

The Special meeting of the Groveland Town Board was held on Thursday March 30, 2023 at the Town Hall.

Present: Bill Devine, Supervisor; Sandra Bean, Deputy Supervisor and Councilmember; Amy Hunter, Councilmember and John Macauley, Councilmember

Absent: Steve Atterbury, Councilmember

Other Town Officials: Town of Caledonia, Dan Pangrazio

Others Present: members of the community

Supervisor Devine opened the meeting @ 7:02 p.m.

DISCUSSION ON APPOINTED VS. ELECTED HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNITY FORUM:

Supervisor Devine stated the town board is interested in the community's input into a potential Local Law to change the position from elected to an appointed position.

Supervisor Devine introduced the Town Supervisor from the Town of Caledonia, Dan Pangrazio to give insight into how the Town of Caledonia's appointed Highway Superintendent position works in their town. Supervisor Pangrazio stated that the appointed position has been in effect for 40+ years in his municipality. Supervisor Pangrazio discussed with the community why he believes this works well in Caledonia and the positive working relationship built with the board and the Highway Superintendent. Supervisor Pangrazio answered a few questions and left the forum.

Members of the community asked the board the reason for the request for change in the position. A discussion from the board happened to state that currently there has not been anyone in the town wanting the position the board has heard along with the concern the board has that approximately 70% of the town budget is the highway fund. The job description from NYS for an elected highway superintendent is very vague and has no job experience requirement, nor is the elected highway superintendent required to have CDL licensing to be a highway superintendent.

A member of the community gave his reason as a retired highway superintendent for the town he felt should stay elected, he was young and worked hard and there are no guarantees with anything in the future that your voice is with your vote and if anyone that gets voted in does not do well then you vote them out. The board stated this was why they wished to hear from the community as this is a difficult decision as it impacts the town.

A question was asked about changing the elected position to be able to not have to live within the town of Groveland. It was explained that that is the State Election Law dictates that the town cannot change State Law.

A member of the community praised the board for their transparency and the wish to keep the community informed. This member stated that our highway crew actively works on the equipment and can do road work. They are a younger crew and need to have a good leader to continue the guidance. Other municipalities do not do what the Groveland highway crew has been able to accomplish with the loss of a seasoned crew from retirement and would like to see the growth of that department with positive leadership.

It was asked by a member of the community member who the current highway crew is, as the highway crew has changed in the last few years. The board answered the question.

Further discussion continued on how if the board decided to move forward with the Local Law how the process of a formal public hearing would happen and then this would be considered at the General Election as a proposition on the ballot. The electorate would make the final decision regarding passing the position from an elected position to an appointed one per a mandatory referendum, the town board does not get to make the final decision regarding this the electorate does.

Following the in-depth and very informative discussion Supervisor Devine thanked everyone for their time.

The meeting closed at 8:05 p.m.

Kimberly Burgess, Town Clerk
Town of Groveland
Dated: March 30, 2023