

**Town Board Public Forum  
May 26, 2021**

The Hamlin Town Board held a scheduled Public Forum in regards to the Marijuana Regulations and Taxation Act in the Hamlin Town Hall located at 1658 Lake Road, Hamlin, New York. The forum was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Peters.

Present: Councilperson Jason Baxter, Councilperson Jennifer Voelkl, Councilperson Phil Hurlbutt, Councilperson Joel Yager, Supervisor Eric Peters.

Also present: Town Clerk - Patty Jo Groenendaal, Highway Superintendent –Steve Baase, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer – Cheryl Pacelli, Town Attorney – Maureen Werner, Angel Male, Nicholas Stumpf, Cindy Barone.

**BROADCASTED LIVE:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkWFK7v905Y>

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Peters - gave an introduction for the town to get an informal feel on what people think about the Marijuana Regulations and Taxation Act as to whether the Town of Hamlin should or should not opt out of allowing cannabis retail dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption sites within the Town of Hamlin.

Nicholas Stumpf – From the local Smoke Shop. It has been a lifelong dream to open a dispensary. The tax incentives will be beneficial to the town and will help the economy for the state and our county. Marijuana helps people like me with PTSD. Liquor is much more impairing than marijuana. Marijuana has been found that people with addictions are cut in half. Would like to bring back the old look of the building where the smoke shop is now and call it the Cannabis Hotel. Traffic at the locations has worked out well with no accidents.

Cindy Barone – Doesn't feel alcohol is worse than Marijuana. Has learned from personal experience that marijuana use that this new law is not good. Feels no one should drive under the influence of Marijuana. Highly opposed to legal marijuana. Hates the thought of children being exposed to this.

Peters - stated the only control the town has is, if we decide to opt in or out of the dispensaries and on-site consumption. The sales tax is 4% of retail sales the Town will get 3% and the County 1%. There are still a lot of unknowns. We are not rushing into any decision. State will be doing all the regulations and enforcements.

Stumpf – If he brings in signatures of residents, would that help? Yes.

Angel Male – Can the two sections (dispensaries and/or on-site) be separate where a town can opt out of just dispensaries or just on-site consumption. Yes.

If we opt out, we can then opt in at a later date as an option, but not the other way around.

Restrictions can be added by the town such as place and time. Police are nervous along with the

current climate. There is no reliable test and there is so much to be determined. Waiting on guidance. We are not sure what the other towns will do yet. Another forum might be beneficial when it is not a holiday weekend and when more information comes from the state.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Jo Groenendaal  
Hamlin Town Clerk