

January 2, 2024 – WORK SESSION

The Work Session of the Town of Dickinson Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Michael A. Marinaccio at 5:30 PM on Monday, January 2, 2024 at the Town Hall, 531 Old Front Street, Binghamton, New York.

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-Absent

Also attending:

Keegan Coughlin, Esq., Attorney for the Town
Wendi Evans, Town Clerk

Also in attendance:

Public Works Commissioner Joel Kie, Code Enforcement Officer Kyle Doyle.

CHAIR

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Town Board Work Session
January 2, 2024

1. In regard to our 2024 Organization meeting next week, are there any questions about any of the information that was forwarded to you? Otherwise, we will be voting on it next week.
2. Governor Hochul signed legislation that changes election years for most town and county positions from odd to even years to coincide with national and statewide elections. **What does S3505B/A4282B do?**

Among other things, it changes election years for town positions, except for town justices, and various county positions from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years.

Why switch election years?

The stated purpose of the law is to increase voter turnout in local elections. Some towns already have elections in even years and therefore this bill will not impact them.

How will the switch to even years take place?

As stated, if you were elected in 2023, you will serve your full term. In order to transition to even years, there will also be town elections in 2025 and 2027; however, one year will be taken off the term of office, for one time only. For example, if you

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have a two-year term of office and ran in 2023, you will serve your full two years. If you choose to run again after completing your term, there will be an election in 2025 but it will be for a one-year term, and you will have to run for re-election in 2026. If you have a four-year term of office and ran in 2023, you will serve your full four years, and if you decide to run for reelection, you will run at the 2027 election; however, it will only be for a three-year term. Then, in 2030, the term of office will return to four years.

Why aren't all local elections / all positions changed to even years?

Some positions, like town justices and county judges, have constitutional provisions that come into play and there would need to be an amendment to the New York State Constitution to switch those elections to even years. A constitutional amendment would also be required for city elections, and therefore they are not included in the legislation. Finally, villages are not included as they have a different election cycle and conduct elections themselves.

3. I received a call from the Broome County Legislative Chairman Dan Reynolds who informed me that the democratic members of the county legislature tried to include the Town of Dickinson into the east side city district but were stopped. In my view, that attempt was a classic case of gerrymandering in a legislative district. The democrats said that Dickinson was more urban than suburban which would be similar to the east side of Binghamton. Obviously, this is incorrect.

ATTORNEY

Attorney Coughlin explained that we have delayed the Solar public hearing that was going to be held on January 8th to February 5th due to making sure that we have everything in place on notices to residences so there are no allegations of intentional doings. He is also working on preparing to introduce a couple of new laws in February as well. One being the notices relating to turning off fire alarms till someone arrives from the fire dept. and the other one being adopting food truck permits.

PUBLIC WORKS

No Comment

CODE

No Comment

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments

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On motion by Supervisor Marinaccio, the work session was adjourned by a motion from Councilperson Morabito and seconded by Councilperson Burns at 5:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi Evans
Town Clerk