

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026



Please note that the following is a summarization of the Board Meeting; the meeting, in its entirety, can be viewed using the following links on the Warren County website:

<https://warrencountyny.gov/mma>

Warren County's YouTube Channel -

Part 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urSghqQQEM0>

Part 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\Y5VGh7k3qFI>

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York; meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Kevin B. Geraghty presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Driscoll.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Conover, Maday, Diamond, Gilligan, Turner, Bruno, Driscoll, Patchett, Crocitto, Niles, Strough, Wild, Etu, Strainer, Beaty, Runyon and Geraghty-17 Absent - 3. - Supervisors Butler, Smith and O'Neill

Motion was made by Supervisor Gilligan, seconded by Supervisor Turner and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler, Smith and O'Neill absent*) to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2025 Board Meeting, and the January 6, 2026 Organization Board Meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty offered privilege of the floor to John Bowe, *Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Warren County*, who recognized Brandan Kelly, *Warrensburg Central School District Student*, on achieving certification as the first graduate of the My Preparedness Initiative Program from Warren County and New York State.

Continuing with the agenda review, Chairman Geraghty offered privilege of the floor to James LaFarr, *Sheriff*, who proceeded to provide an update on the phishing investigation. Sheriff LaFarr requested that public comments and sharing of information regarding the investigation cease being done until the investigation was completed, as this was potentially harmful to their process. He asked going forward that all communication regarding this matter be made directly to him and not his investigators. He proceeded to provide an overview of the investigation that was being conducted by his Office, noting \$1.2 million of the funding had been recovered and a portion of the remaining \$2.1 million has been identified and frozen, noting he was optimistic these funds would be returned to the County. He added his Office was also working tirelessly with its Federal partners to identify assets to seize if they were unable to recover all of the funding. With regard to the criminal component of the case, Sheriff LaFarr stated his Office was working closely with the New York State Police, the Federal Secret Service and the FBI (*Federal Bureau of Investigation*) to find whomever was responsible so they could be held accountable.

During the update by the Sheriff update regarding the phishing investigation, Supervisor O'Neill entered the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Chairman Geraghty called for privilege of the floor/public comment which was limited to three minutes per speaker:

Christine Norton, *County Treasurer*, spoke regarding her own recollection of the phishing scheme, noting she did not believe the Sheriff's investigation was unbiased. She added she believed the investigation by the State Comptrollers Office would be more impartial and she asked that judgement be withheld until the conclusion of that investigation.

Next, Chairman Geraghty declared the Public Hearing open on proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2026 entitled "*A Local Law Superceding the Residency Requirements of Public Officers Law for the Positions of Assistant District Attorneys, Assistant Public Defenders and and Assistant County Attorneys of Warren County*", open at 10:22 a.m. and requested the Clerk of the Board read aloud the Notice of Public Hearing. Chair called for public comment:

Larry Elmen, *County Attorney*, advised the purpose of this was to align Warren County with its neighboring Counties, specifically Washington, Essex and Saratoga, and allow attorneys that resided within these Counties to be recruited and hired for open positions within the County Attorney, District Attorney and Public Defenders Offices. Attorney Elmen noted the following positions were still required to reside within Warren County: County Attorney; First Assistant County Attorney; District Attorney; First Assistant District Attorney; Public Defender; and First Assistant Public Defender.

Supervisor Bruno questioned what the rationale was for adopting this Local Law and Chairman Geraghty replied the purpose was to provide a better pool of qualified candidates when attorney positions were vacant within the County Attorney, District Attorney and Public Defenders Offices. Attorney Elmen added there had been difficulty recruiting qualified attorneys in all three of their offices and the proposed Local Law would provide flexibility to recruit qualified candidates who resided in the neighboring Counties.

Supervisor Beaty asked whether all Counties within the State were adopting similar Local Laws and Attorney Elmen replied in the negative, indicating Washington, Essex and Saratoga Counties had already obtained this authority from the State Legislature; however, he stated, Warren County had not which had placed them in a disadvantaged standpoint. A brief discussion ensued.

Chairman Geraghty once again called for public comment on proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2026 entitled *A Local Law Superceding the Residency Requirements of Public Officers Law for the Positions of Assistant District Attorneys, Assistant Public Defenders and and Assistant County Attorneys of Warren County*"; there being no response he closed the public hearing at 10:26 a.m.

