

**Public Hearing Meeting  
October 12, 2021**

Local Law No #2 of the year 2021, Town of Hamlin, County of Monroe. A local law to opt out of allowing cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site consumption sites as authorized under Cannabis Law Article 4

The Hamlin Town Board held a Public Hearing in the Hamlin Town Hall located at 1658 Lake Road, Hamlin NY. The Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Supervisor Eric Peters. Present: Councilperson Jason Baxter, Councilperson Jennifer Voelkl, Councilperson Joel Yager, Councilperson Phil Hurlbutt, Supervisor Eric Peters. Also present: Town Clerk - Patty Jo Groenendaal, Building Inspector - Cheryl Pacelli, Highway Superintendent – Mike German, Tony Dumas, Nicholas Stumpf, Nicholas Russo, Bill Newman, Damian Hammond, Edward Embrey, William Miller III, Steve Baase, Marcia Berg, Paul Berg, Tim McArdle, Clarke Mahaney, Elizabeth Maxwell, James Nesbitt, Kimberly Ford, Rob Worthington

Broadcasting live on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2FT6IBwm7g>

**PUBLIC HEARING OPENED:**

Peters reviewed the proposed law. New York State law requires a decision for the town to opt out by December 31 2021. Once a town opts into the law they can never opt out. One time window to opt out. A town can always opt back in at any time. People in charge of regulations as of two weeks ago. No one assigned on the board. The town would be saying yes to what they do not know. No idea what the regulations are. Town's that are not opting out are most likely looking at it as zoning wear adult entertainment is. Towns can control zoning. At this point the town is looking at opting out for now on those reasons. The tax is 4% and the county gets 25% of that leaving the town with 75% not a county shared income it is what is brought in from just Hamlin.

Edward Embry – Mentioned that Supervisor Peters just took more than 3 minutes. Since it's been legal currently doing two hits two to three times a day. Taking 10 less inflammatory medications a day since he started. It has really helped him; he is not sitting around all day getting buzzed all day. He really appreciated this dispensary in town. He is on disability, on a limited income and can barely afford it but when he can it helps him. The state did set up with legislation and do have governing rules in the state. They do have a basis to go by. Hard to find this as the same category as adult entertainment. Not going to see drug deals at Crosby's or at other parking lots. Harmless drug. You can go to other places in town and see people drunk at

the bars and still getting served. This stuff isn't going to bring the bad people to your neighborhood just the good people. Nick has made that place look way better than it did two years ago. He is a tenant and has put his money into it. It has been addressed in other states and use what has worked with them. The corner is a new better look and can think of a few properties that are worse than the one on the corner. What they are doing now is taking crystal meth, heroin and spraying on the weed in the black market so they are now addicted to weed. The corner is serving a quality product. We know what his product is. He is 58 years old has three children and it is easy to say he smokes pot. Believes he should stay in business and not opt out. Not a big moving town and can't see this vote swaying to opt back in. Doesn't see anyone getting hurt from this business.

Damian Hammond – Doesn't want to gloss over the tax thing. The 4% is cut by 25% still that's hundreds of thousands of dollars. Doesn't feel Hamlin has the room to pass on that. Hamlin could use some investment. It's great for farming that includes hemp. Marijuana has a tax return of \$.03 for every edible, an 1/8 of a cent for every concentrate per gram and 1/5 of a cent for every flower gram. Has gone to the shop on the corner. There is a lot of business there. This place is a hub for a Hamlin. People don't have a reason to get together and Hamlin. Don't see why Hamlin wants to take this off the table. Has talked to groups and people that live here they think it is a great idea. Regulations helps keeps it safer and regulated. We are getting a return on investment.

Tony Dumas – Is a professor and single father of two. Is a regular shopper at Nick's Shop. Use a microdose it's affective. It has replaced all of his medication. His brother who has seizures all his life down to one or two meds and his antiseizure meds are down to just medicinal marijuana. Makes no sense that this is to be considered the same as adult entertainment. It has decreased alcohol consumption. Nick's establishment is always welcoming. Does not want to get stuck going downtown. Do we really want to give up the tax revenue?

