

BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2017, 6:00 p.m.
Rumford Falls Auditorium

PRESENT: Chairperson Jeffrey Sterling, Selectperson Michael Peter Chase, Selectperson Christopher Brennick, Town Manager Linda-Jean Briggs. Absent: Vice-Chairperson Mark Belanger, Selectperson James Windover

ATTENDEES: Jennifer Kreckel, Candice Casey, Richard Scagliola

1. Meeting Call to Order at 6:08 p.m. by Chairperson Sterling
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
3. Consideration and Action on Critical Circumstance Petition

Copies of the petition from Seth Carey were distributed to the Board members by the Chairperson. The title of the petition is (verbatim), "Citizens' Petition Requesting the Rumford Selectpersons to Call a Special Town Meeting Allow Recreational Cannabis to be Governed According to State Law and Not Banned by Rumford." [This petition was initially short of the number of votes needed for acceptance per the Charter and additional signatures were allowed by the Town Manager.]

Mr. Chase does not believe there is a critical circumstance, as per the Charter, to call a Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Brennick noted that marijuana is still illegal at the Federal level, and the supremacy clause in the Constitution clearly states that Federal law preempts State law. He does not think this would hold up in court and he does not see a critical circumstance. He believes this should be decided by the voters on June 13, 2017 [as there is a proposed ordinance regarding this issue].

Mr. Brennick made a motion to deny the petition, as a critical circumstance does not exist. Second by Mr. Chase.

Mr. Sterling believes that voters can vote "no" in June and start over again if they want to.

Mr. Chase noted that the State still has not decided on how to handle the retail aspects of marijuana.

Mr. Chase also noted that Mr. Carey had the opportunity to show up here at tonight's meeting and present his stance and he did not show up.

Mr. Brennick noted that Mr. Carey has stated that he would sue us. There is hyperbole, but not clear direction to the specific law that would be cited. He does not see a critical circumstance.

Vote: 3-0

4. Adjournment

Mr. Brennick made a motion to adjourn at 6:09 p.m. Second by Mr. Sterling. Vote: 3-0

Linda-Jean Briggs
Town Manager

LJB/tp