

Subject: Thoughts on a town board meeting

What started out as a good faith approach to craft a common sense law to appease the residents of Saugerties who have experienced noise concerns of varying degrees over the years, and the apparent lack of enforcement by the police due to any significant noise ordinance, the public spoke and the board got an earful. The concerned citizenry turned into a grass roots movement to demand that the town board “think again”. They got our attention last night. Of the more than one hundred residents present twenty nine spoke passionately and decisively in opposition of the proposed noise ordinance and one spoke in favor of it albeit not necessarily in its present form.

Our last public hearing on this issue drew mostly supporters although they too were not in favor of every aspect of the proposal.

As a town board member I can assure those present at the meetings, those following the situation on Facebook, in the press or at the coffeehouses, we heard you loud and clear.

The board will not revisit this issue without

significant revisions to the current proposal, exemptions for those who need to make a living in the rough and tumble world of construction, trucking and the like (myself and my family included) and only if there is a consensus among the people of Saugerties to pursue this endeavor. We are not going to make any decision on any part of this proposed legislation in the foreseeable future (if at all) and we absolutely will NOT make ANY decision behind closed doors. Period. That's not how this works and certainly not how I will allow it to work. I am only one vote on a board of five elected officials but I can confidently state, at this time, we are not going to move forward on this proposed noise ordinance unless, and I stress unless, significant modifications are made to address the concerns we heard last night and a general consensus is arrived at which addresses the concerns of ALL our residents. We should not and will not politicize this issue.

On a final note, Keith Hughes, who spoke adamantly and eloquently against the law, visibly frustrated, made a very moving statement, to the town, and in particular to Fred and myself, to remove the 'Welcome to Friendly Saugerties' signs at the entrances to the town on the Glenerie side and

the Ulster Avenue side. As he finished his statement, to much applause (first amendment at its best), it was clearly the defining moment of the night for me and summed up the entire mood of those present. It was powerful. So I say to Keith, a hard working tree guy, and all those who were present, give us a chance, don't rush to judgement and PLEASE don't take down those 'welcome to friendly Saugerties' signs just yet. We have a lot of work to do.

Respectfully submitted

Town Councilman
Paul Andreassen.

Photos by Ray Minew, George Heidcamp and Paul Andreassen