

Minutes of February 8, 2022 Germantown Town Board Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No.1 of 2022, adopting the NYS Stretch Code, held in the Germantown Town Hall, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown, NY and via Zoom, commencing at 6:30pm.

Present: Supervisor Helsley
Councilman Sullivan
Councilman Kukon

Present via Zoom: Councilmember Suarez
Councilman Christian

Town Attorney, Corinne Smith

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Helsley opened the Public Hearing.

Motion to open the Public Hearing made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Helsley asked Brandon Mullins to comment on the Stretch Code. Brandon said his main concern of the cost this will be putting on Germantown residents. Brandon thinks there unnecessary things and good points in the Stretch Code. Brandon is up in the air in regards to the Stretch Code.

Councilmember Suarez said she spoke to someone in Kingston and saw a video for Bethel. Councilmember Suarez said Kingston studied the topic over 15 months and adopted in May 2021. The concerns were building inspector being comfortable with it and didn't want any additional burden on the staff. They also told Councilmember Suarez that NYSERDA offered support. Councilmember Suarez said that Bethel spent 11 weeks on it and adopted in May 2021, they liked the idea of a Green Community and saving money for the residents.

Supervisor Helsley said he received emails from several Supervisors. Supervisor Ron Knott, Town of Stuyvesant, who is an HVAC installer for 30 years, is not in support of it. Supervisor Helsley also said Supervisor Tistrya Houghtling, Town of New Lebanon doesn't agree of the added expense but she is in support of the green initiatives. Supervisor Helsley mirrors her thoughts.

Supervisor Helsley would like proof of the 1-2% savings not enough payback. Supervisor Helsley spoke with multiple contractors about this Stretch Code.

Martin Overington said it is great for new comers but not good for low income families. Martin is a bit concerned about the NYSERDA guidelines. Martin is in support of the big picture but not at this time.

Christina Bohnsack spoke to builders about the mechanical ventilation which can be passed or not passed in the Stretch Code.

Brandon Mullins said ventilation system is an exemption in zone 4 and that we are not in that zone.

Christina Bohnsack said that has more to do with building code not energy code and it is applicable for all zones for mechanical and EV charging stations.

Brandon would like Christina to send him a copy of the latest.

Corinne Smith said we can sever this piece section R403.6.2 & M1505.4.1 the mechanical ventilation

Councilmember Suarez said for a single family house the cost will offset in 4-8 years for new construction.

Councilman Christian said the towns that have done this are happy and have good results.

Matthew Mercier wants to make it work and is willing to do the research and help Brandon out.

Tony Albino is very concerned about the increased costs and NYS is one of highest taxed states and young families can't afford it.

Councilmember Suarez said a new build or renovation will be a savings in the long run.

Tony Albino added NYS mandate sprinkler systems in new construction. We need to be all on the same page.

Councilman Sullivan agrees with Tony about being on the same page of any unnecessary burden.

Supervisor Helsley said we are all on the same page and he understands long-term payback that there is.

Martin Overington asked if we remembered Terra Nova the 50 condos they wanted to build behind the XtraMart? Martin said it's all about trying to balance who can afford it or not.

Supervisor Helsley asked there were any more comments. Supervisor Helsley asked again if there were any more comments. With no more comments Supervisor Helsley asked for a motion to adjourn the public hearing.

Motion to adjourn the Public Hearing made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Councilman Christian asked if we alter close this Local Law do we close this public hearing and have a different hearing or keep this hearing open?

Corinne Smith said we can keep the Public Hearing open as long as we have the final Local Law as a final version available 10 days prior to being adopted.

Councilmember Suarez asked if we can make an amendment now?

Supervisor Helsley adjourned the public hearing.

Town Board decided on a Public Hearing on March 8, 2022 at 6:30pm to discuss any changes.

Hearing adjourned at 7:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Vale