Proceeding with the Agenda review, Chairman Geraghty declared Public Hearing open on proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2026 entitled "*A Local Law Further Amending Local Law No. 8 of 1996 Relative to the Delinquent Tax Installment Payment Plan*", open at 10:27 a.m. and requested the Clerk of the Board read aloud the Notice of Public Hearing. Chair called for public comment:

Upon the request of Supervisor Strainer, Attorney Elmen provided a brief overview of the purpose of proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2026 which was to better align the County's foreclosure process with the State wherein property owners could enter into installment agreements following one year of delinquency rather than having to wait until the County commenced the foreclosure action against them. He added the hope was to make the payment plans more affordable for property owners resulting in a decrease in the number of properties being

foreclosed upon.

Supervisor Driscoll voiced his support of proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2026.

Supervisor Diamond questioned whether proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2026 was applicable to the City of Glens Falls and Attorney Elmen replied in the negative, indicating the City of Glens Falls was a separate tax enforcement office which oversaw the collection of City taxes.

Supervisor Patchett inquired whether the proposed Local Law changed how many years past due property owners could be before the foreclosure action commenced against them and Attorney Elmen replied in the negative.

Chairman Geraghty once again called for public comment on proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2026 entitled "*A Local Law Further Amending Local Law No. 8 of 1996 Relative to the Delinquent Tax Installment Payment Plan*"; there being no response he closed the public hearing at 10:37 a.m.

Report by the Committee Chairs (including the Chairman of the Board's Report), were given.

Report by the County Administrator was given.

Report by the County Attorney was given during which Attorney Elmen noted he would be requesting the Board consider entering into an executive session for the purpose of addressing the potential waiver of attorney/client privilege for a certain matter and to address potential claims at the appropriate time.

Reading of communications by Clerk of the Board was provided, as follows:

Reports from:

1. County Auditor - Report of Real Property Tax Corrections - November 2025;
2. County Auditor - Report of Real Property Tax Corrections - December 2025.

Letters/emails from:

1. NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation - Chestertown Historic District Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation;
2. Larry Elmen, County Attorney - Assistant County Attorney Order of Succession;
3. Kevin B. Geraghty, Chairman of the Board - Warren County Request for Financial Audit and Performance Audit.

Reading of resolutions by the Clerk of the Board was announced as follows:

Resolution Nos.19-34, as well as Floor Resolution Nos. 1-10 were distributed to the Board and posted to the Warren County website on Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup>, along with four Proclamations and three Certificates of Appointment, adding this distribution met the deadline specified in the Rules of the Board. Floor Resolution Nos. 11-14 were posted to the website and distributed to the Board on Wednesday January 14<sup>th</sup>. The four Proclamations were:

- Proclamation No. 1 - Blood Donor Month
- Proclamation No. 2 - Human Trafficking Month
- Proclamation No. 3 - Mental Welness Month
- Proclamation No. 4 - Radon Action Month

Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, indicated motions were needed to bring the floor resolutions 1-14 to the floor.

Motion was made by Supervisor Runyon, seconded by Supervisor Strough and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 1 entitled "*Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement that all Resolutions be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Amending Warren County Budget for 2026 for the Workforce Development Agency*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen announced proposed Floor Resolution No. 1 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 35.

Motion was made by Supervisor Gilligan, seconded by Supervisor Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 2 entitled "*Amending Warren County Budget for 2026 for the Workforce Development Agency*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen stated proposed Floor Resolution No. 2 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 36.

Motion was made by Supervisor Turner, seconded by Supervisor Crocitto and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 3 entitled "*Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement that all Resolutions be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Amending Resolution No. 553 of 2025, Acknowledging Request from the City of Glens Falls for Levy of 2025 Water Rents, to Correct the Levy Amount*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen indicated proposed Floor Resolution No. 3 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 37.

Motion was made by Supervisor Strainer, seconded by Supervisor Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 4 entitled "*Amending Resolution No. 553 of 2025, Acknowledging Request from the City of Glens Falls for Levy of 2025 Water Rents, to Correct the Levy Amount*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen apprised proposed Floor Resolution No. 4 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 38.

Motion was made by Supervisor Patchett, seconded by Supervisor O'Neill and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 5 entitled "*Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement that all Resolutions be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Authoring Appropriations from Budget Code A.863.00, Reserve, Insurance, to Fund Property and Casualty Self-insured Deductible Lines for the Department of Public Works; Warren County Sheriff; Department of Social Services; and Warren County Health Services; and Amending Warren County Budget for 2026*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen announced proposed Floor Resolution No. 5 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 39.

Motion was made by Supervisor Runyon, seconded by Supervisor Etu and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 6 entitled "*Authoring Appropriations from Budget Code A.863.00, Reserve, Insurance, to Fund Property and Casualty Self-insured Deductible Lines for the Department of Public Works; Warren County Sheriff; Department of Social Services; and Warren County Health Services; and Amending Warren County Budget for 2026*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen advised proposed Floor Resolution No. 6 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 40.

