

FWARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & ADVOCACY

DATE: AUGUST 23, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: BEATY
LEGGETT
WILD
CONOVER

OTHERS PRESENT:

SUEANNE LINEHAN, DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
ROBERT TERWILLIGER, ACTING COUNTY ATTORNEY
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR: DIAMOND

SUPERVISORS BRAYMER
DICKINSON
DRISCOLL
FRASIER
GERAGHTY
HOGAN
MAGOWAN
ANN MARIE MASON, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the August 23, 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>

Mr. Beaty called the meeting of the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee to order at 1:34 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Leggett (*no second to the motion was made*) and carried by majority vote, with Supervisor Wild abstaining, to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the County Clerk and Governmental Operations & Advocacy agendas were distributed to those in attendance; *copies of the agenda are on file with the meeting minutes.*

The meeting began with a review of the County Clerk agenda, which included the following request:

To fill the vacant position of Recording Clerk #1, *Grade 7, Base Annual Salary \$35,491*, due to resignation.

Motion was made by Mr. Leggett, seconded by Mr. Wild and carried unanimously to approve the request and refer same to the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee for reporting purposes. *A copy of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position form is on file with the minutes.*

There being no further County Clerk business to discuss, review of the Governmental Operations and Advocacy commenced with the Discussion Items section which included an item pertaining to the Local Law permitting to the sale of fireworks in Warren County. Comments and statics were discussed, following which it was decided the County Attorney would look into restrictions on the time frame of sales and use and would report back to the Committee at their next meeting.

Moving on, the Referral/Pending Items section of the agenda was reviewed as follows:

- 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. It was noted this was an informational item previously discussed and the Committee authorized this matter to be removed from the Referral/Pending Items List.
- 2) Discussion to continue regarding the draft resolution distributed by Supervisor Braymer entitled “*Resolution Establishing a County Charter Commission*” at the next meeting. A lengthy discussion ensued following which it was apparent there was not sufficient support amongst the Committee members for this matter to be approved; the Committee authorized this matter to be removed from the Referral/Pending Items List.
- 3) At the request of Supervisor Wild, Supervisor Beaty agreed to include discussion of the Ethics and Financial Disclosure Law to the next agenda. A brief discussion was held during which it was noted that the revised Ethics and Financial Disclosure Law was recently adopted by the Board; the Committee authorized this matter to be removed from the Referral/Pending Items List.
- 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.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild (*there was no second to the motion*) to authorize the County Administrator and County Attorney to draft a letter to the State supporting additional funding for the District Attorney’s Office to assist with the costs incurred in relation to Discovery Reform to be approved by the Board at the September 17th Board Meeting. Discussion followed, during which it was noted that a copy of this letter should be forwarded to the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks to obtain regional support for other Counties, as well. Mr. Beaty called the question and the motion was carried unanimously, thereby authorizing the necessary resolution for the September 17th Board Meeting.

- 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. *This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and will be carried forward in accordance with that discussion.*
- 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. It was the consensus of the Committee that this item coincided with Referral/Pending Item #4 and could be removed from the Referral/Pending Items List.
- 7) Referral from the Finance Committee regarding the abandonment and clean-up of Town of Johnsburg 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. Discussion was held, during which it was determined the County Attorney would review and determine what options were available to the County and would provide an update at the next Committee meeting.

Under the Privilege of the Floor section of the agenda, the matter of administrative access to employee emails was raised and a directive from the Committee indicating that such access would be curtailed until an official policy could be adopted was suggested; the Committee took no action on this suggestion. Discussion was held regarding performing an official investigation to determine the validity of claims made that employee emails were being accessed improperly and Ms. Braymer, as Chair of the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee,

agreed to take this up under her Committee. It was also noted that Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, was working on a draft a policy to be presented before the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee for review and approval; Robert Terwillger, *Acting County Attorney*, advised he would look into whether there was any existing law or regulation in place pertaining to this matter.

Mr. Leggett exited the meeting during the previously mentioned discussion at 3:15 p.m

Concluding Mr. Beaty recognized Julie Butler, *Purchasing Agent*, for completing the Skills Training in Effective Team Management, Leadership Essentials and Conflict Resolution, adding he would be delivering the certificate to her immediately following the meeting.

As there was no further business to come before the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee, on motion made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Wild and carried unanimously, Mr. Beaty adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist