

Public Hearing – Local Law – Vape Shops
June 20, 2018

The Town Board held a Public Hearing on the above date at 7:15 p.m. at the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear comments for/against a Proposed Local Law establishing a six (6) month moratorium on the submission and processing of applications for Land Use Approvals for “Vape Shops” within the Town of Philipstown.

PRESENT

Richard Shea	Supervisor (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)
Nancy Montgomery	Councilwoman
Michael Leonard	Councilman
Robert Flaherty	Councilman

ABSENT

John Van Tassel	Councilman
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Town Clerk Merando read the Public Notice.

Deputy Supervisor Montgomery stated that this is being considered by part of the Philipstown Community that Cares. She reported that she has received multiple calls from residents with concerns. She noted that the current drug crisis begins with the use of tobacco along with vape pens that children are using. It is not something that we want in our town. She pointed out that the town has taken a stand to promote business, however, the town is prepared to limit harmful things. She stressed that the town has to be very careful while reviewing this proposed law, to ascertain what is permissible by law. For example, crafting the language as where these entities are allowed. She would like to see both the Villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville consider this legislation. She added that she believes that the Putnam County Tasks Force has also taken on this initiative.

Councilman Leonard stated that he believes this is a good cause, and enacting a moratorium give the Town Board additional time to review and revised a Local Law which would be more detailed and permanent.

Marianne Sullivan addressed the Town Board expressing her support for this initiative hopes that this moratorium will become permanent. She pointed out that it is our responsibility to keep tobacco products/vape shops out of the reach of the youth. She added that even though these products are for adults trying to quit smoking, it is being targeted towards the youth. She proceeded to advocate against tobacco products and its impact to the general public. Finally, she reported that New York State is considering increasing the age from 18 to 21 years old to purchase tobacco products.

Councilman Flaherty stated that statistically only 14% smoke today as compared to 20% just seven years ago.

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This conversation continued at length with all members of the audience in support this Local Law.

There being no further comments from the audience, Councilman Flaherty made a motion, seconded by Councilman Leonard to close the Public Hearing at 7:32. p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tina M. Merando
Town Clerk