

Warren County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION NO. 366 OF 2014

Resolution introduced by Supervisors Sokol, Conover, Frasier, Taylor and McDevitt

FURTHER AMENDING THE WARREN COUNTY TRAVEL POLICY AND COUNTY VEHICLE USE REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the Warren County Board of Supervisors adopted the revised Warren County Travel Policy and County Vehicle Use Regulations (hereinafter the "Travel Policy") by Resolution No. 495 of 2004, most recently amended by Resolution No. 482 of 2013, and

WHEREAS, the Health Services Committee of the Warren County Board of Supervisors has recommended revising Section II(G) to exempt the Health Services Department Fleet vehicles from the requirement that all County vehicles be marked with the official Joseph E. Warren insignia, as the Health Services Department Fleet vehicles will be marked with the Health Services Homecare logo, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Section II (G) under the Travel Policy be, and hereby is, amended as set forth in the revised policy presented at this meeting and attached hereto as Schedule "A".

Schedule "A"

**WARREN COUNTY TRAVEL POLICY AND
COUNTY VEHICLE USE REGULATIONS**

I. COUNTY TRAVEL POLICY

Whenever an officer or employee travels for County business, the officer or employee shall comply with the requirements of this section.

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND/OR MASS TRANSPORTATION

When at all possible, employees shall use County owned vehicles or rental vehicles available under state purchasing contract for County business purposes as opposed to personal vehicles. Whether a rental vehicle may be used in lieu of a County vehicle, shall be determined by the Fleet Manager or in said Manager's absence, the County Administrator based on the nature of the trip, length of the trip, and/or number of persons riding in the vehicle. Whenever practical, employees shall use mass transportation for County business as opposed to County vehicles, rental vehicles or personal vehicles.

- 1) Use of personal vehicles should only occur when a County vehicle is not readily available in the pool of vehicles available for department use or when a rental vehicle is not authorized.
- 2) Mass transportation sources should be used whenever there would be a savings in costs unless such use would be impractical given the nature of the trip. If use of Mass transportation would result in a saving of time, the value of the Officer's or Employee's time should be considered in evaluating costs.
- 3) Whenever travel is for more than distances six (6) hours away, it is expected that mass transportation will be used unless there is justification for not using the same.
- 4) Whenever requesting permission of the Board of Supervisors for out-of-state travel or when requesting authorization from the Chairman of the Board to attend a meeting or convention, the employee making the request shall indicate on the authorization request form whether a County vehicle and/or mass transportation will be used and if not, the reason for such decision. The Board or Chairman may require the use of a County vehicle and/or mass transportation sources in whole or part as a condition of authorizing the trip.

B. TRAVEL APPROVAL REQUIRED

- 1) Unless travel is excepted herein, or by separate Resolution by the Board, each supervisory committee shall review and approve *all* travel requests, both in-state and out-of-state. Out-of-state travel requires approval by a board resolution, and in-state travel that necessitates overnight accommodations, require committee approval only. The number of people traveling to an event from one department shall be limited and set by the supervisory committee. Department Heads shall submit all paperwork describing travel and expenses for review by the committee. A Travel Form (Schedule "A") shall be signed by the supervisory committee chairman if travel is approved and must be attached to any Purchase Order or Voucher submitted for reimbursement.
- 2) Travel by officers and employees of Warren County does NOT need approval by the supervisory committee or Board of Supervisors if all of the following conditions apply:
 - a. the travel does not require overnight accommodations;
 - b. there is no more than \$100 in costs (to the County) per person per trip for travel and meal costs;
 - c. the travel is part of the normal course of business, which includes, but is not limited to, travel to perform the duties of the officer's and/or employee's position or travel is for attendance at seminars, training, and/or other classes or meetings where such is at no cost to the County or where such is mandated by state law, rule, or regulation.
- 3) Travel by County Supervisors, County Administrator, Assistant County Administrator and Department Heads to attend the New York State Association of Counties' conferences held twice per year do NOT need approval by the supervisory committee or Board of Supervisors, provided that the Department has budget appropriations for the same and there is compliance with the GSA policy.

C. FUNDING FOR TRAVEL

If payment of travel expenses require fund transfers, the Department Head must provide information on where the funds are coming from.

D. REIMBURSEMENT RATE FOR LODGING, MEALS, AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSES

The U.S. General Services Administration Domestic Per Diem Rates are to be used

to determine the maximum reimbursement for lodging, meals and incidental expenses. A listing can be found at www.gsa.gov on the internet.

