

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE, RULES & GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

DATE: MAY 17, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: STROUGH
DRISCOLL
CONOVER
FRASIER (ZOOM)
THOMAS
MCDEVITT
SEEBER

OTHERS PRESENT:

KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD (ZOOM)
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR (ZOOM)
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
LARRY ELMEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER (ZOOM)
GERACI (ZOOM)
HOGAN (ZOOM)
LEGGETT (ZOOM)
MERLINO
WILD (ZOOM)
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the May 17, 2022 meeting of the Legislative Rules & Governmental Operations 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 Frasier who participated virtually.

Mr. Strough called the meeting of the Legislative, Rules & Governmental Operations Committee to order at 10:01 a.m.

The agenda was 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. Driscoll and carried by majority vote, with Ms. Seeber abstaining, to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

The meeting commenced with the Discussion Items portion of the agenda review as follows:

- 1) Discussion regarding reimbursements to Supervisors for non-education related expenses. Discussion ensued, following which it was decided the Chair of the Committee would work with the County Administrator and the County Attorney to develop a list of official duties for Supervisors.
- 2) Request for the Committee to consider changes to the Open Meetings Law. The Committee provided their thoughts on remote attendance and discussion ensued, following which it was determined the County Attorney would draft suggested language including the ideas proposed for consideration at a future meeting.

Moving on, the Referral/Pending Items section of the agenda was reviewed, as follows:

- 1) Concerning Town of Johnsbury, Tax Map Parcel No. 133.8-1-27, Mosher’s Garage, it was advised that the Town of Sleepy Hollow, New York established a Local Law concerning the Environmental Protection & Abandoned Industrial

Property Recreation Law. It was consensus of the Committee to revise the pending item to remove any reference to Mosher's Garage, as this was applicable to any abandoned property which was contaminated. It was noted the County Attorney would return with an update at the next meeting.

- 2) For the County Administrator to circulate a draft Mission Statement to the Board of Supervisors for feedback before it was adopted. The original Mission Statement was read aloud along with the amended version; Committee requested that both versions of the Mission Statement be re-distributed to the full Board of Supervisors for review.
- 3) Creation of a separate position, whose sole duty would be to address FOIL (*Freedom of Information Law*) requests. It was decided more focused discussion was needed on the topic to come up with options such; as the creation of a Per-Diem position and under what office the position would be located; whether it was preferable to have Department Heads handle their own FOIL requests; or make improvements to the current process. It was noted that action would be needed to govern how Supervisors accessed records without submitting a FOIL request.

Mr. Thomas indicated at the May 5, 2022 Budget Committee meeting a referral was made to this Committee regarding action recommending the State reinstate the 50% funding for CPL 730 expenses, or possibly even reinstating and increasing the funding to 75%.

Mr. Driscoll exited the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

A discussion ensued following which a motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Mr. Driscoll absent*) to authorize the Chairman of the Committee to send a letter to New York State requesting that they reinstate funding for CPL 730 at a 75% reimbursement rate which was an increase over the previous reimbursement rate of 50%.

It was mentioned that there were resolutions adopted by Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, Clinton County and Essex County, in opposition of Senate Bill No. 1145, *Conservation Subdivision Design*, due to the regulations it would place on private property. Mr. Thomas noted he would distribute the resolutions to the Committee for review and the matter would be discussed further at the next meeting

Privilege of the Floor/Public Comment was called for.

Ms. Braymer requested that the Committee consider recognizing Juneteenth (June 19th) as a County holiday at their next meeting due to its significance in American History. She noted she had a draft resolution she believed they could adjust to make it more applicable to Warren County. Mr. Strough asked if Ms. Braymer was only seeking County recognition of Juneteenth or to make it an official paid County holiday and Ms. Braymer responded she would prefer for it to be an official paid County holiday, but she would be pleased if the Committee discussed either of these options. Mr. Strough noted this would be placed on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

As there was no further business to come before the Legislative, Rules & Governmental Operations Committee, on motion made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried by a unanimously vote of those present (*Mr. Driscoll absent*), Mr. Strough adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist