

JUNKYARD COMMITTEE MEETING

April 18, 2018

Present: Legislators Larry Dolhof, Bryan Moser, John Lehman and Andrea Moroughan; and Sr. Codes Officer Ward Dailey

The meeting was called at 11:30 a.m. Ward distributed and reviewed his reports.

Ward submits the Junkyard Review Board is not properly executing their duty to uphold the Junkyard Law, essentially taking an "out of sight, out of mind" stance when deliberating non-compliance issues.

Legislator Moser stated his intent to attend the next Junkyard Review Board meeting on May 8, 2018.

Ward reported that two of the individuals who had been notified of a violation, have since submitted junkyard permit applications.

He cited the case with Mr. Nugent who is operating a junkyard without a license and has yet to submit a permit application for license renewal. The County may have to take legal action.

Legislator Moser explained his preference would have been to terminate the Junkyard Review Board when the Junkyard Law was revised last year, but Legislators acquiesced to review board members who wanted to remain intact. If eliminated, non-compliance issues would be presented to the Board of Legislators for decisions, which he feels would streamline the process for efficiency. However, he would be reluctant to impose the ultimate option of directing junk be removed from a property with the cost imposed upon the owner's next tax bill.

County Attorney Joan McNichol entered the meeting.

Ryan Piche suggests that junkyard vehicles and junk in general across the county landscape is another policy that could be defined through the Board of Legislators' mission and vision statement.

The Junkyard Law prohibits storage of more than two (2) junk uninspected, unregistered vehicles on a property or the combination of 3 junk items without a junkyard license. However, Ward posed the issue with "derby" vehicles which are exempt from the law because they are only temporarily stored. Moreover, it was noted that there are some property owners who store several "derby" vehicles year-round.

Legislators Moser, Lehman and Moroughan each opined they would not want to make the law more restrictive, instead favoring leniency. If Towns do not want to develop and enforce their own law, then their residents must comply with the county law. Ward reported that the Towns of Lowville and Lyonsdale each established and enforce their own junkyard law.

Ryan Piche submits the primary issue is when the junk vehicles affect adjacent property value and assessments. As an example, Atty. McNichol sited junk vehicles displayed on the front law. She favors elimination of the Junkyard Review Board, while encouraging enforcement by Town judges for their respective cases.

Legislator Moser suggests possibly increasing the number of allowed junk vehicles to five (5), while asserting that everyone must be treated consistently. The committee will contemplate possible amendments to the law, meanwhile holding more egregious offenders to compliance.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Clark, Clerk of the Board