

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE, RULES & GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS STROUGH
CONOVER
WILD
DRISCOLL
MADAY
GERACI
THOMAS

OTHERS PRESENT:

JASON CARUSONE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TERRY COMEAU, UNDERSHERIFF
REPRESENTING THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE:
CARRIE BLACK, COUNTY CLERK
LINDA MORGAN, DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK
JULIE BUTLER, PURCHASING AGENT
JESSICA BURNHAM, SELF-INSURANCE ADMINISTRATOR
REPRESENTING ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER INSURANCE COMPANY:
SULIM BARTOK, PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE BROKER
COLIN DAVIS, PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE BROKER
KEVIN B. GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOHN TAFLAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
LARRY ELMEN, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISORS CROCITTO
ETU
PATCHETT
STRAINER
TURNER
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CHRISTINE NORTON, COUNTY TREASURER
MARILYN RIVERS, PROPERTY AND CASUALTY RISK MANAGER
TINA DEMARSH, WIND OF CHANGE
MARY KANE, LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER
LESLIE LOVELACE, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the December 5, 2025 meeting of the Legislative, Rules & Governmental Operations Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed using the following links:

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

Warren County's YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndQT2xbEjQQ>

Mr. Strough called the meeting of the Legislative, Rules & Governmental Operations Committee to order at 9:01 a.m.

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

Copies of the Legislative; County Clerk/DMV; Purchasing; and Self-Insurance agendas were distributed; copies of the agendas are on file with the meeting minutes.

Privilege of the floor was called for, but there was no one wishing to speak.

The Committee began with a review of the Referrals/Pending Items section of the Legislative agenda, with the following items addressed:

- 1) The County Attorney informed there was an existing State Law Prohibiting the sale of nitrous oxide

for recreational purposes under Public Health Law Section 3380(5) which included penalties. It was also noted the punishment for use was prevented due to the inability of laboratories to test for nitrous oxide. The consensus of the Committee was for the Sheriff and District Attorney to either attend the next Committee meeting to speak on the difficulties of imposing the existing law and data on the topic or provide a written summary on same. Jason Carusone, *District Attorney*, spoke with regard to an increase in nitrous oxide overdoses, death cases and serious crimes related to nitrous oxide. He indicated the matter was a legitimate concern and he stated he appreciated the Sheriff's Office, County Attorney and the Committee for addressing the issue. Terry Comeau, *Undersheriff*, spoke with regard to a nitrous oxide operation the Warren County Sheriff Narcotics Enforcement Unit performed in October along with two State agencies as well as with the Department of Health and the Bureau of Cannabis Management which resulted in arrests and locking the doors of three businesses. He informed the Sheriff's Office would continue their efforts.

Mr. Geraci entered the meeting at 9:03 a.m. during the discussion on Referral/Pending Item 1.

Privilege of the floor was extended to the following individuals:

Mary Kane, a *Licensed Clinical Social Worker*, spoke with regard to enabling individuals with mental health issues and traumatic brain injuries which was creating more problems as a society and the cost attached to it. She spoke about marijuana being a gateway drug and the effects it caused. She suggested the promotion of resources and education, especially in schools as the youth were the future.

Tina DeMarsh, *representing Wind of Change*, informed her daughter suffered from addiction which resulted in death in October of last year. She stated other substances being used needed to be addressed and agreed education in schools was necessary. She said she appreciated the efforts being made but was requesting direction to change the laws.

Mr. Wild inquired if the Sheriff's Department had seen a spike or a gradual rise with Cannabis or nitrous oxide use. The Undersheriff replied the issue gained attention from a mothers advocacy efforts as a result of his death and he said nitrous oxide was available in most stores, not just smoke shops but he had not seen an increase in use.

The County Attorney extended his appreciation to Ashley Spaulding, *Director of Community Outreach, Baywood Center*, for providing him with information on other substances that were being used after last month's meeting and he said his Office was continuing to research the matter and would provide an update in January.

Mr. Thomas inquired if education on the topic was taking place in schools. Ms. DeMarsh replied that she and Ms. Spaulding had contacted area schools inquiring about the education being provided and she reported Glens Falls City School District had just signed an agreement with Baywood Center for a two year program, noting it was the only school to her knowledge that was providing education.

