

February 12, 2015

The Newfield Town Board convened a Public Hearing on February 12, 2015 at the Newfield Fire Hall, 77 Main Street, Newfield NY. Supervisor Hart called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. and stated the purpose of the Public Hearing was to obtain public comment on proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2015:

TOWN OF NEWFIELD SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES LAW

Present were: Supervisor Jeffrey Hart, Councilperson Roy Trask, Councilperson Joanne James, and Councilperson Christine Laughlin. *Absent:* Councilperson Casey Powers. *Also present:* Atty. Hooks, and 55 attendees.

Privilege of the Floor

Eleanore Perry: supports the proposed ban. She felt the proposed Local Law worked well with the 1987 law and the Comprehensive Plan.

Sue Golden: encouraged the Board to pass and enforce the proposed Local Law.

Sandy VanZile: agreed with all the reasons stated for the ban and encouraged the Board to pass the proposed Local Law.

Rebecca Riberio: felt the passage of the Solid Waste Facility Law was important and referenced the Comprehensive Plan.

John Schulte: felt this proposed Local Law was a way around zoning and which business would be stifled next.

Terry Clark: supports the proposed Local Law since the Tompkins County already has an open public facility.

Bob Kellogg: would like legal fees to be limited if Local Law No. 1 of 2015 is passed and challenged.

Bob Mente: stated he has been coming to Newfield Town Board Meetings for 3 years trying to explain his proposal for a transfer station in addition to the existing bona fide waste facility at 71 Bishop Road. Mr. Mente also stated he had tried to compromise with the Town for a five year plan to allow the facility to be built and then move to a more suitable location on a State Road but it was not considered. He feels the Town and residents are trying to stop his business growth. Mr. Mente informed the Newfield Town Board and residents with enlightenment of new information of the 6NY CRR360 regulations, that his business is a bona fide solid waste management facility. With the permit he received on January 6, 2015, he will construct and operate a transfer station in the future. Mr. Mente also added that with the passage of Local Law No. 1 it will restrict him from moving his business in Newfield later in the future.

Tom Gerow: read a statement from the Planning Board supporting the passage of Local Law No. 1 of 2015. The law, in the view of the Planning Board, is consistent with the comprehensive Plan and is needed to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the Newfield Community.

Maylon Perkins: felt that Local Law No. 1 of 2015 was well written. He stated this was a good exercise of police power to protect the common good of the entire town. He hoped the Town Board would appropriate necessary money to defend and enforce the local law.

Jeff Golden: supports the Solid Waste Management Law. He felt with the passage of the law created a lasting legacy for the Town. He added this law will need robust enforcement in order to validate the law.

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Gene VanZile: commented that he spoke on behalf of those who are serving in the military and could not attend the Public Hearing. He felt it was the responsibility of those attending to preserve the green grasses of home. Mr. VanZile feels that if a transfer station were allowed there would be bad erosion of good things that have been fought for and a cavity would grow beyond repair in the future. He asked the board to say no to this unnecessary burden.

Anna Brown: voiced concern of the school buses and the children on the Bishop Road. Another concern she had was for health hazards caused from environmental impacts caused from a waste transfer station. Mrs. Brown supports Local Law No. 1 of 2015.

Shaun Brown: supports the passage of Local Law No. 1 of 2015. Mr. Brown cited negative impact from loss of tax revenue from school and town/county taxes.

Madelyn Glase: for the health and safety of Newfield residents, she supports passing Local Law No. 1 of 2015.

Gundy Lee: supports passing Local Law No. 1 of 2015. Ms. Lee commented this was not personal against Mr. Mente as he has an existing business that will continue on Bishop Road, it just will not be a transfer station.

Dan Walker: stated that he is a resident of the Town of Enfield and also a member of its Planning Board. Mr. Walker stated that he had reviewed the traffic patterns. He feels there will be an impact on roads and highways from the heavy truck traffic. He stated there are County and Town laws requiring heavy truck traffic addressing the heavy impact on the highways. Mr. Walker felt it would be a good idea to reduce the heavy truck traffic opportunities and the passage of Local Law No. 1 of 2015 would reduce that Mr. Walker also commented there were 2 other solid waste facilities within a 7 mile radius.