Motion was made by Supervisor Wild, seconded by Supervisor Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 7 entitled "*Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement that all Resolutions be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a*

*Resolution Authorizing Use of the Warren County Risk and Safety Manual*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen stated proposed Floor Resolution No. 7 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 41.

Motion was made by Supervisor Gilligan, seconded by Supervisor O'Neill and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 8 entitled "*Authorizing Use of the Warren County Risk and Safety Manual*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen apprised proposed Floor Resolution No. 8 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 42.

Motion was made by Supervisor Runyon, seconded by Supervisor Turner and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 9 entitled "*Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement that all Resolutions be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Authorizing Submission of an Application to the New York State Department of State for Local Government Efficiency Planning Grant Funding Related to Emergency Medical Services*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen indicated proposed Floor Resolution No. 9 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 43.

Motion was made by Supervisor O'Neill, seconded by Supervisor Niles and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 10 entitled "*Authorizing Submission of an Application to the New York State Department of State for Local Government Efficiency Planning Grant Funding Related to Emergency Medical Services*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen advised proposed Floor Resolution No. 10 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 44.

Motion was made by Supervisor Runyon, seconded by Supervisor O'Neill and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 11 entitled "*Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement that all Resolutions be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Authorizing the Warren County Risk and Safety Committee to Prepare and Submit Policies and Procedures Governing All Transfers and Disbursements of Funds by Electronic or Wire Transfer*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen apprised proposed Floor Resolution No. 11 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 45.

Motion was made by Supervisor Wild, seconded by Supervisor Patchett and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 12 entitled "*Authorizing the Warren County Risk and Safety Committee to Prepare and Submit Policies and Procedures Governing All Transfers and Disbursements of Funds by Electronic or Wire Transfer*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen announced proposed Floor Resolution No. 12 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 46.

Motion was made by Supervisor Turner, seconded by Supervisor Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 13 entitled "*Waiving the Standing Rule of the Board Relating to the Requirement that all Resolutions be Approved Through the Established Committee Structure in Advance of a Board Meeting in Order to Entertain a Resolution Authorizing the Warren County Risk and Safety Committee to Prepare and Submit Policies and Procedures Governing All Transfers and Disbursements of Funds by Electronic or Wire Transfer*", to the floor. Mrs. Allen apprised proposed Floor Resolution No. 13 would now be known as proposed Resolution No. 47.

Motion was made by Supervisor Etu, seconded by Supervisor Bruno and carried by a unanimous vote

of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to bring proposed Floor Resolution No. 14 entitled “*Authorizing the Warren County Risk and Safety Committee to Prepare and Submit Policies and Procedures Governing All Transfers and Disbursements of Funds by Electronic or Wire Transfer*”, to the floor. Mrs. Allen announced proposed Floor Resolution No. 14 would now be referred to as proposed Resolution No. 48.

Mrs. Allen noted proposed Resolution Nos. 36, *Amending Warren County Budget for 2026 for the Workforce Development Agency*, and 40, *Authoring Appropriations from Budget Code A.863.00, Reserve, Insurance, to Fund Property and Casualty Self-insured Deductible Lines for the Department of Public Works; Warren County Sheriff; Department of Social Services; and Warren County Health Services; and Amending Warren County Budget for 2026*”, would require roll call votes. She added Certificate of Appointment No. 3 which appointed members to the Warren County Youth Board was an appointment authorized by the Chair of the Board and did not require Board approval. She stated a change was being made to appoint Supervisor Gilligan in place of Supervisor Strainer as a member of the Warren County Youth Board.

Discussion and public comment on proposed resolutions was called for:

Supervisor Beaty requested a roll call vote on proposed Resolution No. 33, *Enacting Local Law No. 2 of 2026, Entitled “A Local Law Superseding the Residency Requirements of Public Officers Law for the Positions of Assistant District Attorneys, Assistant Public Defenders and Assistant County Attorneys of Warren County”*, noting he would be voting in opposition, as he believed the attorney’s representing the County should be required to be residents.

Supervisor Niles questioned whether any preference was provided to attorney candidates who resided within Warren County and Attorney Elmen replied he could not answer the question, as the Third Assistant County Attorney position in his Office had been vacant since February of last year due to the lack of qualified attorney’s applying for the position.

The County Administrator advised proposed Resolution No. 33, *Enacting Local Law No. 2 of 2026, Entitled “A Local Law Superseding the Residency Requirements of Public Officers Law for the Positions of Assistant District Attorneys, Assistant Public Defenders and Assistant County Attorneys of Warren County”*, was before them today upon the request of the District Attorney, who had also expressed difficulties filling vacant Assistant District Attorney positions. He noted any vacant attorney positions would be filled with the most qualified candidate regardless of where they resided if the proposed Resolution was adopted.

