

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: EMS (EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES)

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: RUNYON
GERACI
LEGGETT
MERLINO
STROUGH

OTHERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
ANN MARIE MASON, DIRECTOR
ASHLEY RIVERS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOHN TAFLAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
LARRY ELMEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISOR BRUNO
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
REPRESENTING QUEENSBURY EMS
CARLINE KELLY-BARNES, PRESIDENT
SHANE IRWIN, CHIEF OF OPERATIONS
ROBERT TERWILLIGER, FIRST ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS: DIAMOND
CONOVER

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the September 20, 2023 meeting of the County Facilities Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following links:

Warren County website - <https://warrencountyny.gov/mma>

Warren County's YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tT4La5hPFmA>

Ms. Runyon called the meeting of the EMS Committee to order at 12:58 p.m.

Copies of the meeting agendas were distributed; copies of the agenda are on file with the meeting minutes.

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

The agenda commenced with the Discussion Items section of the agenda was reviewed with the following items being addressed:

1. EMS needs in Warren County. It was mentioned the three main topics on the matter were direct pay to the individual EMS organization that were out-of-network, insurance company could give payment directly to the EMS unit that responded and to provide EMS services with a broader support for the public with basic services that could be provided that are currently prohibited. It was noted the County could form a district, but how would they charge for equipment and supplies and the reply was the County could set a fee schedule and special taxing, adding the County would need State legislation to move forward. It was voiced that the County could contract with the towns for EMS services, but they would have to be part of the fire company in order for County to contract with them as an essential service, with an issue being training individuals in outer areas of the County.

Carline Kelly-Barnes, *President, Queensbury EMS*, indicated legislators thought EMS & Fire were one in the same and could not be separate, adding the costs of medicine, training and retaining members continued to increase, and they were trying to make a training center to streamline and keep costs down.

Ashley Rivers, *Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Services*, indicated she had reached out to Albany and Essex Counties for information, as they had County-wide EMS services. She indicated they were up against the

tax cap, wages, man power and cost of medications, advising there were staffing issue with paramedics and increased revenue was one of the biggest issues they had.

It was commented that EMT classes were expensive and paid for by individuals themself and every three years a new training book had to be purchased. It was mentioned fly cars would be a great asset for the County and service were currently secure, but there would not be enough staff to provide a County-wide system.

It was suggested to bring in experts in the field to get recommendations on how to reduce costs and improve efficiencies for development to assess the situation; an RFP (*Request for Proposal*) would need to be released for these service.

Motion was made by Mr. Strough, seconded by Mr. Geraci and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Diamond and Conover absent*) authorize the County Administrator to proceed in writing an RFP for an expert to provide recommendations for County-wide EMS services.

As there was no further business to come before the EMS Committee, on motion made by Mr. Geraci, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Messrs. Diamond and Conover absent*), Ms. Runyon adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist