

AUGUST 9, 2012 – PUBLIC HEARING

Minutes of a public hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Somers held on Thursday evening August 9, 2012 at 9:05 PM at the Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, New York.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:       Supervisor       Mary Beth Murphy  
                  Councilman       Richard G. Clinchy  
                  Councilman       Frederick J. Morrissey  
                  Councilman       Thomas A. Garrity, Jr.

ABSENT:        Councilman       Richard A. Benedict

Also present were Kathleen R. Pacella, Town Clerk, Patricia Kalba, Deputy Town Clerk and Roland A. Baroni, Jr., Town Attorney.

The Supervisor said that this was a public hearing with regard to a proposed Local Law to add Article III Canine Waste to Chapter 86 DOGS of the Code of the Town of Somers. She said that this would essentially require people to pick up after their pets.

The Town Clerk presented affidavit of public notice of the public hearing that appeared in the Journal News on July 31, 2012 and posted on the Town Clerk's bulletin board the same day. She said that she had received an e-mail from Mr. and Mrs. McCormack in support of the proposed legislation with recommendations for implementation date August 8, 2012.

The Supervisor declared the hearing opened and asked for comments from the public.

There being no one to be heard on motion of Councilman Garrity, seconded by Councilman Clinchy, the public hearing was declared closed at 9:07 PM.

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Town Clerk

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Minutes of a public hearing of the Town Board of the Town of Somers held on Thursday evening August 9, 2012 at 9:07 PM at the Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, New York.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:       Supervisor       Mary Beth Murphy  
                  Councilman       Richard G. Clinchy  
                  Councilman       Frederick J. Morrissey  
                  Councilman       Thomas A. Garrity, Jr.

ABSENT:        Councilman       Richard A. Benedict

Also present were Kathleen R. Pacella, Town Clerk, Patricia Kalba, Deputy Town Clerk and Roland A. Baroni, Jr., Town Attorney.

The Supervisor said that this was a public hearing with regard to a proposed Local Law increasing the term of office of the Supervisor of the Town of Somers from two (2) to four (4) years effective January 1, 2014.

The Town Clerk presented affidavit of public notice of the public hearing that appeared in the Journal News on July 31, 2012 and posted on the Town Clerk's bulletin board the same day. She said that she received a hand delivered letter of support from Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas DeLucia dated August 9, 2012.

The Supervisor declared the hearing opened and asked for comments from the public.

Mr. Mark Koppel Route 116, Somers, said that he was not sure if he was for or against the proposed change. He said that he was unsure if the residents would have enough time to discuss the matter and make an informed decision. He continued that this election people were making very big decisions and he did not want the referendum to get lost. Mr. Koppel suggested to they should consider discussing term limits at the same time as increasing the term of office. He asked what other Towns in Westchester did. He said that he hoped the Town would have a discussion before the referendum.

Mr. Clifford Wohlberg, Heritage Hills, Somers, said that the people he had spoken to about this issue were in favor of the increase to a four year term. He said that no one he spoke to thought that this was being proposed for selfish reasons. He said that it did not matter to him what any other community in the area did. Mr. Wohlberg said that this was a clear issue and it should be voted on. He said that people have until November to educate themselves about the matter.

Councilman Garrity said that he put a lot of faith in the people of the Town of Somers to make an educated decision. He said that this was the year that they were going to get the largest turnout and more people would be voting.

Councilman Morrissey said that all of the concerns that had been brought up could be researched between then and the November election. He said that he agreed that this was the best time to do something of this nature; they were going to have a great turnout for the Presidential Election.

Councilman Clinchy said that they also were going to have three Town Board meetings before November when they could discuss the matter. He said that he would like to also see them hold a Town Hall meeting.

Ms. Maureen Devine, Susan Drive, Somers, read a letter stating the reasons she was opposed to the increase of the length of the term of office of the Supervisor. The letter was submitted to the Town Clerk of the record.

The Board discussed if they had time to leave the hearing open and continue the public hearing in September and still be able to file the referendum with the Board of Elections for the November Election. It was decided that there was a significant amount of time to hold the hearing over to the September 6, 2012 Work Session/Regular Meeting.

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There being no one else to be heard on motion of Councilman Garrity, seconded by Councilman Clinchy, the public hearing was adjourned to the September 6, 2012 at 9:07 PM.

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Town Clerk