

Village Board Public Hearing
05/19/26

Public Hearing Local Law Regulating Food Trucks
4:45pm

John C. Hubbell	Mayor
Sarah Hubbell	Trustee
Dave Budin	Deputy Mayor
Jeff Warren	Trustee

In attendance: Marc Osterweil, Paul Weil, Joan Lawrence-Bauer

Call to order
Open to the public

Marc Osterweil, I have lived in Margaretville 20 years and before that Kingston 23 years, I am in favor of having food trucks in the village. I understand the idea of regulations and licensing but aside from that it is a benefit to the people who live here, visiting here and to the businesses in this town. The reason I came today is because many years ago, your predecessor's made it difficult for the Farmer's Market to stay in the field. When we came into the village on Saturdays, it was mobbed going to the Farmer's Market then go to the hardware store, CVS and A&P. This notion that it was unfair competition drove it out of town and that ended the hustle and bustle in Margaretville. I don't want to see that happen. We need more food vendors. There are a few restaurants that come and go and some are expensive for the people who live here. Food trucks are a great asset. I am not speaking only for myself but friends of mine that feel the same way.

Mayor Hubbell: We are trying to make it as close to the Town of Middletown has because we are using their CEO to make it easier. The fee they have is \$100.00 which covers a site plan review like it would be for construction of a building. They come in review the site plan to make sure it's not too close to other properties, not too close to the road and all that kind of stuff. Along with signage being similar as the village. Signs need to be proportionate to the size of face of the trailer. One-time fee if the site is used at least once a year, it goes on in perpetuity, year after year, forever. Unless it does not get used, then it gets revoked.

My only concern with that is them leaving their food trucks in these spots because we are getting into the reason, we're looking at this law, so we are not discouraging brick and mortar restaurants from being in. Food trucks, they are not paying taxes. They are not doing anything. The property owner can't be assessed for it because it's a trailer. My recommendation would be to take it back one more time and we will have to have another public hearing, but having it written it can only be on site during times of use and must be removed. That's what food trucks are for to come and go. The other recommendation is to adjust closing time to 11:00pm to follow quite time in the village.

Trustee Warren said his reason for wanting a food truck law was because our only parking regulations we have are no parking signs at night until morning for plowing in winter and that's our only traffic law. Someone could come and plop a junky hot dog stand from Nov 15 to April 16 and park back there and sit all day and all night constantly. As food trucks become more prevalent, they will find municipalities that don't have rules, laws, and regulations and people who will take advantage of that. I strongly feel we need something on the books; we don't want to restrict business, we don't want to see it abused.

Marc Osterweil wakes his dog to the parking area behind Binnekill, he thinks that's a great place to encourage food trucks to draw people to use that area.

Trustee Hubbell commented that I don't think a one-time fee of \$100.00 is a bad thing. Businesses that are brick and mortar must pay taxes, water and all that.

Trustee Budin has food for thought Lake George has public trucks on Wednesday night. One day a week a dozen trucks come, and you can get anything from eggs to a steak. Only one night. Just an idea.

Joan Lawrence-Bauer commented she thought you did a great job from latest version to this one. I thought you really nailed it.

Mayor Hubbell said after the third time reading it, I caught a couple of things. What I brought up was to follow the town without being the town itself. They have a one-time fee then it goes on the property owner. The problem being the village is a different situation. A food truck can sit in certain spots in Arkville, and it doesn't affect anything. Here it's going to affect a lot so we would want to write in the fact, if it's not in use it's got to move. The town's fee is a \$100 fee for a site-plan review. One-time and it's good in perpetuity unless they don't use it throughout the course of a year. They must use at least one a year to keep that up or it's revoked. One-time fee would be up to the property owner.

Joan Lawrence-Bauer commented if Freshtown wants to pay the fee, they could have a different food truck every Friday.

Trustee Warren said they would have to provide a certificate of insurance for each individual food truck.

Joan asked what if it were municipal property? Except if it were a festival.

Mayor Hubbell said for events it's a whole different thing which is addressed.

Mayor asked, "is there anything else"?

Mayor made a motion to close the public hearing. Trustee Warren seconded. All in favor.

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