Supervisor Etu questioned which assistant attorney positions would still be required to reside within Warren County following the adoption of proposed Resolution No. 33 and Attorney Elmen replied the First Assistants’s within the County Attorney’s, District Attorney and Public Defenders Offices were all required to be Warren County residents upon their hiring. A brief discussion ensued.

Voting on resolutions occurred; Resolution Nos. 19-48 of 2026 were approved as presented.

Attorney Elmen requested the Board consider a motion to enter into an executive session for the purpose of addressing the potential waiver of attorney/client privilege as to a certain matter and to address claims which fell under the following Sections of the Public Officers Law: Sections 105(1)(d) to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation; Section 105(1)(f) to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, demotion, promotion discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation; and Section 108(3) regarding any matter made confidential by Federal or State law.

The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Bruno, seconded by Supervisor Runyon and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to enter into an executive session subject to Public Officers Law Sections 105(1)(d); 105(1)(f); and 108(3) for the purposes outlined above.

Executive session was held from 11:09 a.m. until 12:16 p.m.

Upon reconvening, Chairman Geraghty announced no action was taken during the executive session.

Chairman Geraghty called for a motion to waive the Standing Rule of the Board relating to the requirement that all resolutions be approved through the established Committee structure in advance of a Board Meeting in order to entertain a resolution authorizing limited waiver of attorney-client privilege and attorney work product concerning October 23, 2025 working Sub-Group Meeting of the Risk and Safety Committee regarding the County's Wire Transfers and E-Banking Policy and Subsequent emails. The necessary motion was made by Supervisor Bruno, seconded by Supervisor Turner and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to waive the Rules of the Board for the purposes outlined above. (Resolution No. 49 of 2026).

Motion was made by Supervisor Bruno, seconded by Supervisor Gilligan and carried by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*) to authorize Limited Waiver of Attorney-Client Privilege and Attorney Work Product Concerning October 23, 2025 Working Sub-Group Meeting of the Risk and Safety Committee Regarding the County's Wire Transfers and E-Banking Policy and Subsequent Emails. (Resolution No. 50 of 2026).

Chairman Geraghty inquired whether anyone would like to request a roll call vote on proposed Resolution Nos. 49 or 50, but no one responded. Chairman Geraghty called for a collective vote on proposed Resolution Nos. 49 and 50 following which both Resolutions were adopted by a unanimous vote of those present (*Supervisors Butler and Smith absent*).

Announcements were called for:

Ms. Norton voiced her disappointment with the information being relayed to the Supervisors and public regarding the phishing investigation which she believed was one-sided, stating she believed it was her right to convey the facts. She proceeded to provide a brief overview of her accounting of the letters and emails that were distributed by Peckham Road Corporation warning of the potential for fraud, noting had her Office been made aware the phishing incident never would have occurred. She requested that they withhold from passing judgement until the matter was fully investigated by the New York State Comptroller's Office. In regard to County policies, Ms. Norton stated the County had a number of informal policies and past practices she was working on to documenting along with her goals for her Office this year.

Supervisor Strainer announced there was an Adirondack Thunder hockey game being held at the Harding Mazzotti arena in the City of Glens Falls this evening and he encouraged all to attend.

Supervisor Runyon noted the County Information Technology Department required all individuals with County email to take cyber security training which included education regarding phishing scams and she requested that they consider offering this to local municipality employees, as well.

Supervisor Driscoll advised the local chapter of the NAACP (*National Association for Advancement of Colored People*) would be holding their annual march from Glens Falls City Hall to Christ Church United Methodist Church on Bay Street where there would be a program celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's. life and legacy on Sunday January 19, 2026 and he encouraged all to attend. He

stated on Monday January 20, 2026 the LAAF (*Lower Adirondack Alliance for Freedom*) would be holding an event at the Aviation Mall to raise awareness regarding Human Trafficking and he invited all to attend. In conclusion he apprised the County would be hosting a blood drive in the conference room of the Human Services Building, but he was unsure of the exact date and time and he encouraged anyone interested in donating to contact Dan Durkee, *Public Health Program Administrator & Emergency Preparedness Coordinator*.

Supervisor Patchett thanked the Planning & Community Development Department and more specifically Ethan Gaddy, *County Planner*, and Sara Frankenfeld, *GIS Administrator*, for the assistance they had provided to the Town of Hague in securing grant funding.

Chairman Geraghty spoke regarding the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks and apprised any Board member interested in being appointed should contact Mrs. Allen.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisor, on motion made by Supervisor Strough, Chairman Geraghty declared the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.