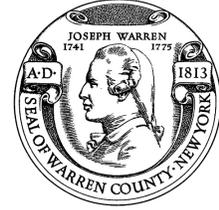


Warren County Board of Supervisors

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Ronald F. Conover, Chairman

Amanda Allen, Clerk of the Board

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WARREN COUNTY:

You are hereby notified that I, RONALD F. CONOVER, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, pursuant to the power vested in me by Rule A.3 of the Rules of the Board of Supervisors, hereby call and convene a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County to be held in the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Town of Queensbury, New York, on **SEPTEMBER 19, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M.**, for the purpose of:

1. Holding a public hearing regarding proposed Warren County Local Law No. 4 of 2018, entitled "A Local Law Promoting the Use of Re-usable Bags and Reducing Use of Single-use Carry-out Bags by Prohibiting the Distribution of Plastic Bags in Warren County"; and
2. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the Board of Supervisors.

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby directed to call for the meeting and give written notice to all members of the Board of Supervisors of such meeting.

Dated: August 21, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald F. Conover".

RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN
Warren County Board of Supervisors

To the Members of the Board of Supervisors: At the direction of the Chairman of the Board, I am notifying you of the Special Meeting called for the time, place and purposes set forth above.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Allen".

AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK
Warren County Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York, at 6:00 p.m.

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

Mr. Ronald F. Conover presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Leggett.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Leggett, McDevitt, Braymer, Driscoll, Frasier, Simpson, Hogan, Dickinson, Merlino, Strough, Wild, Beaty, Magowan, Sokol, Thomas, Hyde, Geraghty and Conover- 18 ;Supervisors Diamond and Loeb absent- 2

Commencing the Agenda review, Chairman Conover declared the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2018 Entitled "*A Local Law Promoting the Use of Re-Usable Bags and Reducing Use of Single-Use Carry-Out Bags by Prohibiting the Distribution of Plastic Bags in Warren County*" open at 6:01 p.m. and he requested the Clerk of the Board read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud. Following the reading of the Notice of Public Hearing by Amanda Allen, *Clerk of the Board*, Chairman Conover offered privilege of the floor to any member of the public wishing to speak on the proposed Local Law No. 4, noting the comments should be limited to five minutes.

Supervisor Driscoll informed he had been asked by some of his constituents who enjoyed watching the Board Meetings on television to request that the Supervisors, as well as the general public who were addressing the Board at the podium, to speak clearly into the microphones.

Edward Arfulo, *Town of Warrensburg Resident*, stated he would like to examine Local Law No. 4 in more detail to determine the cost and inconvenience this would impose on the County residents. He apprised first and foremost plastic shopping bags ended up in the solid waste stream in Warren County which was transported to the burn plant. He said this meant adopting this law would not prevent plastic shopping bags from filling up the landfills in the County, as these had been closed for several years now. He mentioned he had personally never seen plastic shopping bags washing up on the shores of Lake George, floating down the Hudson River or hanging from the trees as he commuted on the Adirondack Northway. He informed the burn plant had an exhaust scrubber that was regularly inspected and approved by the NYSDEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*) which removed heavy metals from the exhaust gases produced in the burning of trash; therefore, he advised, heavy metals caused by the incineration of plastic bags were not being released into the atmosphere. In light of this information, Mr. Arfulo questioned what environmental issue they were trying to solve here, as he believed this law was a solution that was looking for a problem. He stated aside from the inconvenience that would be forced upon Warren County residents, and contrary to the editorial featured in *The Post Star* on the matter it was not just a slight inconvenience, but rather a major one. He suggested that they picture an elderly person who needed to use a cane attempting to carry their groceries in one hand while trying to sustain themselves with their cane in the other or someone residing in a third-floor apartment on the of a building with no elevator who had to make multiple trips because they could only carry two paper bags at a time instead of multiple plastic bags. He added there was a cost that would be born which had not been recognized or reported on pertaining to the weight of a plastic bag compared to a paper bag. He explained two thousand plastic shopping bags weighed a total of thirty pounds or .015 pounds per bag. In contrast, he stated the total weight of two thousand paper shopping bags was two hundred eight pounds or .14 pounds per bag. He pointed out based upon industry data the average family in the United States used 1,500 plastic shopping bags a year; he said according to the 2016 United States Census there were 26,944 households in Warren County which meant here in this County 40,416,000 plastic shopping bags were used in one year. He remarked due to the significance of that figure he would not be present today if all of those bags ended up in a landfill. He advised this did not factor in the increase in population from tourists which the County's economy was so heavily dependent on or the increase when the seasonal residents arrived. He said if they switched to paper bags which may be able to hold twice as many products as a plastic

