

Special Town Meeting

March 27, 2023

Rochester Town Office 6:15 pm

Present: Doon Hinderyckx, Frank Severy, Pat Harvey

Guests: Orca Media, Kristen LaPell, Julie Smith, Jan McCann, Dean Mendell

Present on Zoom: Orca Media, Troy LaPell, Martha Slater,

Doon called the Special Town meeting at 6:15 pm

Doon confirmed the open meeting law conformity.

Doon read the warning for the Special Town meeting vote.

Discussion on Town of Rochester Voting to authorize cannabis retailers and integrated licensees vote on May 2, 2023: Doon explained the first step after receiving a request from a townsperson to have retail establishment was for the town to have a vote to see if the town wants to host that establishment or not. Nancy asked, “dependent on how the vote goes, does that start the process immediately? She asked if there are regulations for how a retail establishment can be? Doon said if the vote is voted down that is the end. If it is voted in favor, then it goes to the Rochester Planning Board for conditional use for its location. Once that has happened, there is the process through the state Cannabis Control Board. Jan asked if there were any surrounding towns that had opted in. Pat shared their thought Bethel, Randolph, Hancock have. Doon indicated the requestor is not looking for an establishment in the village. This is why it would need to also get approval from Planning and Zoning for condition use. Dean Mendell asked if there is a license involved like a liquor license annually approved. Doon noted this is a vote to opt-in and if approved, it can be repeal that vote later for an opt-out.

Sign Warning: Doon moved to sign the warning. Pat seconded. All in favor.

Public Comment-limited to 3 minutes:

Closing of Special Town Meeting: Doon moved to close the Special Town Meeting at 6:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Smith