

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: MARCH 22, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: DRISCOLL
FRASIER
MAGOWAN
SMITH

REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES:

CHRISTIAN HANCHETT, COMMISSIONER
JULIE MONTERO, FISCAL MANAGER
DENISE DiRESTA, DIRECTOR, VETERANS' SERVICES
RACHEL E. SEEBER, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR: DICKINSON

SUPERVISORS BEATY
BRAYMER
BRUNO
CONOVER
GERAGHTY
LEGGETT
WILD
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
BETH McLAUGHLIN, BOARD OF ELECTIONS, COMMISSIONER (D)
WILLIAM VANESS, BOARD OF ELECTIONS, COMMISSIONER (R)
TOSHA BROWNELL, HELP DESK TECHNICIAN
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the March 22, 2021 meeting of the Human Services Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link:
<https://warrencountyny.gov/mma>

Note: As per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1: "Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing 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". Supervisors Driscoll, Frasier and Magowan were physically present while Supervisor Smith participated virtually.

Mr. Driscoll called the meeting of the Human Services Committee to order at 12:27 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Commencing the Department of Social Services (DSS) agenda review, Mr. Driscoll presented the following requests:

- To fill the vacant position of Social Welfare Examiner #21, in the Temporary Assistance Unit, *Grade 8, Base Annual Salary \$34,988*, due to promotion; and
- To fill the vacant position of Caseworker #15, In the Child Protective Services Unit, *Grade 16, Base Annual Salary \$43,390*, due to resignation.

In two separate actions, motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the requests as outlined above and to refer same to the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee for reporting purposes. *Copies of the Notice of Intent to Fill Vacant Position forms are on file with the minutes.*

Next, Mr. Driscoll introduced a request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$6,500 to increase both revenue and expense accounts due to an allocation from OCFS (*Office of Children and Family Services*) for youth aging out of the Foster Care program.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2021 County Budget and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Driscoll then presented a request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$20,000 to increase both revenue and expense accounts to reflect a gift from the Children's Committee of Warren County for the purpose of paying the wage and benefits for a Community Services Assistant working with Foster Care children and families.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the request to amend the 2021 County Budget as outlined above and to refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Driscoll introduced a request to appoint and/or re-appoint members to Warren County Youth Board for the year 2021. Christian Hanchett, *Commissioner, DSS*, thanked those who volunteered, along with Chairwoman Seeber.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Ms. Smith and carried unanimously to approve the request as presented and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 16, 2021 Board Meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Mr. Hanchett apprised throughout the year 2020 no programs were compromised and DSS was moving in the right direction.

Privilege of the floor was presented to Julie Montero, *Fiscal Manager*, who informed there was no change regarding the revenue and expenditures, explaining overtime was at 15% due to the Department being short one caseworker. She indicated overtime would be reduced in the Child Protective Services Division.

There being no further DSS business to discuss privilege of the floor was presented to Denise DiResta, *Director, Veterans' Services*, who introduced a request to amend Resolution No. 72 of 2020 to increase the spending limit of the Department credit card from \$500 to \$1,000, to better support the Peer-to-Peer program. She explained there was an overlap in the timeframe of events. Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, clarified they were not spending any more than they normally would, this would just allow them to use their departmental credit card rather than having to request one of the County credit cards which had higher limits.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Ms. Smith and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and refer same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Regarding the claim status update, Ms. DiResta notified as of October 19th all claims had been submitted and responses were received from Veterans' Services; she apprised there were 148 claims in total and there were many

retroactive claims as well.

Regarding transportation, Ms. DiResta notified Veterans had to make their own appointments and make arraignments to get back and forth to their appointments. She apprised she was hopeful they would be able to provide transportation once again starting in May.

Regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, Ms. DiResta informed there was no age limit for all Veterans who wanted to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Mr. Leggett asked if that was Nation-wide and Ms. DiResta replied it only applied to those who were enrolled in health care program.

Ms. DiResta stated New York State Veterans' Services had a public law that allowed Veterans to provide documents at no cost for filling a claim.

Ms. DiResta reported Veterans could obtain a fishing licence at no cost on March 25th at Dicks Sporting Goods through the program her Office was administering.

Ms. DiResta spoke regarding updating the Travel, Education, and Vehicle Use Policy to allow volunteers to obtain mileage reimbursement. A discussion ensued, during which Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, suggested referring the matter to the Finance Committee and the Committee agreed.

As there was no further business to come before the Human Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mrs. Frasier, and carried unanimously, Mr. Driscoll adjourned the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist