

**TOWN OF WESTERLO  
TOWN BOARD  
PUBLIC HEARING  
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 -2015  
OF  
TUE., JANUARY 6, 2015**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a Public Hearing on Tue. January 6, 2015 regarding Proposed Local Law No. 1 -2015 the purpose of the law being to repeal Local Law No. 2 of 1989 “ Flood Damage Prevention Local Law” and enact a new Local Law for Flood Damage Prevention as authorized by NYS Constitution Article IX, Section 2 and Environmental Conservation Law, Article 36. The Public Hearing was advertised in the Altamont Enterprise and draft copies of the proposed Local Law were also available for the Public at the meeting, in the Town Clerk’s office, and on the Town of Westerlo website. Supervisor Rapp led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Field made a motion to open the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM, seconded by Councilman Lounsbury, and unanimously carried by the Board members attending.

Attending were: Supervisor Richard H. Rapp  
Councilman Alfred L. Field  
Councilman William F. Bichteman Jr.  
Councilman Theodore S. Lounsbury III  
Absent: Councilman Anthony W. Sherman.

Also attending were: Aline D. Galgay Town Attorney, Edwin H. Lawson Code Enforcement Officer, Dorothy Verch Planning Board Chairwoman, Gerry Boone Planning Board member, Keith Wright Sr. Highway Superintendent, Jody Ostrander Deputy Highway Superintendent, Edwin Stevens Planning Board member, Kathleen Spinnato Town Clerk, several town employees and approximately ten interested persons.

Anita Marrone asked if the Town Board would explain briefly what the local law was about. Supervisor Rapp advised it will help the Town and residents receive FEMA funds.

Councilman Field explained if residents are in the Floodplain it would enable residents to receive a discount on Flood Insurance. Mrs. Marrone indicated it would have been helpful if a Legend or Flood Map was included for the public to review and there should have been an explanation included with the Property Tax bills.

Councilman Field stated that residents can access the Flood Maps on the National Flood Insurance website. The Town Clerk reported that only certain items can be included with the mailing of Property Tax Bills and Board Resolution is required for any inclusion.

Attorney Galgay advised the Town Board that once the Law is passed and the Town participates in the new program, new paper copies of Floodplain Maps and Flood Insurance Rate Maps will be forthcoming to the Town once the whole process is complete. The documents would then be available at the Town Hall for the Public to view. The Town does not have the maps yet, the adoption of the Law is part of the process, if the Town does not adopt the Law the Town does not become part of the National Flood Insurance Program, and the Town would not be part of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. She also explained that due to past Hurricane’s such as Irene, those residents that develop or build within a Floodplain will need to comply with the federal development regulations and building requirements or they will not be eligible to receive FEMA Assistance or the reduced Flood Insurance Rates. There is a deadline and everything has to be in place by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 or the Town will lose the chance to participate and protect the Town and the community.

Discussion followed between Mrs. Marrone, Councilman Bichteman and the Town Attorney regarding the language as written by the US Government in the proposed Law with the exception of who the Town chose to designate as Coordinator(s).

There being no other public comment or questions, Supervisor Rapp made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilman Lounsbury, motion carried by those attending. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Spinnato