

A special meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the United State Flag at the West Valley Volunteer Hose Company, Inc. Fireman’s Memorial Hall at 7:30pm with John A. Pfeffer Town Supervisor presiding.

Present: John A. Pfeffer, Supervisor
Angela M. Ghani, Council Deputy Supervisor
William J. Heim, Council
Jean M. Bond, Council
James P. Boberg, Council
Patricia R. Dashnaw, Town Clerk

Total present: 10 elected/appointed Ashford officials, 17 residents, 1 guest

A regular meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the United State Flag at the Ashford Community Center at 7:30pm with John A. Pfeffer Town Supervisor presiding.

RESOLUTION 67-2021
APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion of Council Heim seconded by Council Boberg the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Pfeffer, Heim, Bond, Boberg, Ghani
 Nays 0

Resolved the Town Board of the Town of Ashford hereby approve the agenda as presented

Supervisor Pfeffer made a presentation and started with the following statement:

This is a Public Information Meeting
Intent of the Town Board is to present our options as outlined in the New York Marihuana Regulation & Taxation Act; AND to hear from the community about those options and the implications of them.
This is an official meeting of the Town Board in public. We will present information and our thoughts, and then ask for yours. We will all be respectful of others opinions and points of view.
This is not a public hearing as it relates to any laws to be enacted.

The presentation further informed those present with the facts surrounding the new New York State Cannabis Law and the responsibilities of the Town Board to move forward by either opting in and opting out. By opting out the Town Board may opt in at a later date. However, opting in does not allow for opting out at a later date. The new law does not have specifics yet for any guideline to follow.

Constituents gave opinions regarding their wishes for opting out vs. opting in. Some encouraged the Town Board to opt in to serve residents, allow for increased revenue, and bring business to the Town. Some encouraged the Town Board to continue with the opt out process and revisit at a later date when more specifics are outlined by New York State. Discussion also took place regarding opting out of part of the process, retail dispensary vs. on-site consumption. Concerns of implications of a federally illegal business was mentioned. It was also stated that in areas where cannabis is legal, a rise in violence and crime has not been noticed. A suggestion was made for the Town Board to compare the anticipated income to the costs also.

A motion was made by Bond seconded by Boberg and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 8:26pm. (All aye)

Patricia R. Dashnaw—Town Clerk