

*****DRAFT*****

Town of Murray Public Hearing
June 18, 2015

Present: Supervisor John Morriss, Councilwoman Kathy Case, Councilmen Ed Bower and Paul Hendel, Town Clerk Cindy Oliver, Attorney Jeff Martin, Chad Fabry, Joe Sidonio, Ralph Dickinson, Tony Manno, David Piedmonte, Ginny Hendel, Carol Strong, Dale Strong, Susan Machamer, Amy Machamer, Kathy Britt, William Coots, Debi Holt, Bill Herring, Paul DeGraph, Bob Taylor

Public Hearing opened at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge to the flag.

Attorney Jeff Martin briefly explained what the proposed Town of Murray Local Law No. 1 of 2015 (*Providing for the Removal of Tall Grass and Weeds from Properties in the Town of Murray*) entails. The Building inspector/Code Enforcement Officer's duty is to enforce the property maintenance code of NYS. The proposed Local Law is designed to provide a procedure to get this done. Questions regarding what the 'lawn area' entails. Jeff referred to our ordinance which defines what 'lawn area' is. The Town is not looking to have someone mow every acre of property they own; only their lawn area immediately around the structure. This proposed law is especially needed for the zombie properties where banks have foreclosed. The Town Board receives several complaints per year from residents living next to these un-mowed, foreclosed properties. Neighbor's properties being overrun with snakes, rodents, etc. because of these unmaintained properties are a concern. This is a proposed local law, and is open to revisions. This is the purpose of the public hearing; to listen to any concerns the residents may have and to make revisions where the Board deems necessary.

Concerns of those present included: 5-day notice is not enough notice, notice should be by certified mail, allows Code Enforcement Officer too much authority, term lawn is too broad of a term and needs to be defined in better detail, CEO shouldn't be allowed on property, liability if someone is hurt while inspecting the lawn height or possible damage done to property, plants, etc., while mowing, an issue of opinion as to what an unmaintained lawn is, cost of mowing. Dale Strong stated that he was told that Karpenko's property would be cleaned up, but since he has lived on Telegraph Road, it had not been done and hasn't been enforced.

This is not an uncommon issue and many towns and villages have practices in place for these properties. If your lawn is not over ten inches high, you're not in violation.

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There were many good suggestions given and the Board will take all concerns into consideration. Jeff will make revisions that the Board requests. When the revisions are completed, the revised proposed local law will be posted on the Town website.

Public closed at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