bag and he was being generous with this assumption, it would result in an annual consumption of 20,208,000 paper bags. He continued, if a 20% recycling rate was assumed than the total number of paper bags entering the solid waste stream here would be 16,166,000. He said they could further assume that 100% of the plastic shopping bags were in the solid waste stream than the total weight entering the solid waste stream would be 600,242 pounds or about 303 tons as compared to the 1,132 tons that the paper bags weighed. He advised in order to fix an environmental issue that did not exist in this County the volume and weight of the solid waste stream would be expanded by 829 tons per year. He informed if the County moved forward with this ban the cost to burn the County's trash at the burn plant would increase by \$46,424 for the purpose of solving a problem that did not exist here. He said although this increase was trivial when considering the grand scheme of the County budget, he felt this was money that was being wasted to solve an issue that was irrelevant. In conclusion, Mr. Arfulo apprised although plastic bags were in fact an issue for New York State, the Country and the entire World, they were not an issue for this County because the matter had been addressed when the burn plant was erected. He remarked the residents elected the Supervisors to solve issues within the County and not those of the State or anywhere else.

Diane Collins, 5th Ward Resident, City of Glens Falls, read aloud a prepared statement in support of a ban on the use of single use thin film plastic bags, a copy of which is on file with the September 19th Board Meeting minutes.

Donna Trottier, Town of Queensbury Resident, advised she had recently sent a letter to each of the Board members expressing her opposition to the proposed Local Law banning plastic bags and she had received responses from a few of the Supervisors, which she was grateful for. She said because they were aware of her reasons for her opposition she would only bring forward the highlights here. She mentioned one of her concerns pertained to the fact that it was unclear whether there was an actual issue with plastic bag littering since no studies had been conducted on a local level to determine its extent or at least none were cited in the legislative intent thereby rendering this law premature at best. She advised it could be determined the County had a better than average amount of plastic bag waste, but this would not be made known until it was quantified or a field study was conducted. She pointed out exceptions were being made under the proposal; however, she noted, without a study it was unclear why these exceptions were being made. She informed the economic impact and unintended consequences associated with the proposed local law which needed to be considered pertained to the "hidden tax" that forced consumers to bring their own bags to the store or purchase reusable ones and how this would result in significant impacts to those in the lower income tax bracket. She continued, some residents had indicated they would shop in the surrounding Counties that had no such law in place in order to avoid the additional cost and inconvenience of a bring your own bag policy. She mentioned they did not need to take her word for this and they could reference the comment section of *The Post Star* article dated July 24th for additional details. She questioned whether the Board expected tourists coming to the area on vacation to think of bringing their own bags when they shopped at the Outlet Stores here, as she did not think this was practical and could result in a negative impact on sales for the local businesses. She remarked it was the responsibility of the Board to support the County taxpayers by trying to keep their expenses down and supporting local businesses instead of taking sales away from them through an ineffective law. She stated the most important thing to note was that this law was an unnecessary intrusion on freedom of choice and negated personal responsibility. She suggested they let consumers make their own choice about how they wanted to transport their purchases. She added she took responsibility for recycling and cleaning up her own trash which was why she felt it was up to others to do the same. She advised more action was required with regard to enforcing the litter laws and increasing the fines if need be. In conclusion, she stated the proposed Local Law was clearly an example of government overreach, noting the Board had not adequately demonstrated the need for the proposed law which was why she was urging them to vote in opposition.

Susan LePorin, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, commented that her opinion was from a shoppers perspective. She apprised that she tried to be environmentally conscious by bringing her reusable bags with her when she went to the grocery store. She said these reusable bags were great for dry and canned goods; however, she noted, there were a number of products that were not appropriate to transport in them, nor paper, such as ice cream, steamed lobster and other items that could stain the interior of vehicles. For instance, she pointed out a plastic bag could have helped her avoid the interior of her car becoming stained when she purchased a gallon of paint with a top not sealed tightly. She stated there were a number of things that required her to use plastic bags; she said she fully understood both perspectives, but hers was coming from that of a shopper. She suggested coming up with a compromise since both plastic and paper bags had a number of appropriate uses. She mentioned the vast majority of shoppers in Europe used reusable bags which she believed was a direct result of them being required to pay for plastic ones.

