

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS & ADVOCACY

DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: BEATY
CONOVER
LEGGETT (VIA ZOOM)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS: WILD
DIAMOND

OTHERS PRESENT:

RACHEL E. SEEBER, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
ROBERT TERWILLIGER, FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
SUPERVISORS HOGAN (VIA ZOOM)
MAGOWAN
STROUGH
GINELLE JONES, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH/PATIENT SERVICES
KRISTEN HANIFIN, DEVELOPMENT/EVENT COORDINATOR, TOURISM
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the December 15, 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 of the Committee members in attendance were physically present aside from Supervisor Leggett who participated virtually.

Mr. Beaty called the meeting of the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. *(Please note due to a lack of attendance, Chairwoman Seeber served as an Ex-Officio member to make a quorum).*

Governmental Operations & Advocacy agendas were distributed to those in attendance and those participating virtually 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 Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Commencing the agenda review, Mr. Beaty stated the purpose of the meeting was to hold a public meeting to provide the public an opportunity to voice their opinions regarding Local law 10 of 2021 “*Repealing Local Law 3 of 2015, 2 of 2016 and 3 of 2016 and prohibiting the use and sale of sparkling devises in Warren County*”.

Mr. Leggett entered the meeting via Zoom at 7:01 p.m. which made a quorum and the Chairwoman was no longer needed to serve.

Robert Terwilliger, *First Assistant County Attorney*, provided a brief overview regarding Warren County’s past fireworks legislation and justification. He read aloud the definition of sparkling devices, included in the Local Law. Mr. Beaty advised to date the County had received 61 emails regarding this topic of which 54 were in favor of rescinding the Local Law and 7 were against.

Mr. Beaty opened the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

The following individuals voiced their opinions on Proposed Local Law No. 10 of 2021:

- 1) Denise Rabideau, *City of Glens Falls Resident*, spoke regarding fireworks going off late at night from June through August. She inquired who monitored the sale of the devices, explaining there needed to be boundaries.

Mr. Beaty read aloud the number of complaints filed with law enforcement over the past few years.

- 2) Michael Seal, *City of Glens Falls Resident*, expressed it was not right to ban all sparkling devices, adding the main complaints derived from illegal fireworks that were purchased out-of-State. He advised the devices sold locally did not explode, voicing his desire to not take away the right to celebrate the Country's heritage. He indicated that he supported putting limits to ban them after a certain time period.

Ms. Rabideau inquired if there was any information regarding the number of emergencies resulting from fireworks and Mr. Beaty replied he was unsure, but Public Hearing would be held on Friday at 10:00 a.m. where he hoped he could provide more information.

Ms. Seeber thanked those who attended this evening, as well as those who submitted comments. She asked the County Attorney to look into whether the County could limit the time when they were used.

- 3) Ryan Aleva, *Warren County Resident*, indicated he managed a tent that sold sparkling devices and not bottle rockets, aerial devices or m80's, adding they followed all permits and tried to educate people. He commented he hoped this was not a rash decision to ban everything.
- 4) Joanne Reynolds, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, opined a time limit should be placed on their use and questioned where the sales tax from these sales was allocated to and Ms. Seeber replied the State was not able to calculate how much sales tax derived from the sale of sparkling devices so the County was unable to determine this figure.

As there was no further business to come before the Governmental Operations & Advocacy Committee, on motion made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Ms. Seeber and carried unanimously, Mr. Beaty adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board
(As transcribed by Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist)