

Joseph P. Wilson Jr, Supervisor
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Deputy Supervisor
PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW MRTA OPT OUT
November 8th, 2021
5:30 pm
ZOOM Platform

Minutes of the public hearing held Monday, November 8th, 2021 at 5:30 PM, via ZOOM Public Hearing . The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer and David R. Deyo, Councilmen, Teresa Cheetham-Palen and Jennifer G. Whitney, Councilwomen. Also present were: Cori-Anne Favro, Town Clerk. Town Residents also present.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson called the public hearing on the LOCAL LAW 1- 2021 to Opt out of legalizing Cannabis dispensaries for retail sales and on-site retail consumption locations in the Town of Keene to order at 5:30PM. This is a public hearing for members of the public to make comments or ask questions regarding this local law.

Mr. Wilson presented that this local law is subject to permissive referendum, so if residents decide they want to petition this local law. The petition needs to be filed within 45 days. The number of signatures needed per the Essex County Board of Elections is 66. They need to be registered to vote in the Town of Keene to be eligible to sign the petition. The clock on the 45 days does not start ticking until the Town Board adopts the law. Which is on the agenda for the Town Board meeting on 11/9/2021. The Town board needs to file the local law. This will need to be certified by the Town Clerk and then filed with the State Department. We need to wait and see if a petition is filed to see if this will go out to referendum.

Ms. Cheetham-Palen asked, how do we know if this will go to a general election or special election?

Mr. Wilson stated that it is up to the State Board of Election on whether it is a special election or general election. It is still unclear.

Mr. Wilson opened the floor for questions or comments from members of the public.

Mr. Jim Bernard stated that he thought the board voted to opt out at the last meeting. Was that not correct?

Mr. Wilson replied that the process of passing a local law is that we introduce the local law, then it has to go through the public hearing we had last Thursday and then the actual law is voted on. Then tomorrow night in the board meeting we will vote on the local itself.

No other questions, the public hearing was adjourned at 5:38PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cori-Anne Favro, Town Clerk

11/19/2021