E. EXCEPTIONS

- 1) The Sheriff's Office shall be excepted from the Policy and guidelines concerning mass transportation and travel approval requirements, where the travel is not related to training or conferences, and which have been approved by the Sheriff or Division Commander.
- 2) The Commissioners of the Warren County Board of Elections, staff and machine custodians shall, to the extent authorized by the County Administrator, be excepted from the requirement of use of a County vehicle or a rental vehicle and may use personal vehicles with mileage reimbursement by the County in the performance of their official duties in Warren County concerning the Election Day period (that time period of a few weeks during which matters are readied and concluded for an election), classes in the various municipalities, trips to nursing homes, and voter education sessions. The Director/Fire Coordinator, Deputy Director of the Emergency Services Office, and Deputy Fire and EMS Coordinators, to the extent authorized by the County Administrator, shall be excepted from the requirement of use of a County vehicle or rental vehicle and may use personal vehicles with mileage reimbursement by the County while in the performance of their official duties, in Warren County and adjacent counties. The officers and/or employees identified in this subparagraph 2) shall, however, when attending conferences or meetings outside the County or in adjacent counties, seek to use mass transit or a County vehicle, as may be applicable.
- 3) The employees of the Department of Social Services shall be excepted from the requirement of use of County vehicles and/or rental vehicles and may use personal vehicles with mileage reimbursement to be paid by the County, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Social Services while continuing to use fleet vehicles as much as possible given the operation of that particular Department.

II. COUNTY MOTOR VEHICLE USE RULES

The following rules shall apply to the use of County owned, leased, or borrowed vehicles.

- A. Only authorized employees who hold a valid New York State driver's license shall drive County vehicles. Authorized employees shall be 1) considered any employee who regularly or at times operates a County vehicle as part of the employee's usual and/or customary County job function or 2) an employee who is authorized to operate the vehicle by a) the County Administrator or b) the County Department Head to whom the vehicle has been assigned.
- B. Volunteers, clients, members of employees' families, etc. are not authorized to

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operate County owned vehicles, except volunteer County employees and unpaid interns who hold a valid New York State driver's license shall be authorized to operate County owned vehicles for: 1) Veteran's Services for such purposes as may be authorized by Executive Law Section 358 of Veteran's Affairs; 2) for programs offered to Westmount Health Facility residents or persons participating in Countryside Adult Home programs whether such is directly sponsored by Westmount Health Facility or Countryside Adult Home or some other governmental or non-governmental entity; and 3) unpaid interns working at the Department of Social Services. Picking up hitchhikers is prohibited.

- C. County vehicles shall be utilized for official purposes only. Persons on official business for the County or being transported for purposes of furthering County business, an official departmental function or a County agency sponsored or operated program may ride in County vehicles. In addition, officials or employees from governmental entities other than Warren County, such as from the federal, state or local governments (e.g.; other counties, towns, cities, villages, school districts, etc.) may ride in County vehicles when accompanying County officials to a meeting, event, destination, or similar place, and such will be considered using the vehicle for official purposes or in furtherance of County business, since it fosters communication, shared governmental services and supports intergovernmental relationships. Examples of circumstances where non-County personnel may ride in County vehicles include but are not limited to: 1) Health Services Department Staff taking students from contracted educational settings as passengers in County vehicles for clinical experience; 2) Veterans who ride in the Veterans' Services' van pursuant to program identified in subparagraph II. B. hereof; 3) persons riding in Veterans' Services' vans pursuant to arrangements made with the Department of Social Services; 4) residents of Westmount Health Facility or Countryside Adult Home transported by County vehicle for any event or purpose whether such is directly sponsored by Westmount Health Facility or Countryside Adult Home or some other governmental or non-governmental entity for the general benefit of Westmount Health Facility residents; 5) Office for the Aging may transport advisory council members and/or senior citizens to meetings, conferences, etc. at the discretion of the Director; 6) District Attorney personnel transporting witnesses; 7) department employees who wish to carpool with other County Officials not from Warren County when the purpose is furthering County business; 8) Youth being transported to various programs and seminars by the Youth Bureau Director; (9) Children being transported in County vehicles by DSS staff; and (10) Officials or employees from governmental entities other than Warren County, such as from federal, state or local governmental entities. Unauthorized personnel may not be transported. Uses not specifically described but consistent with the intent of this policy may be allowed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors whose determination of whether the use is consistent and/or allowed within this policy shall be final and binding.
- D. Authorization is hereby granted for the following individuals to take County vehicles home on a daily basis due to the nature of their responsibilities:

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1. Department of Public Works:
 - a. Highway Construction Supervisors (5)
 - b. Superintendent of Public Works
 - c. Deputy Superintendent of Public Works; and
 - d. Department of Public Works General Highway Foreman
2. Health Services:
 - a. Nurses, upon approval of the Director of Public Health/Patient Services
3. Sheriff's Office:
 - a. Sheriff;
 - b. Undersheriff;
 - c. Chief Deputy
 - d. Lieutenant- Criminal Investigators
 - e. Lieutenant-Law Enforcement
 - f. K-9 Officer;
 - g. Narcotics Officers (5); and
 - h. Civil Officer (1)
4. Fire Prevention & Building Code Enforcement:
 - a. Fire Coordinator
 - b. Building Inspectors (2)

Whenever authorization has been provided to take County vehicles home, Department Heads or their designees must, on a quarterly basis, file with the Warren County Treasurer a report which details use of County vehicles by name of the employee, employee number and days the vehicle was used for the quarter reported.