Robin Barkenhagen, *City of Glens Falls Resident and Business Owner*, informed following the previous public hearing on the matter he purchased “epi” bags which were biodegradable and recyclable; however, he noted, it took about seven years for them to do so. He remarked although these bags were not a perfect solution to the issue they were more environmentally friendly than the single-use thin film plastic bags, but their cost was about three times more. He mentioned he tried to make his business as environmentally friendly as possible; however, he noted, because his location was in the downtown area of the City of Glens Falls patrons generally did not bring reusable bags with them. He said because of this he would ask if his customers wanted a bag for their purchase rather than just providing them with one. He advised he was not present to voice his opinion for or against the proposed ban, but rather to offer some information from a local retailer that had attempted to find a more environmentally friendly alternative.

Gary Nelson, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, stated although he had no statistics to provide, he was aware the County’s economy was in part based upon the wood industry. He pointed out the changeover to plastic bags had impacted the wood industry here, noting if they were to switch back to paper bags it would boost business for this industry. He informed while trees were renewable the petroleum that plastic bags were produced from was not. He advised even though the County was located in some of the greatest forest land in the Country goods purchased at stores were transported in a product derived from materials that were located out of this area. He remarked since residents had grown so accustomed to using plastic bags it would be difficult to convert to other options and he suggested they consider a compromise. He said his hope was that the alternative to plastic bags provided would degrade rather than end up in the waterways or dangling from the trees; he noted plastic was the issue as a whole and was not specific to plastic bags. He concluded by stating he hoped they would consider bringing back paper bags to the County to boost the wood industry here while also providing an alternative to plastic bags.

Pam Reed, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, advised she fully supported the ban on plastic bags, pointing out this provided the County with a prime opportunity to be one of the first in New York State to take the appropriate steps for the future by adopting the ban. She informed a total of eighty-one cities and towns in the State of Massachusetts, which represented about 40% of the State’s population, regulated single use plastic shopping bags. She continued, there were bans enacted in eleven out of the fourteen Counties in the State, noting the City of Boston was the largest community located in the eastern United States to have adopted a local ban. She said the State had more bans than any State in the Country other than California. She stated in addition, bans on light weight non biodegradable plastic bags had been adopted all over the world in major communities such as Seattle, Boston, Mexico City, Paris, California, Hawaii, three states in Australia, and Countries such Bangladesh, China, India, Italy, Macedonia, Rwanda, South Africa and Taiwan, some of which had very extensive bans in place. She commented that this was proof that a ban on plastic bags could be implemented successfully. She advised that domestically produced plastic bags were derived from natural gas which was available for

a low price as a result of hydraulic fracturing, as well as the fact that consumers and municipalities were expending funds to dispose of this problematic product. She pointed out plastic bags were not accepted for curbside recycling due to the fact that they routinely clogged and shut down the sorting lines of the modern automated recycling facilities. She apprised that plastic bags were single use items of convenience that could be eliminated with readily available alternatives. She concluded by distributing information concerning the plastic bag ban in the State of Massachusetts; *copies of which are on file with the items distributed at the September 19th Board Meeting.*

Matt Webster, *City of Glens Falls*, said he would like to preface his comments by stating he had reservations about attending tonight to voice his opinion because he was not the type of person to attend public meetings to speak on matters; however, he noted, since the article in *The Post Star* had indicated a few of the Supervisors were holding off on forming an opinion until they heard from the public on the matter he felt compelled to voice his. He stated his biggest concern related to the lack of evidence of an impetus for this to occur right now in the County. He pointed out there were no environmental surveys indicating the County was heavily impacted by plastic bag waste or anything similar to this. He suggested they hold off on making a decision on their economic future, as it was inarguable that this would have one, until they conducted these studies to determine the full impact of this. He added while the County could be the first to act on this they could also be the only one who did while all other Counties benefitted.

Jane Kana, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, stated she would like to address a few points that had been brought to light this evening, the first of which concerned the statement from someone who had observed people all over the world bring reusable bags to the stores with them, as this was the norm and not an inconvenience to do so. She mentioned she shopped on a weekly basis at the local Farmers Market and Aldi's, both of which required their patrons to bring their own bags for their groceries and neither appeared to suffer from a lack of business due to this requirement. She pointed out they would not be banned entirely, as they were useful in some cases such as when she purchased flowers to prevent the water from dripping all over. She remarked she was concerned about how paper bags were being brought into the conversation tonight, as she believed they should be addressing reusable bags which were not only readily accessible, but also easy to use. She said although it took her a few months to remember her reusable bags in the car it was now a habit which formed a lasting benefit to the environment. She concluded by voicing her support of a ban on single-use plastic bags.