Ashley Mente: commented that the Casella Waste Transfer Station is a large open facility. The facility AWS is proposing to construct would be a 50x60 enclosed facility. Mrs. Mente added that the environmental impact of an enclosed facility is low to none. She added there are studies that would need to be done in order to show whether there would be an environmental impact. The studies that have been done as per their permit, clarify there is no environmental significance for their project. Mrs. Mente stated that the proposed transfer station would be run as meticulously as the current business adhering to all state regulations. Mrs. Mente also commented on the possibility of water contamination. She felt the water buffer was significantly far enough away from someone's well.

Linda Callahan: supports the passage of Local Law No. 1 of 2015 for the same reasons she supported the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Callahan feels Newfield needs to look at what kind of community it wants to be in the future. Does it want to be a community that attracts new young families, does it want to be viewed as a community that treasures natural resources, or viewed as a the trash capital of Tompkins County.

Amy Heffron: stated she does not want to see this law pass. Mrs. Heffron feels this would implement zoning and that Mr. Mente is being personally attacked and targeted. Mrs. Heffron added she had a picture on her cell phone where the past Supervisor specifically mentioned AWS rather than a transfer station. She also commented that she felt this would tie up taxpayer dollars in legal fees. Mrs. Heffron said she has been reading the definitions listed in the proposed law and felt several business's in Newfield could be impacted if passed. Mrs. Heffron asked what business would be targeted next.

Carol Straight: supports the proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2015.

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Brenda Lapp: commented that it was more than a few people who do not want this type of business in Newfield. Ms. Lapp feels that the residents do not want Newfield industrialized and that this is the first step to industrialization. Ms.Lapp feels Local Law No. 1 needs to be passed to protect Newfield from having businesses that people do not want to live near.

Supervisor Hart stated 9 letters had been sent in supporting the ban, along with Shaun Brown's findings concerning the tax base study.

Gene Yaples: commented that while there is a transfer station in Ithaca, products are being manufactured to be recycled. Mr. Yaples felt a question to ask would be, why Newfield would not consider a transfer station in its future where jobs could be created for recycling purposes and less material being taken to landfills. Mr. Yaples felt this is a neighborhood issue, more than health and safety issue concerns. He feels the future of Newfield's future generations need to be considered. While he is not for either side, he does not want to see this law signed in.

Becca Harber: supports the passage of Local Law No. 1. Ms. Harber feels there are important health and safety concerns and this could be a precedent to take care of future possibilities that could happen in other areas. She hopes future Town Boards will consider if future businesses could endanger neighborhoods and if protection could be offered. While Ms. Harber is not against business, she feels it is important where to put businesses for the common good.

Becki Weaver: stated she lives across the road from AWS on Bishop Road. Ms. Weaver supports the construction of a waste transfer station there. She is not worried about the truck traffic and safety. What she is more worried about are the personal attacks against the Mentees. A safety issue she is concerned about is the people who stand in the road with cameras and binoculars. Ms.Weaver also feels this is a personal neighborhood issue.

Marie Terlizzy: is also worried about the future of Newfield. She commented that Newfield already has a transfer station; adding a second would put it in a league of its own in the State. She feels that is not a good selling point to attract new families with children. Ms. Terlizzy hopes the Town Board sees the need to take steps to assure people to feel secure with the quality of life that attracted them to Newfield as well as the value of their property. Ms. Terlizzy feels this law is the first step for the future to protect property values and trying to draw people to Newfield.

Missy Heins: stated she works for the Mentees. Ms. Heins stated Casella will not give her a price to dump at that transfer station. She does not support the passage of Local Law No. 1, and that it is a personal issue.

April Peres: supports the passage of Local Law No. 1. She does not feel it is a personal issue, but rather the wrong place for a transfer station.

Being no other comments concerning proposed Local Law No 1 of 2015 Town of Newfield Solid Waste Management Facilities Law, Supervisor Hart declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

February 18, 2015

Karen Miller Kenerson
Newfield Town Clerk