

Minutes of the March 21, 2017, Public Hearing for the revised Junk Law, in the Germantown Town Hall, Germantown, NY commencing at 7:37pm.

Present: Supervisor Craig
Councilman Moore
Councilwoman DuFresne
Councilwoman Foley

Absent: Councilman Phelan

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Craig opened the Junk Law Public Hearing by saying there were updates made to some of the language in the Junk Law.

Roy Brown asked if Supervisor Craig could highlight the changes. Supervisor Craig said the basic change was that for a first-time offender there was a possibility of jail time which they thought was a little severe and would cost the Town a lot of money. The updated law is a fine or action by the Judge and that would take care of it.

A resident asked how to proceed with a junk complaint? Supervisor Craig said you make the complaint to the Code Enforcement Officer and he will follow up with a phone call to the resident.

Lee Wurtzburger asked if the change in the law with less of a penalty make this easier? Supervisor Craig said he hopes it will be easier to get the process started and won't cost the Town a lot of money.

Teresa Repko how many times do they get told to clean up? Supervisor Craig said the Code Enforcement Officer will send them a letter and give them a time frame to get cleaned up. If they still don't clean up the attorney will contact them. If they still don't a court date will be set and the Judge will mandate. Lastly the Town would go in and clean up the property but would be stuck with paying for clean-up fee.

Teresa Repko asked if they are warned 3 times? Supervisor Craig said that it increases with severity and hopefully a letter from the Attorney is enough.

Billy Kimmel thinks they should be fined after one warning. Supervisor Craig said there is a process that they have to go through.

Art Cady asked if the Code Enforcement Officer is empowered to enforce State law? Supervisor Craig said in both the recent cases Code Enforcement sited both to make sure we could go after both.

Art Cady asked if the State law was related to junk? Supervisor Craig said there are certain State laws about a number of unregistered vehicles on a property and there are also health and safety laws if Code Enforcement feels there is a violation.

Margaret DellaCioppa asked if the Town could develop a plan to assist property owners? Supervisor Craig said that is a good thought. Councilwoman Foley said the Town has offered to help in a few cases.

Eve Thoreau said after her complaint last year, that people are still not picking up after their dogs go to the bathroom. Councilwoman DuFresne said they had talked about putting recepticals around Town but then you need the staff to empty them out and more money the Town needs to put into it.

A resident asked what is the next step for the dog pool? Supervisor Craig said it is on tonight's Town Board meeting agenda.

Motion to close the Public Hearing made by Councilman Moore, seconded by Councilwoman Foley, with all in favor and none opposed.

Public Hearing closed at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,