

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & ADVOCACY

DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS BEATY
 WILD
 CONOVER
 DIAMOND

OTHERS PRESENT:

RACHEL E. SEEBER, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
ROBERT TERWILLIGER, ACTING COUNTY ATTORNEY
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR LEGGETT

SUPERVISORS BRAYMER (VIA ZOOM)

BRUNO
DRISCOLL
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 October 18, 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: Pursuant to New York State Legislation (S.50001/A.40001): “Notwithstanding the provisions of article 7 of the public officers law to the contrary, any state agency, department, corporation, office, authority, board, or commission, as well as any local public body, or public corporation as defined in section 66 of the general construction law, or political subdivisions as defined in section 100 of the general municipal law, or a committee or subcommittee or other similar body of such entity, shall be authorized to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorize 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 Committee Members in attendance were physically present.

Mr. Beaty called the meeting of the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee to order at 11:30 a.m.

Governmental Operations & Advocacy agendas were distributed to those present; those participating remotely accessed the agenda via the Warren County website. *A copy of the agenda is on file with the meeting minutes.*

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

The Committee began with a review of the Referrals/Pending Items portion of the Governmental Operations & Advocacy agenda as follows:

1. Discussion ensued with regard to the idea of rescinding active local laws pertaining to the sale of fireworks in Warren County, centering on when a public hearing could be held to obtain citizen input on the matter. It was the consensus of the Committee to hold two public hearings on this matter, the first to be held during a special evening meeting of the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee in December, and the second being during the regular December Board meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Wild and carried unanimously to introduce a Local Law rescinding prior local laws relating to the sale of fireworks in Warren County (*Local Law Nos. 3 of 2015, and 2 and 3 of 2016*) and authorizing two Public Hearings for same, as outlined above, and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 19th Board Meeting.

2. An update was provided regarding Town of Johnsburg tax Map Parcel No. 133.8-1-27, (*Mosher's Garage*) and the possibility of the County adopting a local law permitting the County to hold property owners of polluted properties that had been abandoned accountable and entitle the County to recoup funds that were spent on cleanup efforts. Robert Terwilliger, *Acting County Attorney*, suggested in this case the County should use guidelines from State and Federal laws that already existed. He informed the State was involved in this property which made it difficult to recoup costs; he indicated he would investigate this matter further and would provide an update on his findings at the next meeting.
3. Discussion was held regarding the Cattaraugus County resolution declaring themselves a Constitutional County, during which it was noted that Warren County did not have a mission statement. It was the consensus of the Committee to request that the County Administrator draft a mission statement for Warren County which would be presented for review at a future Committee meeting, which could possibly be included in the Rules of the Board.

Mr. Wild spoke regarding the Majority and Minority Leader positions within the Board of Supervisors structure and their compensation, indicating he was in favor of seeking Home Rule legislation from the State to allow for a Vice Chair stipend to be paid legally. Following some discussion, Mr. Moore confirmed that he and the County Attorney research the matter and determine the appropriate process for this, and the associated time-line.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Beaty and carried unanimously, Mr. Beaty adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist