

December 8, 2021

Supervisor Lindberg called the hearing to order at 6:00pm and led in the flag salute at the advertised public hearing of the Worcester Town Board, held in Town Building, 19 Katie Lane, Worcester, NY.

Present:	Don Lindberg	----	Supervisor
	Larry DeLong	----	Councilman
	Jeff Wilcox	----	Councilman

Not Present:	Dave Miller	----	Councilman
	Harold Ridgeway	----	Councilman

Others Present: Rita Tetenes, Leo Tetenes, Chuck Thompson, Herb Fiederer, Marilyn Dufresne, Jim Mravlja, Tim Powers, Josh Taylor, Jill Clark, Linda Adee, Shirley Wright, Jim Gardner, Alexis Provenzano, Shawn Morris, and Jamie Spina

The Town Clerk read the legal notice for the public hearing on proposed Local Law #1 “A local law to opt out of allowing cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site consumption sites as authorized under cannabis law article 4.”

Public Comment: Herb Fiederer feels that this proposed local law will discourage businesses from coming to town. Mr. Fiederer feels that cannabis should be treated the same as any other legal business and we should invite all legal businesses to town.

Jim Mravlja stated that he doesn't think that we need dispensaries in town and that there isn't much benefit to the town in allowing them.

Tim Powers asked if this local law is adopted, can the town ever opt back in and allow dispensaries? The board explained that there is always the option to opt back in, but this is the only chance to ever opt-out.

Jill Clark asked what surrounding towns are doing regarding allowing dispensaries.

Linda Adee and Shirley Wright both stated that they are here just to learn more about this proposed local law.

Jim Gardner feels that the town could benefit from the revenue that a dispensary would generate.

Rita Tetenes feels that if the Town Board chooses to adopt this local law, the town would be missing out on revenue that will be going to surrounding towns that are allowing dispensaries.

Shawn Morris stated that he feels it should be allowed and treated just like any other business.

Josh Taylor spoke about his experience in Colorado when it became legal there. Mr Taylor said that revenues for towns increased, which improved housing values, education, roads etc. Mr. Taylor also explained that dispensaries are heavily regulated and when you purchase, you know exactly what you are getting. Mr. Taylor went on to explain the medical benefits to cannabis.

Alexis Provenzano said that she would like to see the business here since she tries to shop locally to support our local community. If it is not allowed here, the revenue would go to another town.

Councilman DeLong explained the process of adopting this local law and the process of a permissive referendum.

Supervisor Lindberg closed the public hearing at 6:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Ann Beverland
Town Clerk