

**PUBLIC HEARING OF
THE VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON DECEMBER 20, 2021**

PRESENT: John P. Curtin, Mayor See List
Timothy P. Manahan, Trustee
John J. Murphy, Trustee
Jeffrey D. Brown, Attorney
Charnley A. Abbott, Village Clerk

ABSENT: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Curtin made a motion to open the public hearing regarding Local Law #3 of 2021 at 7:00pm, seconded by Trustee Murphy. All board members voted aye and the public hearing was opened.

The Village Clerk read the legal notice of the public hearing to those in attendance.

Mayor Curtin explained that the purpose of the public hearing was to discuss Local Law #3 of 2021, opting out of hosting retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the Village of Marcellus. Mayor Curtin further explained that the legalization of adult-use cannabis is an enormous policy shift affecting many facets of society. It is a complex issue that requires legal expertise and much consideration from community members. The regulatory framework outlined in the MRTA will take time to develop and will require input from communities and stakeholders throughout the State of New York. On September 30, 2021, elected officials from the Town and Village of Marcellus met for an information session at the Marcellus Fire Department. This session, while not a Public Hearing, was well advertised, was open to the public and the information regarding the MRTA offered by a representative from the law firm of Costello, Cooney, & Fearon was very well presented. This presentation was followed by a very informative question and answer session with the public in attendance, as well as with elected representatives of the Town and Village of Marcellus. Following that session, there were a number of matters that the Village Board considered in order to make its decision. Mayor Curtin stated that the implementing regulations have not even been written by the State of New York, and if the Village opts out at this time, it can always opt-in later when the Board knows what the regulations will be. If the Village opts in, we can never opt-out. To opt-in is to sign a contract without knowing its terms and conditions the Board feels that the Village should wait to see the State rules and regulations and how they are implemented before making a final decision on dispensaries and on-site consumption. Many other important State decisions including a social equity plan and a comprehensive study are not due until 2023 and 2024. The Board feels that there is no need to rush and does not want to tie the hands of future boards. Mayor Curtin also explained that projected sales tax revenue and/or benefits to the local communities from marijuana sales are highly speculative. Taxes go into a State Fund administered through State and County decision points and processes have yet to be determined, with many deductions from total sales taxes before distribution of taxes to local governments. Mayor Curtin further stated that costs to communities have yet to be determined, and direct and other costs of administering and executing the program have not been assessed. These impact, among others, Social and Economic Equity, Public Health and Safety, Schools, Law Enforcement, Drug Rehabilitation, Social Services, etc. For these reasons, and others, the Village Board has decided to opt out of hosting retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the Village of Marcellus, subject to permissive referendum.

Mayor Curtin asked if there were any comments from the Village Board. There were none.

Mayor Curtin asked if there were any comments from the public. There were none.

Mayor Curtin made a motion to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Trustee Manahan. Mayor Curtin called for a vote. All members voted aye and the meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.

Charnley A. Abbott, Village Clerk

(SEAL)