Ms. Kane apprised she could not comment on Warren County school programs as she was from Westchester County which had Student Assistance Services at both the middle and high school level in most school districts where she was a Substance Abuse Counselor. She expressed her support for the same program in Warren County schools.

Mr. Strough commented the schools should be educating about the effects from toxic substances and he indicated he would be in the Queensbury School later speaking about affordable housing and would inquire if the school was educating about substances and ask if there was more they were able to do.

Mr. Driscoll suggested building a coalition with all of Upstate New York due to the strength in numbers and the substances being sold in those counties as well.

Mr. Maday asked the Undersheriff if the SADD (*Students Against Destructive Decisions*) program or one similar still existed. The Undersheriff replied the D.A.R.E (*Drug Abuse Resistance Education*) program no longer existed and there was no official school program to his knowledge.

Mr. Wild suggested obtaining data on substance use related deaths, violence, and driving prior to contacting New York State about changes to legislation.

Ms. DeMarsh remarked she had contacted Tim Murphy, *Warren County Coroner*, requesting data and he referred her to the New York State Health Department whom she contacted by email and had not received a response from. She stated she had asked Mr. Murphy if he had seen an increase in deaths related to gas station drugs and he replied affirmatively. She suggested the Committee contact the Warren County Coroners or the New York State Department of Health for the data as they may be more successful.

Mr. Strough stated discussion on the topic would continue next month.

- 2) With regard to sex offenders not being required to register for short-term rentals, the County Administrator will research if other Counties in New York had adopted a resolution encouraging the State Legislature to change State law under the Corrections Laws regarding registration and notification of sex offenders. The County Administrator informed NYSAC's (*New York State Association of Counties*) Resolution A.3179 was still in Committee as it had not made it through legislation during the last session and NYSAC was encouraging movement by the Senate. He apprised Counties and Towns had passed different resolutions over the years but none specifically focused on sex offender short-term rental registration. The County Attorney indicated his legal opinion for both the nitrous oxide and sex offender registry cases due to the many exceptions the State Law created which made prosecuting criminals difficult under the law, was to encourage the State to look at the issues and take clarifying action. Discussion would continue next month as well as to follow the progression of the NYSAC resolution.

Privilege of the floor and public comments were called for, but there was no one wishing to speak.

There being no further Legislative business to discuss, Committee commenced with a review of the Action Agenda/New Business Items portion of the County Clerk/DMV, which included a request to authorize an increase in the mortgage tax expense retention to \$276,758. (*Previous Resolution No. 357 of 2024*)

Mr. Wild exited the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Driscoll and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the request as presented.

Mr. Wild re-entered the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Following discussion, Mr. Strough called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 19th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

There being no further County Clerk/DMV business to discuss, Committee commenced with a review of the Action Agenda/New Business Items portion of the Purchasing agenda, which included a request to approve and adopt revisions to the Warren County Purchasing Policy. (*Previous Resolution Nos. 410 of 2024 and 382 of 2025*)

Motion was made by Mr. Conover and seconded by Mr. Geraci to approve the request as presented. The County Attorney apprised the Purchasing Agent had been a tremendous asset and partner with his Office throughout the year standardizing contract forms and terms which had drastically reduced negotiations with vendors. Mr. Strough called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 19th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

There being no further Purchasing business to discuss, Committee commenced with a review of the Action Agenda/New Business Items section of the Self-Insurance agenda, which included a request to authorize renewal of the 2026 Property & Casualty Insurance. *(Previous Resolution No. 467 of 2024)*

A virtual presentation was made by Sulim Bartok and Colin Davis, *representing Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Company*, and answered questions posed by the Committee.

The County Attorney commended Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance Company, the Self-Insurance Administrator, the Deputy Self-Insurance Administrator, as well as the Risk and Safety Committee members for their efforts to help the County achieve the best in class rate. He recognized Marilyn Rivers, *Property and Casualty Risk Manager*, for her incredible work and dedication creating new policies and updating policies to reflect best practices which led to the best in class rate for the County's liability insurance.

Motion was made by Mr. Wild, seconded by Mr. Geraci and carried unanimously to approve the request as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the December 19th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Privilege of the floor and public comments were called for, but there was no one wishing to speak.

There being no further business to come before the Legislative, Rules & Governmental Operations Committee, on motion made by Mr. Maday, seconded by Mr. Wild and carried unanimously, Mr. Strough adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Legislative Office Specialist