

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS & REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES

DATE: AUGUST 12, 2019

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS: BRAYMER
SIMPSON
STROUGH
DICKINSON
MCDEVITT
LOEB

OTHERS PRESENT:

LEXIE DELUREY, DIRECTOR OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
RYAN DICKEY, 2ND ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD
SUPERVISORS DRISCOLL
WILD

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS: MERLINO
HOGAN
HYDE

RAYMOND REITER, TAX COORDINATOR
LAURA CARROLL, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
CYNTHIA HICKIN, TOWN OF WARRENSBURG RESIDENT
MERWIN STRANAHAN, WARREN COUNTY RESIDENT
TRAVIS WHITEHEAD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
MOLLY GANOTES-GLEASON, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the August 12, 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: <https://warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2019/environmental/>

Ms. Braymer called the meeting of the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Service Committee to order at 9:03 a.m

Ms. Braymer thanked Lexie Delurey, *Director of Real Property Tax Services*, for the assistance she had provided to homeowners with delinquent taxes.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Ms. Delurey, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes*. Commencing the agenda review, Ms. Delurey informed the details for three properties with delinquent taxes were included in the agenda packet.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Cynthia Hickin, *Town of Warrensburg Resident*, who explained she had sent in partial payments to the County, but they were returned. Ms. Delurey notified the County did not accept partial payments. Ms. Hickin indicated she had sought help from area churches, the Salvation Army, as well as a Go Fund Me Account with no results. Ms. Delurey inquired if she had sought assistance from North Country Ministries and Ms. Hickin replied in the negative. Ms. Hickin questioned if the County could forgive the taxes and Ms. Delurey replied in the negative. Ms. Hickin advised thus far she had raised \$1,200, informing she had used Lending Tree in the attempt to obtain a personal loan, but was unsuccessful. Ms. Braymer inquired where the donation checks were that she had received and Ms. Hickin answered they were returned to the agencies that provided them. Mr. Loeb asked if she had considered alternatives and inquired if she was still working; Ms. Hickin replied she received Social Security disability benefits. Mr. Loeb suggested her best option would be to look into Countryside Adult Home, adding it was a beautiful place to live and also located in the Town of Warrensburg. Mr. McDevitt inquired what the absolute deadline was and Ms. Delurey replied it was September 3rd. Ms. Delurey explained if an extension was given beyond September 3rd it would be sent to court to be amended. Mr. Strough asked if she had considered selling the property and Ms. Hickin replied in the negative. Mr. Loeb mentioned Section 8 Housing was available. Mr. Driscoll added not-for-profit agencies did not provide assistance until an individual was homeless. Ms. Delurey informed she

would reach out to Ms. Hickin to determine if there were any other options available.

A motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Strough and carried by majority vote, with Mr. Dickinson voting in opposition, to allow Ms. Hickin an extension until September 30, 2019 to pay the outstanding taxes on Town of Warrensburg Tax Map Parcel No. 211.17-3-16.

Regarding the Estate of Elizabeth Manzi, Ms. Delurey informed Ms. Manzi had passed away on July 3rd and her daughter, Lauren Carroll, was in attendance to speak about the delinquent taxes on the property. Ms. Carroll informed she had received a letter from the County notifying there were delinquent taxes in the amount of \$12,856.36. She explained she had hired an attorney to aid in the process of transferring the deed to the property to her. Ms. Delurey inquired if Ms. Manzi had received any assistance from the Department of Social Services (*DSS*), and Ms. Carroll replied she had received assistance when she was in the nursing home, as well as burial services. Ms. Delurey notified the *DSS* had put a lien on the property. Ms. Braymer suggested giving Ms. Carroll until the end of September and Ms. Delurey concurred, notifying if additional action was required she would present it to the Committee at a later date.

A motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to allow Mrs. Carroll an extension until September 30, 2019 to pay the outstanding taxes on Town of Queensbury Tax Map Parcel No. 301.18-1-14.

Ms. Delurey informed the owner of the last parcel included in the agenda packet was not in attendance. She advised in the past when William Szabo, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, had a past due amount on his taxes he was always able to come up with the money. She indicated he'd recently had a stroke and could no longer work; she informed she had tried to speak with Mr. Szabo on the phone, but due to health issues he was unable to discuss the matter with her. She mentioned he was having his electric service turned off because he was not paying the bill and there was a tarp covering the roof. Ms. Braymer suggested taking no action. Mr. Loeb reiterated there were services available, such as Section 8 Housing and Countryside Adult Home. Ms. Braymer advised Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, had indicated to her he would reach out to *DSS* for potential assistance and Mr. Moore confirmed this.

A motion was made by Mr. Dickinson, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to allow Mr. Szabo an extension until September 30, 2019 to pay the outstanding taxes on Town of Queensbury Tax Map Parcel No. 303.5-1-7.

As there was no further business to come before the Environmental Concerns & Real Property Tax Service Committee, on motion made by Mr. Strough and seconded by Mr. Dickinson, Ms. Braymer adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Ganotes-Gleason, Legislative Office Specialist