

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS & REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES

DATE: MARCH 22, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS MCDEVITT
DICKINSON (VIA ZOOM)
GERACI (VIA ZOOM)
BRAYMER
RUNYON (VIA ZOOM)
MAGOWAN

OTHERS PRESENT:

JIM LIEBERUM, WARREN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
DISTRICT MANAGER
ROB COLE, FORESTER, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION
TARA DONADIO, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY, CAPITAL
DISTRICT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

REPRESENTING THE REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR SEEBER

LEXIE DELUREY, DIRECTOR
KRISTEN MACÉWAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
RYAN DICKEY, SECOND ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS BRUNO
DIAMOND
LEGGETT
MERLINO
STROUGH
WILD

ETHAN GADDY, ASSISTANT COUNTY PLANNER
KEVIN HAJOS, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
ROBIN MAPP, AIRPORT MANAGER
SCOTT ROGERS, DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the March 22, 2022 meeting of the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services 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 were physically in attendance, aside from Supervisors Dickinson, Geraci and Runyon who attended virtually.

Mr. McDevitt called the meeting of the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee to order

at 9:04 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried by unanimous vote of those present (Ms. Seeber absent) to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the Environmental Concerns and Real Property Tax Services agendas were distributed to the Committee members; *copies of the agendas are on file with the meeting minutes.*

Commencing the Discussion Items portion of the Environmental Concerns agenda, Mr. McDevitt extended privilege of the floor to Rob Cole, *Forester, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*, who provided a presentation regarding the spongy moth (*formerly known as the gypsy moth*) infestation. His presentation included information on egg nests, outbreak lengths, treatments (*including both natural and pesticide applications*) and the affected species of trees.

Mr. Dickinson entered the meeting (remotely) at 9:16 a.m.

Jim Lieberum, *Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager*, explained moisture and fungus were two natural treatments that helped to reduce the spongy moth population. He indicated watering individual trees was very beneficial to aid in the health of the trees that had been infested. He explained trees with two years of defoliation as a result of the spongy moths could survive but trees with three years of defoliation had less chance of survival.

Mr. McDevitt then introduced Tara Donadio, *Assistant Director of Sustainability, Capital District Regional Planning Commission*, who provided a presentation regarding the New York State Energy Research & Development (*NYSERDA*) Clean Energy Communities Program. She offered her assistance to those communities not involved in the program. Ethan Gaddy, *Assistant County Planner*, informed Ms. Donadio had been instrumental in grant funding for the incorporation of the County's electric fleet vehicles along with the energy audit.

There being no further Environmental Concerns business to discuss, a review of the Real Property Tax Services agenda commenced with a request to authorize the conveyance of Town of Queensbury Tax Map Parcel No. 303.19-1-23 to the neighboring property owner in return for recording fees.

Discussion ensued, during which a motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. Magowan and carried by unanimous vote of those present (Ms. Seeber absent), to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 14th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to the Discussion Items portion of the agenda, Committee discussed Town of Queensbury Tax Map Parcel No. 303.8-1-15, Queensbury Avenue, which was deemed wetlands with little access which made the property impossible to build on without a variance issued by the Town of Queensbury. It was suggested that the parcel be included in the next foreclosure auction to determine whether there was public interest in acquiring the parcel; however upon further discussion it was the consensus of the Committee to direct the Real Property Tax Services Director to contact the Queensbury Land Conservancy to inquire whether they had any interest in the property.

There being no further Real Property Tax Services business to discuss, Mr. McDevitt extended the privilege of the floor to the public. Mr. Magowan requested an executive session to discuss a particular employee's job performance.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (Ms. Seeber absent) to enter into an executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee, pursuant to Section 105(1)(f) of the Public Officer's Law.

Executive session was held from 10:04 a.m until 10:12 a.m.

Mr. McDevitt announced no action had been taken during executive session.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (Ms. Seeber absent) to make a referral to the Personnel, Administration & Higher Education Committee requesting they consider increasing the Director of Real Property Tax Services salary to Grade 16, 25th year increment.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Ms. Braymer and carried by unanimous vote of those present (Ms. Seeber absent), Mr. McDevitt adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board