

SPECIAL MEETING MAY 30, 2024

A Special Meeting of the Town of Dickinson Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Michael A. Marinaccio at 3:15 P.M. on Friday May 30, 2024 at the Town of Dickinson Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, NY 13905.

The members of the Town Board present were:

Michael A. Marinaccio, Supervisor
Stephen M. Gardner, Councilperson
Danny F. Morabito, Councilperson
Thomas J. Burns, Councilperson
Sharon M. Exley, Councilperson

Also attending:

Keegan Coughlin, Town Attorney
Wendi Evans, Town Clerk
1 Attorney guest

SPECIAL MEETING DISCUSSING HOME RULE LAW LEGISLATION REQUEST

Supervisor Marinaccio explained that he is having second thoughts on whether or not to pursue this request. He was shocked to hear from them. He immediately started talking to our assemblymen's office and they sent him information and has been scampering trying to get the applications filled out and sent to them. He talked to the City of Binghamton because they are looking to get a 5% occupancy rate as well, but they are having second thoughts as well as not enough research has been done yet. Supervisor Marinaccio does not feel there has been enough time to research what kind of impact this is going to have on our hotels and our residents. He talked to a lady that is an expert on this who is the head of hospitality and she offered to come and meet with the board to give them some information and go over it all with them. He did not realize that if we get the 5% and you add that to the 5% that the county charges, as the county is the only municipality in Broome County that gets this and not many towns as well that we would be the highest hospitality taxed area in the state. We would even be higher than New York City. He poses that we do not vote on it today till more research is done. Another item that is really important, even if we voted and we turned everything in tomorrow to the assembly and legislature nothing would take place this year, so he recommends that we wait and gather more information and start the process at the end of this year to take affect the first of next year if it is voted on. He would like to put this money towards the water/sewer as that is where we need the most help in helping our residents. He asked the board what their thoughts were on it.

Councilperson Morabito commented that there is no harm in waiting and asked where we could use the money as it has to be specifically air marked in order to get it through the state legislation. Attorney Coughlin explained that it could be towards roads, water and sewer, etc. but has to be to a specific fund not to the general fund.

Councilperson Gardner commented that the only people that would be paying for this would be traveling guests, not residents. It is no charge to the residents so the fact that we will put it towards our water/sewer is appropriate as that is what the guests will mostly use is more of the water. The concern is the occupancy of the hotels, will people be looking online for a hotel stay and see that our hotels are higher and decide to go to a Chenango hotel.

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Councilperson Burns questioned if we would be considering raising it the whole 5%. Supervisor Marinaccio explained that percentage came up as there were 2 or 3 other towns that are east of us and down state of us that are doing the same thing. They are all scampering because this is all at the last minute. It seems to be the going rate.

Councilperson Morabito commented that this could be a substantial amount of money for the town for a guest paying \$200 a night with the tournaments at Bagsai this summer but Supervisor Marinaccio explained that there would be a downside for the businesses. He would like the person to come from the hospitality if we decide to pause this and come and address us about the good and also the negative effects it could have on the town. He looks at our water/sewer bills and thinks about the residents and anything that may be able to help them would be beneficial and he is all for it.

Councilperson Exley commented that she thinks we should not be in a hurry and lets do some research and investigate how it is going to impact on the hotels.

The board members agreed to postpone/pause the vote and will do the research and investigation and we will send it in November if they choose to do that.

Special Meeting closed at 3:49 pm.

Executive Session opened at 3:50 pm and closed at 4:05.