

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: EMS (*EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES*)

DATE: DECEMBER 12, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: MERLINO
CONOVER
GERACI
RUNYON

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS: LEGGETT
DICKINSON
DIAMOND

OTHERS PRESENT:

KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
ROBERT TERWILLIGER, FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER

DRISCOLL

MCDEVITT

SEEBER

STROUGH

TAMMIE DeLORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KELLY NESTLE, CHAIR, JOHNSBURG EMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the December 12, 2022 meeting of the EMS Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link:
<https://warrencountyny.gov/mma>

In the absence of Committee Chairman Leggett, Supervisor Merlino, as Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

Copies of the meeting agenda were distributed; a copy of the agenda is on file with the meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Ms. Runyon, seconded by Mr. Geraci and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Leggett, Dickinson and Diamond absent*) to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Committee reviewed of the Discussion Items section of the meeting agenda which included the following:

1. Recap of what has been discussed.
2. What has changed in the past two years.
3. What other Counties are doing.
4. What we can do by statute.
5. Next steps.

Chairman Geraghty provided an update on what had happened since the last Committee meeting, advising a County-wide EMS district had been desired; however, it was determined that State law prevented this, only allowing for town-wide EMS districts to be developed, which was problematic. Committee discussed options, including whether opioid funds could be used to subsidize EMS districts and it was determined further research by the County Attorney's Office would be necessary before such a determination could be made.

Following discussion, and review of the aforementioned agenda items, motion was made by Mr. Geraci, seconded by Ms. Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Leggett, Dickinson and Diamond absent*) to authorize Chairman Geraghty and Committee Chair Leggett to work with the County Attorney to draft a letter to NYSAC (*New York State Association of Counties*) and to the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks supporting the idea of County-wide EMS/Fire districting and seeking assistance in achieving legislation which would allow for same.

Concluding the agenda review, privilege of the Floor for public comment was extended:

Kelly Nestle, *Chair, Johnsbury EMS Board of Directors*, spoke about the Johnsbury EMS agency, which had become a tax district in 2008, but had not sought sufficient base funding to compete with surrounding agencies which had larger support, leading them to partner with the Town of Minerva EMS agency. She indicated they had excellent individuals working for them, but they did not have enough funding for salaries and benefits. She noted they had a few individuals from other agencies who traveled to work for the Johnsbury EMS agency.

As there was no further business to come before the EMS Committee, on motion made by Mr. Geraci, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Leggett, Dickinson and Diamond absent*), Mr. Merlino adjourned the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist