

Proposed Local Law 9-2008

On motion of Trustee Hofstetter, seconded by Trustee Ryan:

RESOLVED that the Public Hearing

Ayes: Robinowitz, Hofstetter, Ryan, Murphy, Savolt

Nays: None

Mayor Savolt gave background information on how this proposed law came about. The genesis was three different sources; the first being last year's flood. In the aftermath of the flood, many people affected by the flood asked the Village to take measures to insure that storm drains are kept free of debris. The Mayor also stated that many senior citizens were concerned with pedestrian safety as the piles of leaves grew; they felt uncomfortable about driving on some of the narrower streets in the Village. The third issue was looking for ways to reduce the budget during the budget review process. There was \$20,000 in overtime in the budget which could be eliminated from the budget.

The Mayor also informed the residents that when the Board decided to hold this public hearing, they never intended to close it and vote on it tonight, as it is August and there may be residents who would like to address this who may be on vacation; therefore the public hearing will be left open to at least the next meeting on September 8.

Mr. John Ferrell of North Barry Avenue appeared. Mr. Ferrell believed the Board had their minds made up before the previous public hearing on the leaf blowing law and he was glad to see that the audience was not filled with environmentalists. This law would be a hardship for him. He asked how the leaves will be picked up and how often. As the bags break if they get wet, he is concerned about the frequency in which they will be picked up. He is also concerned that if they are picked up by the "clam shell", this will rip the bags and the leaves will be scattered all over the street. He is also concerned about the cost of the bags. Mr. Ferrell also informed the Board that in Harrison, they pick up leaves well through the winter and that our public works employees would not have to work overtime if our leaf pick up season was longer. Mr. Ferrell is also concerned about catch basins in disrepair and presented photos of catch basins that need work. Mr. Ferrell also feels that the Board has become elitists and does not exhibit common sense.

Mr. Tom Burke of Wood Street addressed the Board. Mr. Burke is apposed to the law. Right now, he blows leaves to the curb once a week during the fall. If he is made to bag his leaves, he will need to use his blower every day. He also feels that a savings of \$20,000 is "peanuts" and there are other ways to save this money.

Mr. Ben ? of Harold Street appeared. Mr. S also felt the leaf blowing law was well orchestrated. With the cost of oil, gas, electricity, food and other necessities going up he is not going to buy bags and bag his leaves no matter what law is passed. He also stated that the trees in front of his home are on Village property and when they fall, he will not pick them up. In other years he took care of these leaves.

Mr. Irving Scharf asked why residents are responsible for cleaning up leaves from Village trees.

Mr. Tom Tierney of Delancy Avenue appeared. Mr. Tierney was shocked when he read this law. As he has 14 trees on his property, he does know how he will do this. His gardener told him it would take approximately 300 bags to hold the leaves from his trees. As leaves should be put on the curb and not in the street, blowing into the gutters should not be a problem. Mr. Tierney has a hard enough time dragging the leaves out. He feels that there are many residents who are not physically able to bag the leaves and cannot afford to have this done for them. Mr. Tierney suggests eliminating street sweeping on side streets to save the \$20,000 proposed saving that this law would generate. He is certain that residents would rather sweep in front of their properties, instead of bagging leaves.