Nicholas Stumpf – Start with a clarification not retail sales operate by a donation type method so if you want free weed come on by. Our perception today, we were taught that it was an illegal drug that is made to hurt us. Today's new perception with science, we are learning its true value of it in our daily life. Much like slavery we had turned it around. This is an adjustment period. Even though if this board denies the American right of business, and following the American dream, avenues such as signed petitions will still make it possible for marijuana be sold locally. Customers have signed a petition today with 60 names and it is still growing We want to know the pot is healthy and safe, not a killer that you find on the streets. We want education on the strains and the benefits of it. I have been offering weed for over three months for a donation. Predict that the sales can bring \$200,000 per year. Bring jobs to the community. Product at the store will be insured. Opting out will make customers going to other towns or buy it on the streets that could be unsafe and deadly. THC edible products related to children, New York state

regulates the marketing. Down the street you can buy birthday cake vodka. We teach children around the products. Keep our money local, keep our people local, keep our weed local and keep the town happy. Make the right decision today, rest assured that we the people will make sure the right decision is made in the future.

Nick Russo – Local pastor, heard some of the benefits tonight but also looked up National Institute of Drug Abuse helpline. The other side shows it alters the senses, time, mood, impaired body movement, altered thinking and problem solving, impaired memory, hallucinations and delusions. The percentage of users is going up in the Middle school because it is more available. Wise to look at all the side and what are the regulations. Support the board with decision to wait.

Bill Newman – 58 years old and has lived here in Hamlin all his life, married 25 years, has a 24-year-old daughter living a good life. Has assumed the that last speaker has never tried it. Peters reminded Bill that we were not here to attack anybody. Supporting the Opt in. He has smoked it for a long time and it didn't destroy his life. New York State leave it to them for starting something without a plan or regulations. Town of Hamlin by the nose. One word that comes to mind is Freedom. Say let's stick it to them and opt in. Since when can the state regulate what goes on in the Town and Albany be damned. Easy to opt out and then opt in 3 years down the road but people like Nick need to make plans. Hamlin is a farming and can grow a lot on their own. Is in support of opting in. What the state did was terrible they didn't have a plan in place.

Marcia Berg - Never used tried it once in Colorado, it didn't do anything. In support of opting in for legal access in Hamlin. Would rather see it legal rather than illegal. It is a civil right to have access. Son is a medical grower feels it is safe he is a plant scientist. Know a lot of people that use it and has never heard of anyone having hallucinations. Has a friend with Alzheimer's and marijuana has had a huge improvement on him. Support the Opting in.

Nicholas Stumpf - Can see New York State coming up with very strict marketing for edibles.

Tim McArdle – Enjoys living in Hamlin, a quiet town. Asked why did Nick pick Hamlin? Would pick a busier town to sell marijuana. Doesn't like seeing that on the corner. Not against the use of marijuana. It's a small town... Nick Stumpf interrupted and asked why he was attacking his business. Peters interrupted and said he could shut it down right now. Supporting opting out need to know more about it.

Kimberly Ford – Understands it is good for taxes. How far for one dispensary to another? Young adults will smoke in their cars these are back roads. Crime stats shows increase some stats show a decrease. Also aware of the heroin crisis. People believe it will be the cure for heroin. As a parent of an addict, it's not the case for all. She fought the war on drugs to keep kids safe. We tell the kids not to do drugs yet they will walk from the library past places where it

is ok. It is sending a mixed message. Supports business to succeed. Thinks we should opt out for the time being until there is more information or until it's in safer area.

Damian Hammond - Hamlin isn't any less safe, New York has a robust black market.

Jason Baxter – If we opt out will that prohibit medical sales? Peters, no. Medical sales are under a different license. Can the state override the town's decision of opting out? Not sure about the state but the people can with a petition. Petition regulations would allow to change the law once the law is formed. Opting out does not make much of a difference right now it will be a while before they even start the application process. Location is the only control the town has. The Town can also issue an opinion for the license application process.

Kimberly Ford –It is still federally illegal. Regular stores that don't have dispensaries claim income. See the Sherriff's Department to regulate is a challenge since we do not have a zone.

#### PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

Resolution #200 Motion was made by Councilperson Baxter, seconded by Councilperson Yager, requesting Town Board resolution to close the Public Hearing at 7:06 pm.

Polled Votes: Councilperson Baxter aye, Councilperson Voelkl aye, Councilperson Yager aye, Councilperson Hurlbutt aye and Supervisor Peters aye. Motion carried.