

Public Hearing
July 7, 2021

Public hearing on the local law No. 2, on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, in the Town Hall Senior Center was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., at 6:35 p.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Sr., Supervisor
Larry R. Jones, Councilman
Michael R. Park, Councilman
Barry E. Warren, Councilman
Kevin M. Williams, Councilman
Patrick M. Snyder, Attorney for the Town
Heather M. Hill, Town Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Brooke L. Poli
John & Maxine Seamans, Village residents
DeeDee Dillingham, Cortlandville resident
Kevin Smith, Reporter, Cortland Voice
Victor Siegle, Homer village resident
Linda Jones, County Legislator
Patrick Clune, Trustee, Village of Homer

SUPERVISOR FREDERICK J. FORBES SR. MADE A COMMENT THAT, "This was the 1st meeting without Anita Jebbett in 17+ years."

Supervisor Forbes read the legal notice (attached) to amend the zoning law to allow the raising of chickens in the Residence Distract without any town permits provided that certain conditions are met. Supervisor Forbes asked if anyone present had any questions or comments on the proposed 2021 local law No. 2.

Maxine Seamans, a Village of Homer Resident, was present to express her concerns regarding the chickens that her neighbors own that are not always caged. She wanted to know if the law is adopted does she still call code enforcement on her concerns of the five to six chickens running loose, being in the road, in her yard, and upsetting her dog. Supervisor Forbes told Maxine Seamans that she "lives in the in Village of Homer and this board was unable to help her." Pat Clune speaker for the Village of Homer spoke and told Maxine Seamans that he can speak with her after the meeting.

DeeDee Dillingham, a Cortlandville resident, was present to speak against the adoption of the law. Dillingham noted a set of five concerns that she has if the law were to go into effect: Neglect, cruelty, spreading diseases, continuous noise mostly from roosters and attraction to predators. Supervisor Forbes asked Dillingham if she has ever witnessed chickens being ill kept in the Town of Homer. Dillingham answered "no." Supervisor Forbes made reference to the advantages of owning chickens including consumption of eggs, eating insects (ticks) and other bugs. Dillingham questioned if code enforcement would repeatedly monitor residents who owned chickens to make sure conditions "are in order." Councilmember Williams answered, "Code enforcement would enforce the law including handling litter and debris." Williams brought back the positives of having chickens is, families making the chickens their pets (naming them and produce eggs for food. He noted that he has never witnessed anyone miss treating chickens in the Town of Homer. Supervisor Forbes made a reference that we received a letter from Gene Baur at Farm Sanctuary in Watkins Glen. He made note of giving this to the town clerk and filing this complaint.

Supervisor Forbes asked (twice) if anyone present had any further questions or comments on the proposed 2021 local law No. 2.

As there were no further comments or questions, the public hearing was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Heather M. Hill
Town Clerk