Shirley Nelson, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, apprised she worked in a thriving local thrift shop which at one point had required the employees to bring plastic bags from their home to be made available for their customers to use; however, she noted, they were seeing on a more regular basis that their patrons brought their own bags or they refused a plastic bag due to their concerns with about their impact on the environment. She pointed out these customers were from upper middle class to lower income, but all appeared to be aware of the negative impact of plastic bags resulting in them bringing backpacks, cloth bags and reusable bags or carrying their purchases out of the store without any type of bag.

Bernard Mudd, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, voiced his opposition to the proposed ban on plastic bags due to the lack of data supporting the need for the ban for the Town of Queensbury. He informed neither he nor his wife had observed plastic bags during their times volunteering for the Town of Queensbury picking up waste on the side of the road; however, he stated, they had picked up candy wrappers, soda cans and cigarette butts. He said on the rare occasion when there was a plastic bag there would be no logo which meant it was not from any of grocery chain stores located in the area. He remarked he was fed up with being told he was doing something harmful to the environment by using a plastic bag when in fact this was not the case, as he always took care to properly dispose of them and he suggested they punish those who did not. In regards to the local trails in the region, Mr. Mudd pointed out plastic bags were made available for use on them, apprising if they were so harmful they

should be removed there, as well. He added *The Post Star* also used plastic bags to store their newspapers during inclement weather and he suggested special circumstances such as these not be granted for those that wanted to use the plastic bag. He apprised that he believed that shoplifting would increase significantly if reusable bags were required, as it would be difficult to determine if something was stolen as supported by data which indicated shoplifting had increased in the 2,400 small markets located in the western portion of the United States when the plastic bag ban went into effect. He concluded by reiterating his opposition to the proposed ban on plastic bags.

Ralph Rimuoldo, *Warren County Resident, Owner, Beef Jerky Outlet Store*, informed he used a significant amount of plastic bags for his business. He apprised neither the media or anyone from the public had provided any data regarding the issue these plastic bags were causing or a solution other than the gentleman who spoke earlier that purchased the more expensive plastic bags that were biodegradable for use his store. He questioned how a law could be adopted prior to determining any alternatives to plastic bags that retailers could use in place of them. He pointed out the County relied on the tourism industry for revenue, noting there were several retail stores located here that would be impacted significantly due to an increase in expenses if this plastic bag ban was adopted. He apprised a more educated discussion could take place if a solution as to how business owners would implement this in their stores was provided. He advised if paper bags were presented as one of the solutions he could counter with the fact that every study he had reviewed indicated paper bags consumed 7% more energy during their production than plastic bags. In the case of reusable bags, Mr. Rimuoldo apprised tourists did not bring them with them when they visited the area; he added they also needed to be concerned with shoplifting as supported by studies which indicated shoplifting had increased since reusable bags were introduced. He informed a report he had reviewed regarding cotton reusable bags indicated they had to be used no less than 130 times before having a greener environmental impact than a common plastic bag. He pointed out plastic bags could be recycled, but better education and making recycling bins more readily available was required. He said this was more of a solution than just creating a ban without having answers as to how this would be enforced. He informed this ban would increase costs for small businesses such as his own, who already had small profit margins. He remarked more discussion regarding the proposal was required regarding how retailers were supposed to respond before this ban was adopted. He mentioned if enacted the ban could cause the national retailers who had stores in the outlets and attracted people from all over to the area to close their stores here thereby losing a significant driving course to this community.

Dr. Kathleen Braico, *retired pediatrician and Warren County Resident*, apprised she was looking at this from the perspective of the children's future to stop the use of petroleum based products which would prevent the petroleum reserve from being used up and the build up of an excessive amount of garbage. She stated that she had two reusable bags attached to her handbag to ensure she was never without one; she pointed out she had used her cloth reusable bags well over the 130 times it would take to replace a plastic bag. She mentioned it had been estimated that by the year 2050 there would be more plastic in the ocean than fish. She stated while the idea of recycling plastic bags was well meaning, they actually did not get recycled when they were placed in the recycling bins since China was no longer accepting it because of the tariff laws in place, as well as the fact that recycling was not handled properly in the United States resulting in the breakdown of their machines and their ability to recycle the plastic. She remarked referring to recycling was similar to throwing something away, as there was no true way nor in many cases was there any recycling. She said this meant eventually they would have to "bite this bullet" and she urged the Board to do this sooner rather than later.

