

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS & REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES

DATE: FEBRUARY 22, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS BRAYMER
SIMPSON
STROUGH
DICKINSON
MCDEVITT
MERLINO
LOEB
HOGAN

OTHERS PRESENT:

LEXIE DELUREY, DIRECTOR, REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES
RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS DIAMOND
DRISCOLL
FRASIER
LEGGETT
MAGOWAN
SOKOL
WILD
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CHRIS BELDEN, ASSISTANT PLANNER
FRED AUSTIN, THE FORT WILLIAM HENRY
CHRIS NAVITSKY, LAKE GEORGE WATERKEEPER
JANE SMITH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ADIRONDACK LAKES ALLIANCE
THOM RANDALL, *THE ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

SUPERVISOR HYDE

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the February 22, 2019 meeting of the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link:

<http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2019/environmental/>

Ms. Braymer called the meeting of Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Loeb, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Lexie Delurey, *Director, Real Property Tax Services*, who distributed copies of the agenda to Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

There being no Action Agenda items to consider, Ms. Delurey commenced her agenda review with the Information for Discussion/Review section, beginning with an update on the Chestertown and Queensbury environmental properties. Ms. Delurey apprised the State had inquired about working through a clean-up order on the Pine Street property located in Chestertown; she said she was currently waiting for a response from the State on an estimate of the clean up costs, as well as to learn the stage of the consent order. With regard to the Bay Road property located in the Town of Queensbury, Ms. Delurey apprised it did not appear the State was interested in assisting with this clean up work. She said she had reached out to David Hatin, *Director of Building & Code Enforcement, Town of Queensbury*, and Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, for assistance in determining whether there was asbestos present, and if so what the cost of asbestos decontamination would be. She informed she had also consulted with Mary Elizabeth Kissane, *County Attorney*, to determine if funds from the environmental testing reserve could be used for the asbestos removal and Ms. Kissane confirmed that it could be.

Ms. Braymer recalled discussion from a prior Committee meeting wherein Michael Swan, *County*

Treasurer, recommended foreclosing on the Town of Queensbury parcel. Ms. Delurey confirmed Mr. Swan had suggested adding the property to the foreclosure list to continue with the process of taking ownership, then demolishing the existing building and possibly turning the property into a parking lot for the Warren County Bike Path.

Chairman Conover entered the meeting at 9:34 a.m. and Mr. Dickinson entered the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Mr. Strough noted the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (*NYSDEC*) concerns had been vague in their report about the clean up for the Town of Queensbury parcel.

A discussion ensued with regard to the Town of Queensbury parcel.

As they were coming to the end of their allotted meeting time and there were people visiting to speak on the Environmental Concerns portion of the agenda, Ms. Braymer advised they would skip over the update on Queensbury parcel 308.8-1-56 and move right into the Discussion of a Countywide Septic Law item. She noted that the agenda included information on the Town of Queensbury's Septic Inspection Upon Property Transfer local law which she asked Mr. Strough, as Supervisor of the Town of Queensbury, to speak on. Mr. Strough explained it had taken the Town of Queensbury two years to develop their current system which required inspection of septic systems for any waterfront property upon transfer of ownership. He explained how the law worked and why waterfront residential properties were targeted first before requiring the rest of the Town to do the same.

Ms. Braymer introduced Chris Navitsky, *Lake George Waterkeeper*, who provided additional information on the initiative and explained he had worked closely both Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Strough. Mr. Navitsky distributed a copy of a February 12, 2019 press release from The Fund for Lake George entitled "10 Areas in Town of Lake George Identified as Priorities for Protecting Lake from Aging Septic Systems", a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Ms. Braymer extended privilege of the floor to Tammie Delorenzo, *Assistant to the County Administrator*, who apprised another option available to the County was the New York State Septic System Replacement Program initiative which was funded for high need water bodies; however, she pointed out Warren County was not considered to have a high need water body. She indicated she had inquired with NYSDEC who indicated there was no timeline for 2019 grant funding, but informed her \$200,000 in grant funding was being distributed, with up to \$10,000 per individual wastewater system, which meant it should be decided where the money would make the most impact. She added she had been in contact with both representatives from NYSDEC and New York State Department of Health to determine how the County could participate in the program and she was waiting for a response.

Mr. Dickinson stated he was very pleased with the sewer initiative he was working on in the Town of Lake George which they expected to complete within four years. He noted there was a waiting list of 400 potential clients who had volunteered for the program; he added they had received grant funding to help residents finance 50% of the project. Mr. McDevitt commended both Messrs Dickinson Strough for their efforts to help clean the area water bodies. Mr. Strough apprised both he and Mr. Dickinson had worked in collaboration with several agencies through this effort.

A brief discussion ensued, at the end of which Jane Smith, *Associate Director, Adirondack Lakes Alliance*, mentioned watersheds were where all of the water went and came from so it was important not to forget those. Ms. Braymer thanked Mr. Navitsky and Ms. Smith for attending.

There being no further business to come before the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Ms. Hogan, Ms. Braymer adjourned the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board