

Town of Diana Public Hearing Local Law: Fire Lane on Hermitage Road - December 13, 2022 - 6pm

Date: 12/13/2022

Supervisor Smith called Public Hearing to order at: 6:00pm

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Ritz: here

Supervisor Smith: here

Councilman Taylor: here

Councilman Bango: here

Councilman Malbeuf: here

Supervisor Smith read the ad that ran in the Bargain Hunter about the proposed Local Law to establish a Fire Lane on Hermitage Road to all in attendance at the hearing. He explained that there had been calls of concern from residents about the parking issues on Hermitage Road and the worry that if help was needed, emergency vehicles would not be able to get through. Supervisor Smith stated that the fire lane would run 1/10th of a mile traveling North and South on the right side of Hermitage Road. He stated if this local law is approved, an ad would have to be run, and the Town would have to then petition Lewis County for road signs, as Hermitage Road is a county road. Supervisor Smith further explained that this process could take 90 to 100 days or more.

Supervisor Smith then read questions he had been asked by lake residents and gave his answers to each of the following;

Would traffic be pushed over to Hotel Road? Many had this question. Supervisor Smith stated he would look into the possible implementation of a fire lane for Hotel Road too.

Councilman Malbeuf asked if the town should put no parking at any time on Hotel Road.

Supervisor Smith agreed that may be a good idea.

Sam V. from the Lake Bonaparte Conservatory Board stated he is for the fire lane for the protection of the residents and to maintain access to the Fire/Rescue Boat. He stated he is worried if Hotel Road is made a no parking zone, where would all the boat trailers etc be able to park. He also asked if the road could be widened. Superintendent Langs stated no, because that is considered wet-lands. Sam also stated he believes there should be fire-lanes implemented on North Shore by the Boat Launch and Sand Bay. He asked would there be parking made available for all these vehicles/boats and trailers on Hermitage Road at all? Supervisor Smith answered the fire lane will be on the right side of the road, as there are less private camps on the left side.

A resident who lives on Hotel Road stated usually the vehicles don't park on the right side of the road, they park on the left side. During the fishing derby vehicles parked on both sides and it was very hectic.

Another resident stated that people will park vehicles in front of their mailboxes, blocking them and preventing mail being delivered. There are no "NO Parking" signs. Supervisor Smith explained that the town can't post signs on county roads, and Hermitage Road is a county road.

A resident who lives on Hotel Road stated that boaters are parking on the side of her yard and are relieving themselves in her yard before they leave.

Residents asked about how the Fire Lane would be enforced, and would people be towed if they park there. Supervisor Smith stated he made calls last summer and police officers did go over and ticket people last year.

Madeline McGuire asked if someone was going to try to connect Hermitage Road and Paradise Lane? She stated her family has put up a gate, but people are going in during the winter and are filling in the stream and land. She further stated someone has been in there with a saw widening that area. She is concerned, as this is also wet-land, and wanted to know if something could be done about it. Sam V. from Lake Bonaparte Conservation and Supervisor Smith stated she should call the DEC and report this to them. Supervisor Smith stated he would get her the phone number for the DEC.

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Supervisor Smith asked if there were any other questions.

A resident asked why the fire lane needed to be 1/10th of a mile. Supervisor Smith stated it must be a specific length for the Town to do the local law.

Carl Pierce asked if the County told the Board they would implement the fire lane if it is passed into local law. Supervisor Smith stated he was told there should not be a problem with it.

Rober Eastham stated he owns property on Hotel Road near the campground. He stated whatever is done on Hermitage Road, the board can't ignore what will happen because of that fire lane. He stated once people can't park on the right side of Hermitage Road, they will start parking on Hotel Road, where more residents live, and then you have the camp ground, with more boats, trailers, and vehicles. Mr. Eastham stated he is concerned it is going to be very crowded and dangerous. Councilman Malbeuf asked Supervisor Smith and fellow council members if the town could put no parking on that road too, since it is a Town road, not a county road like Hermitage road is. Superintendent Langs stated they could do no parking signs. Supervisor Smith and the other board members continued discussing options with the residents present.

Supervisor Smith asked the council members if they had anything to say or ask. Councilman Malbeuf stated that they need to also do something in the future with Hotel Road, and Councilman Taylor agreed. Councilman Malbeuf stated they should talk to the owner of the campsite about the issues with the boat trailers and parking to help alleviate this traffic issue for this summer and in the future. He asked those present at the meeting if those who live on Hotel Road would be ok with the Town putting up no parking signs on one side of Hotel Road. Those present who live on Hotel Road state they were in favor of this. Councilman Malbeuf stated the town should try that and see if there are still issues. If there are, then the town could move forward to do something more about the issue.

Supervisor Smith called for a motion to adopt the local law for a Fire Lane on Hermitage Road.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE LOCAL LAW FOR A FIRE LANE ON HERMITAGE ROAD:

Motioned by: Councilman Taylor

Seconded by: Councilman Bango

ROLL CALL:

Supervisor Smith: Yes

Councilwoman Ritz: Yes

Councilman Taylor: Yes

Councilman Bango: Yes

Councilman Malbeuf: Yes

All in favor

None Opposed

Councilman Malbeuf explained to those present that the board can't approve the changes for Hotel Road at this meeting, but will have meetings in the future to do so.

Supervisor Smith called for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing.

MOTION TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING:

Motioned by: Councilwoman Ritz

Seconded by: Councilman Taylor

All in favor

None Opposed

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm

Submitted by



Andrea M. Paterson

Town Of Diana Clerk