Phil Wettersten, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, stated he would like to lead off by discussing plastic and its adverse pollution effects on a broad scale before he focused on Warren County because he was aware that this issue did not only pertain to here. He informed he did not believe it was a secret that everyday there was more plastic all around the world as supported by the following research: In 2016 Ellen MacArthur Foundation suggested that by the year 2050 there would be more plastic in the oceans

than marine life; and 18 billion pounds of plastic waste would flow into the ocean per year according to the University of Georgia. With regard to micro plastics, which he said had not been discussed this evening and were small plastic pieces less than five millimeters long which can be found in drinking water and the air that was breathed, but could not be seen like a plastic bag laying on the side of the road. He mentioned in the case of the oceans it was possible to observe a significant amount of plastic wash up on the shores as a result of the way in which water sheds function; he noted in Warren County's case it was apparent that Lake George was the County's major one, as well as the ultimate source of a significant amount of the debris. He mentioned in contrast to those who had stated they had never observed plastic floating in Lake George according to the representative he had spoken to at Darren Fresh Water Institute in the Town of Bolton who had worked on the Jefferson Project it was rather easy to locate the plastic waste on the bottom of Lake George. He remarked he felt this supported the fact that there was a component of waste on the bottom of Lake George that was not attracting the attention from those who were only surveying the surface. Additionally, Mr. Wettersten advised the initiative of the Jefferson Project was for IBM to set up sensors that continuously measured salt content, as well as algae levels and water temperature; however, he noted, one missing component from this was the lack of testing for micro plastics and other plastic related waste. With regard to those who had indicated there were no type of statistics to support a ban such as this, he apprised in cases where there was no supporting data, but individuals felt something bad was about to occur it was generally proven to be true in the future. He said he was well aware that the County was dependent upon tourism and this would impact the tourists; however, he noted, he believed it was imperative to put those who lived here year round before the visitors. He mentioned there were individual scenarios for which it was hard to imagine alternatives to plastic bags being advantageous for individuals; however, he said, he would like to draw attention to the fact that tourists who drove several hours to Lake George upon arrival than realizing they would be unable to receive plastic bags at check out would drive an additional thirty minutes in each direction to purchase their groceries. With regards to those questioning why the County was taking the lead on this initiative in the State, Mr. Wettersten informed he believed it related to the fact that some of the best landscape in the State was located here. He continued, because of this landscape he felt the most sensible thing to do was do the utmost to protect the land in this region. He stated he planned on completing additional research on some items that had been brought to his attention this evening that he was previously not aware of so he could comment on them at the next public hearing. In conclusion, he voiced his support of the ban on plastic bags and he commended the Board for bringing this to the forefront of the public to commence with.

Timothy J. Moriarty, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, voiced his opposition to the plastic bag ban due to the fact that he felt the proposed law had not been well thought out. He said it would inconvenience the County residents, confuse tourists and place retailers here at a disadvantage to retailers located in adjacent Counties which could decrease sales tax revenue. He advised the proposed law had no price tag associated with it, as there had been no detailed analysis regarding implementation, administration and enforcement. He added many who were advocating for this ban were also in support of a ban on paper bags because the production of such required trees to be cut down and he questioned whether this would be the next item to be banned. He pointed out if this ban was enacted the Tourism Department should be in violation, as they had plastic available for visitors to carry out the brochures on the attractions and lodging available in the County right outside their Office, but according to the law the County was exempt from the ban. He said reusable bags had potential health hazards if they were not used properly by sanitizing them after each use. He advised even if anyone felt there was some merit to the proposed legislation they could concur that it would be more appropriate for it to be handled by the State and not through local governments.

Catherine Atherden, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, informed she was a member of the Tri County New York Transition who had presented an initiative to the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee last year to reduce the use of single-use thin film plastic bags which were used by grocery stores and not the thicker version of them during which they provided a petition that contained

