

VILLAGE OF GENESEO
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 7, 2010

PUBLIC HEARING – Local Law to prohibit smoking upon all real property owned by the
Village of Geneseo

PRESENT:

Richard B. Hatheway, Mayor Marsha Merrick, Village Clerk/Treasurer
Sandra F. Brennan, Trustee
Margaret E. Duff, Trustee
Thomas J. LaGrou, Trustee

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Howard Appell Diana Cannon Nyasha Adams David W. Parish

1. MEETING OPENED:

Mayor Hatheway opened the public hearing at 5:25PM. It was stated that notices were filed to advertise this public hearing to consider a local law to prohibit smoking upon all real property owned by the Village of Geneseo.

Mayor Hatheway stated that a petition has been received complete with 67 signatures that stated: *By signing this form Tobacco Action Partnership (TAP) will be able to let your local officials know you support Tobacco-Free Outdoor areas in your community.* The signatures were collected at Geneseo Central School during science night on April 22, 2010. Thirteen additional signatures were found on a form responding to a Tobacco Coalition advertisement/survey and six emailed letters of support were received as well. The draft law was modeled directly from the County no-smoking law. In justification for the law, Mayor Hatheway continued, the Public Health Department has stated there are more deaths from smoking related diseases (85 per year in the County representing 10% of the population) than any other cause of death.

Tobacco Action Partnership representative Diana Cannon hopes that if children do not see smoking as a social norm, perhaps they will not think that it is acceptable and be less tempted to take up the habit. Diana also said there are 180 municipalities in New York State that have imposed a similar ban or law not only for the smoking aspect, but also for the litter aspect.

Mayor Hatheway applauds the County for being one of the first rural counties to step up to the plate. This local law would include enforcement measures whereby an appearance ticket for offenders would be issued that would prompt a court appearance and possibly a fine up to \$250. Public Health Director Joan Ellison said there has been little resistance at the County level and enforcement of the regulation has not been difficult.

David W. Parish, a long-term member of the Tobacco Coalition of Livingston County cited a study in Erie County stating that 70% of kids that start with cigarettes go on to other drugs. He hopes the signs at Highland Park and other parks will be very clear so that the law is abided by. It was also noted that smoking would be prohibited in the municipal parking lot unless one is entering or exiting the lot in his/her car. Once the vehicle stops, the cigarette must be extinguished. There is no prohibition on the sidewalks or in the parking spaces on the street.

2. MEETING CLOSE:

Hearing no further discussion, Trustee Brennan moved to close the public hearing and Trustee LaGrou seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Trustee Brennan-Aye, Trustee Duff-Aye, Trustee LaGrou-Aye, and Mayor Hatheway-Aye. The motion passed and the hearing was closed at 6:33PM.

Marsha B. Merrick, Village Clerk