

PUBLIC HEARING
November 14, 2018 4:23 p.m.

Chairman Kinowski called the public hearing to order.

Chairman Kinowski asked the Clerk to read the notice on the proposed Local Law titled “A Local Law Establishing Certain Powers and Duties of the County EMS Coordinator and County Fire Coordinator”.

Chairman Kinowski told all in attendance the rules of the Public Hearing.

Chairman Kinowski stated “There seems to be the best intentions of everybody but every now and then there are a few communication gaps that occur. In this particular one there seems to be some. This isn’t going to vote right away. The comments will all be pulled together along with the Fire Advisory Board meeting minutes and those comments will go back to Public Safety Committee next month. At that time everyone will get together, discuss it, and then it will go back out to the Supervisors. And then at that time if it’s all correct and agreed upon and there are no miscommunications or interpretations then it will go to Law and Finance and then on to the Board for a vote. So we do have time with this and there is no rush. It is a matter of getting it straight and updated.”

John Fairclough – “Thank you for that piece of information, Supervisor to start the meeting. I think that will certainly help to calm some tensions that are out amongst the fire service. My name is John Fairclough. I am from the Village of Waterford and I have over 27 years in the fire service. I’ve served in every capacity that the fire service has to offer in New York State for the volunteer fire service. I am a strong supporter of the County and strong supporter of a united front for the emergency services. When we received a copy of the current wording of the proposed law we spoke to all of the emergency services that represent the town and the Village of Waterford which is the Halfmoon Fire Department, the Northside Fire Department, and the Village of Waterford Department and we will agree that way it is currently poorly worded improperly grants more power and authorities to the Fire Coordinator. That actually goes against the State Constitution and increases the liabilities for the counties and takes away that united front the fire service so strongly stands behind and tries to fight for. I think there is good intentions that are there. It just appears to be poorly worded at this time.”

Nicholas Quinn – “I think he covered everything I had to say.” Mr. Lawler asked what fire department Mr. Quinn was from. Mr. Quinn said he was from the South Glens Falls Fire Department in the Town of Moreau.

Mr. Peck said if anyone has any language changes make sure they are sent to the County for the review at the next Committee meeting. Or submit them to the Fire Coordinator, Ed Tremblay.

Mike Jazwienski – “I’m Mike Jazwienski. I’m with the Galway Ambulance Corp and have been there for 47 years now. I would agree with the gentleman that spoke on the EMS side. This is giving too much power to one person who I feel and some other people in the County also say; so,

now when you've made a statement that it won't be voted on today it's a relief until we get some wording changed and see if we can get this thing equalized."

Chairman Kinowski asked if any written communications were received. Mrs. Wright said there was one letter received from the Saratoga County Sheriff regarding his objections to the Local Law. Mr. Kinowski said his objections related to communications so we will head down that path and proper wording. Mr. Lawler asked that the commutation be shared with the Board.

The public hearing was closed at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela A. Wright, Clerk