

February 8, 2023

**STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY COUNTY**

Public Hearings for Proposed Local Laws 1&2 of 2023

Deputy Town Supervisor Clayton led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order at 5:58PM with the following role call attendance: Councilmembers Doolin, Thiem & Vane, Highway Superintendent Bashwinger and Town Clerk Kristin De Oliveira were also in attendance.

Deputy Supervisor Clayton went on to say how important public hearings are to allow the public to give their opinions. However with the capacity already meant and many others waiting outside it would not be fair to continue the hearing on Proposed Local Law 1- 2023 “ A local law Regulating Use of Limited Use Vehicles and All-Terrain Vehicles on Town Highways.”

Deputy Supervisor Clayton made a motion seconded by Councilmember Vane to keep the Public Hearing open and to be heard on February 20, 2023 at 6PM at the BKW High School Auditorium. Deputy Town Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Vane and Thiem all voted aye.

Around 6:15PM Deputy Supervisor Clayton opened the floor for public comment regarding the Proposed Local Law 2- 2023 “A local law to Establish the Office of Single Appointed Assessor Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law § 328.”

Dawn Jordan commented on her concern with appointments of Assessors rather than an election could lead to a political game.

Ron Jordan talked about the anti-rent wars in the early 1800’s which led to the adoption of electing judges, he pointed out there can be issues with appointments.

Tim Lippert stated he liked the current system the Town has been utilizing which provides jobs for residents and keeps things fair.

Michael Vincent also said he likes the current system and that having more people helps to move the records forward.

Christine Valachovic, current Town of Berne Assessor, said that her motive to do her job to the best of her ability as well as abiding by NYS law will continue despite being elected or appointed.

Lawrence Zimmerman told of his experience for 40 years litigating realty taxes and that by changing the current system there would be room for temptation. His concern dwindled down the tax rates stability being in jeopardy.

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Deputy Town Supervisor Clayton made a motion seconded by Councilmember Doolin to close the Public Hearing, Deputy Town Supervisor Clayton and Councilmembers Doolin, Vane and Thiem all voted aye.

Meeting was closed at 6:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin De Oliveira, Town Clerk