

Public Hearing on Local Law #3 Meeting Minutes
Held: Tuesday October 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Location: 7578 County Route 333 Thurston, NY

Present: Michael Volino, Holly Chase, Noel Sylvester, Daniel Gee, Jennifer Hargrave, Rachel Treichler, Richard Gauss, Jr, Diana Dixon

Visitors: Elizabeth Donderewicz, Mike Volino, Chris Volino, Kelly Wilson, Danny Wilson, Bill Glosick, Fritz Anderson, Reginald Rice, Cal Hoad, Lamora Hoad, Eva Turner, Brett Dickson, LeeAnn Dickson, Andy Dickson, Heather Quick, Barbara Dartt, Tim Hargrave, Lisa Hargrave, Mary Rayeski, Rosalyn Renner, Ruth Schoonover, Margie Taft, Larry Shilling

Michael Volino called the public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. The Board opened with the US Pledge of Allegiance. With recording in progress Volino introduced each of the Board members.

Michael Volino stated that the public hearing is open for comments from the public on Local Law #3 Disposal of Sewage Sludge.

Wayne Wells stated that he has been working to stop the spread of sewage sludge on land for 37 years. Wells explained there is no plan to remove heavy metals from land contaminated with toxic chemicals from the spread of hazardous waste. Wells stated that PFAS and PFOS will be in the soil forever. Which means it will be a problem for future generations. Wells thanked the Town Board for having the courage and persistence to move forward with the local law to prevent the disposal of sewage sludge on the beautiful land in the Town of Thurston.

Mary Rayeski stated that Casella Bonny Hill Organics wishes to be a good neighbor and would like to work with the Town of Thurston. Larry Shilling provided a binder to Attorney Rachael Treichler and each of the Board members that contained a 19 page comment letter. A member of the audience asked if Casella purchased Waste Management or if Waste Management purchased Casella. Larry Shilling stated that neither has happened.

Tim Hargrave stated that Wayne Wells is correct that a lot of people have been fighting the spread of sewage sludge on land. Hargrave stated that according to Sally Rounds the sewage sludge brought in from Bay Park would affect the handling of local sludge to the point that it would have to be shuffled off to another location.

Reginald Rice asked why Casella chose to spread sewage sludge in the Town of Thurston of all of the land available in NYS. Rice stated that his water well is already contaminated with toxins. Rice stated that no one has come forward to accept responsibility for contaminating his water well.

Fritz Anderson stated that he has worked on farms for the majority of his life. Anderson stated that not one of the farms spread sewage sludge on their land. Anderson shamed the Dickson family for spreading sewage sludge on the land. The audience erupted in applause.

With no further discussion motion was made by Daniel Gee seconded by Jennifer Hargrave to close the public hearing at 6:50 p.m. Put to vote: Michael Volino, aye; Noel Sylvester, aye; Jennifer Hargrave, aye; Daniel Gee, aye; Holly Chase, aye. Carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dolores Crooker, Town Clerk