

The special meeting of the Groveland Town Board was held on Thursday May 11, 2023 at the Town Hall.

Present: Bill Devine, Supervisor; Sandra Bean, Deputy Supervisor and Councilmember; Steve Atterbury, Councilmember and John Macauley, Councilmember

Other Town Officials: D. Mark Caldwell, Highway Superintendent

Absent: Amy Hunter, Councilmember

Others Present: Members of the Community

Supervisor Devine called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Councilmember Atterbury led the pledge to the flag.

Old/New Business:

APPOINTED HIGHWAY SUPERITENDENT PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW # OF 2023-
Town Clerk read aloud the public hearing notice.

A motion by Councilmember Bean and seconded Macauley to open the public hearing for comments. Motion carried.

The public hearing opened at 7:02 p.m.

Comments:

Member of the community was concerned with a different board coming in or the current board not being happy with the appointed person and removing the appointed person that was appointed whereas an elected position has more people to decide than just a majority of 3 votes of a board.

Supervisor responded that all the towns that currently have appointed highway superintendent positions have been in their position for 20 + years and that would be what this board would like to have happen.

Councilmember Bean stated both elected and appointed positions have pros and cons on each side, there is a concern each way. Trying to do what is best for the taxpayers as 70% of the town budget annually is the Highway Fund.

Councilmember Atterbury sees the position going from a popularity contest to finding a qualified person to fill the position as the board can place a job description on an appointed position. A rough draft of the job description was discussed at the meeting.

A question was asked if there will be time to do interviews following the general election if passed to be able to fill by January 1, 2024. The supervisor stated that the board should be able to get the advertisement in and interviews done in plenty of time prior to the January 1, 2024, appointment timeframe.

A member of the community stated the weather can change s drastically from one area in Groveland to another that whoever is in charge needs to be on top of that in the winter months.

Councilmember Bean stated that is one of the reasons the Local Law only states a 10-mile radius of towns abutting Groveland, as the weather patterns do change and we do need qualified people in this position.

A member of the community recalls the past when local farmers held the position, they were well-liked however not much was accomplished, and the position has grown.

Supervisor Devine stated the ideal appointment would be a resident from the town, but would still need to do interviews if the position does move to an appointed position following the general election.

Supervisor Devine thanked the members of the community for their input.

A motion by Councilmember Bean and seconded by Councilmember Atterbury to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Public hearing Closed at 7:22 p.m.

Resolution 50-2023-

WHEREAS, all Board Members, having due notice of said meeting, and that pursuant to Article 7, §104 of the Public Officers Law, said meeting was open to the general public and due and proper notice of the time and place whereof was given as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is considering adopting a proposed local law, entitled “A Local law to Change the Office of Highway Superintendent from an Elected Position to an Appointed Office,” which would abolish the elected position of Superintendent of Highways and replace it with an appointed position of Superintendent of Highways in the Town of Groveland; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Groveland held a public hearing on the proposed adoption of said local law on the 11th day of May 2023 at 7:00 p.m., at which time all interested parties and citizens for or against the proposed law were heard; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Groveland

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Groveland feels it is in the best interests of the Town of Groveland to adopt Local Law No. __ of 2023 entitled, “A Local law to Change the Office of Highway Superintendent from an Elected Position to an Appointed Office”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that said local law is subject to mandatory referendum and shall become effective upon filing in the office of the New York Secretary of State after approval by a majority of the electors voting in the General Election thereon in accordance with the requirements of Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Proposition to be voted on shall be in the General Election shall be:

Proposition No. 1

Shall there be approved and adopted a Local Law in the Town of Groveland, entitled “A Local Law to Change the Office of Highway Superintendent from an Elected Office to an Appointed Office”, as approved by the Town Board of the Town of Groveland, to change the elected position of Highway Superintendent to position appointed by the Town, effective January 1, 2024?

Please choose one of the following options:

Yes

No

; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be and she hereby is authorized and directed, at least ninety (90) days prior to the election, to transmit to each Board of Elections a certified copy of the text of this referendum and a statement of the form in which it is to be submitted with the date of such election.

The adoption of the foregoing RESOLUTION was duly out in vote on motion of Councilmember Macauley and seconded by Councilmember Atterbury and the results were carried with 0 nay, 4 ayes. Roll Call Votes: Supervisor Devine aye; Councilmember Bean, aye; Councilmember Atterbury, aye and Councilmember Macauley, aye. Councilmember Hunter, absent.

A motion by Councilmember Atterbury and seconded by Councilmember Macauley to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m. The next meeting will be the regular meeting June 08, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m. at Ambuscade Park and is open to the public. Motion carried.

Kimberly Burgess, Town Clerk
Town of Groveland
Dated: May 11, 2023