over one thousand signatures who were in favor of this ban. She said she felt this supported that there was strong public interest in reducing the use of these bags. She advised the point was to use reusable bags or some other alternatives such as taking the products in your cart and placing them in a box in your car and not paper bags, as she believed paper were worse than staying with plastic bags. She reiterated the point previously made that the world, and in particular the ocean was becoming overcome by plastic resulting in the ruining of beaches, dying animals, etc. She mentioned according to a scientist at a recent SUNY lecture she had attended every animal in the ocean would eat plastic because it smelled similar to algae resulting in them being attracted to it. She said although some may not believe it had an impact on the County, it did in fact have one through the eating of fish. In regards to the fact that China had ceased recycling in January, she apprised this was a direct result of the health of their citizens and their Country's environment. She said this meant the plastic here would either end up in a landfill or be burnt. For those who felt since they were properly disposing or recycling their plastic bags that this had no impact, she pointed out they were wrong, as it impacted the disposal of them which would have an impact here. She advised the County was not in a vacuum, informing there were a significant amount of statistics across the world which pointed out the dangers of the thin film single use plastic bag. She said these bags were not beneficial for people or the environment. She stated the fact that many towns and one County in New York had successfully banned them, as well as two States and several Countries including Australia and China supported that it was something that could be successfully carried out without too much difficulty. In response to the statement made that cloth bags could cause disease, Ms. Atherden advised that through her research she had determined there was no data supporting this claim. She apprised all who made comments against the ban had done so as a result the addiction to convenience, as it was easier to use the plastic bags the store supplies than to remember to bring a reusable bag, have a cardboard box or use a newspaper to pick up pet waste and yet those who shopped at Aldi's Price Rite, etc. did not have issues with the fact that these stores did not provide plastic bags. She mentioned the desire of societies for convenience was one of the reasons her organization suggested the proposal be amended to include a ban on paper bags in grocery stores to ensure they were not used in place of the plastic bags. She questioned whether the Board members felt it was appropriate to use fossil fuels which took hundreds of thousands of years to create to produce items that were used a handful of times at most before they were thrown away even though there truly was not a full "away" since they did not fully biodegrade. She informed waiting for the State to take action on the matter without being pressured was unrealistic; she noted a ban here would be the first one in Upstate New York which would send a clear message. She said she believed everyone who was presents desire was for a healthy and beautiful environment for themselves, their children and grandchildren and although the environmental issues going on presently were overwhelming there were many steps that could be taken to help such as this ban which would have a significant impact on peoples awareness and assist with making everyone realize that the world resources were finite and it was up to everyone to take care of the planet. She concluded by urging them to adopt the ban on plastic bags.

Michael Bittel, *President/Chief Executive Office, ARCC (Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce)*, stated he was pleased to be able to observe citizenry so empowered and impassioned to attend the meeting this evening to voice their opinions. He said on a personal note he and his wife used reusable bags on a regular basis. He advised he had never observed plastic bag waste during his hunting and fishing excursions in this area. He mentioned he was aware the Board would be taken all of the comments made this evening under consideration when determining the future of the County. He informed that no studies had been completed to date on the effects of thin film plastic bags on the County. He apprised that the States of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, Indiana and Texas had all rescinded bans on plastic bags as a result of the impact on employment and the cost to stores alike. With regards to picking winners and losers on a matter as important as this, Mr. Bittel urged the Board to not ban one bag, but ban another or allow one bag, but not another type. He suggested they let the market place and the citizens move the ball rather than having it forced upon them, noting citizens such as he and his wife wanted to move forward to ensure it remained a beautiful region. From the ARCC's perspective,

Mr. Bittel stated the effect of tourism and the impact on jobs had been negative in places where there had been a ban on bags. He equated this action to an equivalent of a tax to the citizens of Warren County which he had serious concerns about. He advised revenue generated from the tourism industry here impacted every resident of the County and their tax bills. Lastly, he informed he felt this law did pick winners and losers regarding what bags should be banned and which should be permitted. He strongly urged the Board to vote in opposition of the proposed ban, citing the fact that there had been no studies conducted on the matter and this had a negative economic impact in other municipalities across the Country.

Leslie Crawford, *City of Glens Falls Resident*, stated she would like to mention a few things, the first of which was to reassure those against the ban that commerce did exist prior to the existence of plastic bags. She said one individual business at a time made the changeover to plastic bags, noting it was these individual decisions that had caused the issue they were confronted with. She remarked that she was regretful that rules had to be made about something that had been occurring for around thirty years now, but again before plastic bags you could make purchases at stores with no issues. She urged them to adopt the ban on plastic bags, noting she personally felt all bags should be banned except the reusable ones.

Chairman Conover called once again called for any comments regarding the proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2018 ; there being none, he declared the Public Hearing closed at 6:58 p.m.

Chairman Conover offered privilege of the floor to anyone wishing to address the Board on any matter, but no response was given. He then called for announcements, but there were none.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, on motion made by Supervisor Dickinson and seconded by Mrs. Frasier, Chairman Conover adjourned the Board Meeting at 6:59 p.m.