, and said public hearing having been held and all persons appearing at said public hearing desiring to be heard, having been heard, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, New York, on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015, does hereby enact and adopt Local Law No. 3 of 2015 as set forth in Schedule "A" annexed hereto, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County Administrator and County Attorney are hereby authorized to make such minor modifications to the Local Law as deemed necessary, and are authorized to execute, file and publish the Local Law and take all necessary actions for the promulgation thereof.

COUNTY OF WARREN LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2015

A LOCAL LAW ALLOWING FOR COMMON, SAFE ITEMS TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE DANGEROUS FIREWORKS DEFINITION AS PERMITTED BY NEW YORK STATE PENAL LAW SECTION 405.00 (5)(b)

BE IT ENACTED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, New York, as follows:

**SECTION 1. Title.** This Local Law shall be titled “A Local Law Allowing for Common, Safe Items to be Excluded from the Dangerous Fireworks Definition as Permitted by New York State Penal Law Section 405.00 (5)(b)”.

**SECTION 2. Purpose.** Chapter 477 of the Laws of 2014 (S.7888/A10141) amended the State Penal Law, the Executive Law and the General Business Law placing further restrictions on dangerous fireworks while at the same time recognizing that certain fireworks should not be labeled dangerous when they pose little to no danger to the public and by labeling them dangerous only restricts business and personal enjoyment. The State legislation allows for certain fireworks to be sold and used in municipalities that affirmatively enact a local law authorizing such action. In keeping with Chapter 477 of the Laws of 2014, and Penal Law Section 405.00, the Warren County Board of Supervisors finds and determines that “sparkling devices” may be sold and enjoyed, only in the manner described below, within Warren County. The Warren County Board of Supervisors finds that allowing our residents the use of safe “sparkling devices” will benefit them and our local businesses.

**SECTION 3. Sale and use of Sparkling Devices.**

A. The sale and use of sparkling devices as defined and prescribed herein is permitted with the following restrictions:

- 1) Sales will only be permitted on or between June 1<sup>st</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup> or from December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 2<sup>nd</sup> of each year.
- 2) All distributors, manufacturers and retailers must be licensed through the New York

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State Office of Fire Prevention and Control or other agency so designated by New York State, and shall comply with all applicable New York State laws and regulations regarding license and registration requirements.

- 3) Only those eighteen (18) years of age or older may purchase said products.

**SECTION 4. Definitions.**

A. “Sparkling Devices” are defined as ground-based or hand-held devices that produce a shower of white, gold, or colored sparks as their primary pyrotechnic effect. Additional effects may include a colored flame, an audible crackling effect, an audible whistle effect, and smoke. These devices do not rise into the air, do not fire inserts or projectiles into the air, and do not explode or produce a report (an audible crackling-type effect is not considered to be a report). Ground-based or hand-held devices that produce a cloud of smoke as their sole pyrotechnic effect are also included in this category. Types of devices in this category include:

- 1) cylindrical fountain: cylindrical tube containing not more than seventy-five grams of pyrotechnic composition that may be contained in a different shaped exterior such as a square, rectangle, cylinder or other shape but the interior tubes are cylindrical in shape. Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks, and sometimes a whistling effect or smoke, is produced. This device may be provided with a spike for insertion into the ground (spike fountain), a wood or plastic base for placing on the ground (base fountain), or a wood or cardboard handle to be hand held (handle fountain). When more than one tube is mounted on a common base, total pyrotechnic composition may not exceed two hundred grams, and when tubes are securely attached to a base and the tubes are separated from each other on the base by a distance of at

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least half an inch (12.7 millimeters), a maximum total weight of five hundred grams of pyrotechnic composition shall be allowed.

- 2) cone fountain: cardboard or heavy paper cone containing not more than fifty grams of pyrotechnic composition. The effect is the same as that of a cylindrical fountain. When more than one cone is mounted on a common base, total pyrotechnic composition may not exceed two hundred grams, as is outlined in this subparagraph.
- 3) wooden sparkler/dipped stick: these devices consist of a wood dowel that has been coated with pyrotechnic composition. Upon ignition of the tip of the device, a shower of sparks is produced. Sparklers may contain up to one hundred grams of pyrotechnic composition per item.
- 4) novelties which do not require approval from the United States Department of Transportation and are not regulated as explosives, provided that they are manufactured and packaged as described below:
  - i) party popper: small devices with paper or plastic exteriors that are actuated by means of friction (a string or trigger is typically pulled to actuate the device). They frequently resemble champagne bottles or toy pistols in shape. Upon activation, the device expels flame-resistant paper streamers, confetti, or other novelties and produces a small report. Devices may contain not more than sixteen milligrams (0.25 grains) of explosive composition, which is limited to potassium chlorate and red phosphorus. These devices must be packaged in an inner packaging which contains a maximum of seventy-two devices.

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- ii) snapper: small, paper-wrapped devices containing not more than one milligram of silver fulminate coated on small bits of sand or gravel. When dropped, the device explodes, producing a small report. Snappers must be in inner packages not to exceed fifty devices each, and the inner packages must contain sawdust or a similar, impact-absorbing material.

**SECTION 5. Non-Compliance.** As provided for in Chapter 477 of the Laws of 2014 of the State of New York, the failure to comply with the provisions of Sections 3 and/or 4 hereof shall be deemed an Offense as set forth in subdivision two of section 270.00 of the New York State Penal Law.

**SECTION 6. Severability.** If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance shall be adjudged by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this Local Law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

**SECTION 7. Effective Date.** This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the Office of the New York State Secretary of State.