E. If authorization to take a County vehicle home is not provided in this Policy, the

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individual seeking to take a County vehicle to private residence overnight must receive the approval of the Department Head and the County Administrator. In the event that a Department Head desires to take a County vehicle to a private residence overnight, approval must be obtained from the County Administrator. Authorization to take vehicles home overnight pursuant to this paragraph shall be subject to the following requirements:

1. A detailed log or record shall be kept by the department setting forth the date(s) vehicles were authorized to be taken home under this paragraph, the name of the employee, the vehicle make or model and the reason or purpose. Such list shall also include employee's position, title and vehicle number.
 2. The log or record kept pursuant to subparagraph 1 hereof shall be furnished quarterly to the County Fleet Manager commencing April 1, 2005.
 3. If authorized, County vehicles shall be driven only to and from the place of residence to the work site. No subsidiary trips (e.g. grocery store) shall be allowed.
 4. An exemption is made for the Warren County Sheriff to authorize vehicles to be taken home on an as-needed basis for training and other matters, without requiring the approval of the Administrator/Clerk's Office.
- F. All vehicles which are not authorized to be taken home under this policy shall be housed or stored at the site where the County Department or Division with jurisdiction over the vehicle has an office where officers or employees typically report to work. For example, Department of Public Works' vehicles would be expected to be housed or stored at the Department of Public Works building in Warrensburg. Vehicles used to support Airport or Parks, Recreation & Railroad Division site personnel would be expected to be housed or stored, respectively, at the Airport or Parks, Recreation & Railroad Division site. Exceptions to the requirements of this paragraph shall be as follows: (1) the General Highway Foreman who may be permitted to house or store his vehicle at the Town of Johnsbury Highway Garage; (2) the District Attorney vehicle assigned to the investigators shall be housed at the Town of Chester Town Hall or Warren County Municipal Center; (3) Sheriff's vehicles may be housed or stored at the Municipal Center or substations as designated by the Sheriff; and (4) Five vehicles assigned to the Health Services Department for use by the nurses in northern part of the County shall be housed as follows: one in Hague, one in North Creek, and three in Chester; (5) One vehicle assigned to the Planning & Community Development Department for use by the Construction Cost Coordinator shall be housed in the area with the largest amount of Planning Activity for use on an as-needed basis; and (6) the Superintendent of Buildings

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vehicle to be housed in Warrensburg DPW shop.

- G. All County owned or leased vehicles must be properly marked with the official, non-removable, Joseph E. Warren insignia, except for those used in police work, the Social Services Department and the Health Services Department.**
- H. No County vehicles shall be used for private or personal use.
- I. In addition to the log that must be kept on overnight usage (see subparagraph II-E. 2.), daily logs listing destinations, mileage and times must be maintained for all County vehicles covered by this Policy except for Sheriff's Office and Health Services Department Nurse's vehicles. Department Heads shall be responsible for this item.
- J. Department Heads are hereby authorized to recommend more restrictive or detailed rules concerning the use of County vehicles assigned to their department but must appear before the Budget Committee to gain approval of the rules which change these rules/regulations. If approved, the Budget Committee may authorize immediate implementation of the requested department rule change but such shall still be then referred to the Board of Supervisors for modification of this policy. If the Board does not approve the rule change, the Budget Committee's immediate authorization of the requested department rule change shall be deemed revoked.
- K. All vehicles that are assigned to specific employees or groups of employees must be returned to the fleet for use by other County employees when an employee is on vacation or not otherwise using the same.
- L. If violations of the rules set forth above are proven, an employee's rights to operate a County owned vehicle may be revoked by the Budget Committee.

Schedule "A"

AUTHORIZATION TO ATTEND MEETING OR CONVENTION

Check one:

- In-State (needs Supervisory Committee authorization)
Out-Of State (needs Board resolution)

The [Supervisory Committee] hereby authorizes [Employee Name]

to attend [Name of meeting or organization]

at [Address]

on [Dates]. Mode of transportation to be used [County Vehicle or Mass Transportation]

If the mode of transportation is not a county vehicle or mass transportation, please explain:

Proper documentation must be attached when submitting for approval.

(Please check documents attached)

- Notice of meeting or convention including cost.

For Overnight Travel

- Room rate \$ [] GSA* Rate \$ []
Meal costs - GSA*per diem rate \$ []

*www.gsa.gov

Date: [] Department Head Signature

Date: [] Committee Chairman Signature

Please refer to the Warren County Travel Policy and County Vehicle Use Regulations for general policy guidelines.

Please check to request a fleet vehicle.

REQUEST FOR USE OF FLEET VEHICLE

Filing Instructions:

- 1. Original with voucher to Auditor.
2. Copy to Frank Morehouse if fleet vehicle is needed.
3. Copy to Clerk of the Board with Resolution Request form if out-of-state travel.
4. Copy to Purchasing with Purchase Order, if required.
5. Copy to County Administrator if credit card will be used.