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

## RESOLUTION NO. 238 OF 2016

**Resolution introduced by Supervisors Conover, Seeber, Sokol, Simpson, Merlino, Dickinson, Girard, Frasier, Beaty, McDevitt and Braymer**

### TO ENACT LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2016

WHEREAS, proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2016 entitled "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 3 of 2015 'A Local Law Allowing for Common, Safe Items to be Excluded from the Dangerous Fireworks Definition as Permitted by New York State Penal Law Section 405.00(5)(b)' - by adding new Section 3 A. (4)", attached hereto and made a part hereof, be, and the same hereby was duly presented to the Warren County Board of Supervisors and considered by them, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 194 of 2016 on April 15, 2016, authorizing a public hearing to be held by the Board of Supervisors on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center on the matter of the proposed Local Law, and notice of public hearing having been published and posted as required by law, and said public hearing having been held and all persons appearing at said public hearing desiring to be heard, having been heard, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, New York, on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016 does hereby enact and adopt Local Law No. 2 of 2016 as set forth in Schedule "A" annexed hereto, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County Administrator and County Attorney are hereby authorized to make such minor modifications to the Local Law as deemed necessary, and are authorized to execute, file and publish the Local Law and take all necessary actions for the promulgation thereof.

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Schedule "A"

COUNTY OF WARREN LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2016

**"A LOCAL LAW AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2015, 'A LOCAL LAW ALLOWING FOR COMMON, SAFE ITEMS TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE DANGEROUS FIREWORKS DEFINITION AS PERMITTED BY NEW YORK STATE PENAL LAW SECTION 405.00 (5) (b)' - BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 3 A.(4)"**

BE IT ENACTED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, New York, as follows:

**SECTION 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this Local Law is to add a new Section 3 A.(4) to the above Local Law to read "4) Upon any sale allowed and regulated by this Local Law the seller must give to the purchaser or include with the packaged and sold items a safety brochure that includes safety instructions applicable to the items sold in the particular transaction then occurring. Posting or making such instructions available at the point of sale shall not satisfy the requirements of this paragraph."

**SECTION 2.** Except as otherwise amended herein, all provisions of Local Law No. 3 of 2015 shall remain as is and in full force and effect.

**SECTION 3. Effective Date.** This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

## RESOLUTION NO. 239 OF 2016

**Resolution introduced by Supervisors Braymer and Montesi**

**TO ENACT LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2016**

WHEREAS, a proposed Local Law was duly presented to the Board of Supervisors and considered by them, said proposed Local Law entitled, "A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 3 of 2015 'A Local Law Allowing for Common, Safe Items to be Excluded from the Dangerous Fireworks Definition as Permitted by New York State Penal Law Section 405.00(5)(b)' - by adding new Section 7 and renumbering the existing Section 7 to Section 8", and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 199 of 2016 on April 15, 2016, authorizing a public hearing to be held by the Board of Supervisors on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center on the matter of the proposed Local Law, and notice of such public hearing having been duly published and posted as required by law, and said public hearing having been held and all persons appearing at said public hearing desiring to be heard, having been heard, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, New York, on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016, does hereby enact and adopt Local Law No. 3 of 2016 as set forth in Schedule "A" annexed hereto, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County Administrator and County Attorney are hereby authorized to make such minor modifications to the Local Law as deemed necessary, and are authorized to execute, file and publish the Local Law and take all necessary actions for the promulgation thereof.

Schedule "A"

COUNTY OF WARREN LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2016

**"A LOCAL LAW AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2015, 'A LOCAL LAW ALLOWING FOR COMMON, SAFE ITEMS TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE DANGEROUS FIREWORKS DEFINITION AS PERMITTED BY NEW YORK STATE PENAL LAW SECTION 405.00 (5) (b)' - BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 7 AND RENUMBERING THE EXISTING SECTION 7 AS SECTION 8"**

WHEREAS, in view of the ability of merchants, pursuant to Local Law No. 3 of 2015, to sell certain common, safe items for limited time periods every year, and

WHEREAS, municipalities in Warren County that have transient merchant laws, or similar provisions of rule or law, wish to protect the interests of those laws, and

WHEREAS, to protect the integrity of those laws and to protect the adjoining land owners where such sales may take place, and to protect the public at large by ensuring the protections of such laws are implemented in relation to temporary sales, now, therefore,

**BE IT ENACTED**, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, New York, as follows:

**SECTION 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this Local Law is to add a new SECTION 7 to the above Local Law to read "This Local Law No. 3 of 2015 shall not supersede or render inapplicable any local law, ordinance, policy or requirement of any municipality in Warren County."

**SECTION 2.** The existing "SECTION 7" shall be renumbered to "SECTION 8".

**SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise amended herein, all provisions of Local Law No. 3 of 2015, shall remain as is and in full force and effect.

**SECTION 4. Effective Date.** This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Trustee Perry, seconded by Trustee Root offered the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 131, 2021**

**WHEREAS the Warren County Board of Supervisors are considering rescinding a law that permits the sale of Fireworks within Warren County; and**

**WHEREAS the Lake George Village Board affords residents and visitors alike the opportunity to enjoy professional, spectacular shows weekly and all holidays; and**

**WHEREAS, the use of fireworks of any nature by the public are dangerous, unsafe and disturbing; and**

**WHEREAS, the sale of such fireworks from temporary enclosures, by transient vendors are unsightly, unsafe and have no redeeming value;**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake George does hereby respectfully ask the Warren County Board of Supervisors to ban the sale of fireworks within Warren County permanently.**

**VOTING      Ayes: 5      Blais, Earl, Mastrodomenico, Perry, Root  
                 Nays: 0**

**RESOLUTION NO. 131, 2021 ADOPTED.                      August 16, 2021**

## RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COUNTY CHARTER COMMISSION

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**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.