

Public Hearing - Keno
Monday, February 26, 2018

These minutes were recorded by Ellen White, Town Administrator. The public hearing was held in the Bub Avery Memorial Gymnasium at Town Hall.

Call to Order:

Chairman Morgan called the public hearing to order at 5:00 PM.

Morgan read the public hearing notice as follows: The Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 5:00 PM, in the Bub Avery Memorial Gymnasium at Ossipee Town Hall (55 Main Street, Ctr. Ossipee) for discussion on the following question to be placed on the warrant: "Shall we allow the operation of Keno games in Town?" This hearing is being held in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 229 of the 2017 New Hampshire Laws (SB 191).

Morgan then opened the public hearing for public comment.

Public Input:

Joy Gagnon questioned where the Keno machines will be. Morgan responded that they are only allowed at establishments with a valid liquor license. Ash Fischbein stated that the State approved the allowance of gambling via Keno through liquor licensed establishments.

Josh Arnold questioned the funding toward all-day kindergarten. Ed Comeau, State Representative, stated that the revenue will be used to help fund all-day kindergarten. Tim Carnes stated that the State gives each Town \$1,800 toward the kindergarten program and last year Somersworth received over \$100,000. Carnes stated he has been in business since 1999 and this is a great way to generate money for the State and Town at no cost to the Town.

Morgan provided information from a publication produced by the NH Municipal Association that reviews how the funding works and clarified that the money would go to the Governor Wentworth Regional School District and not the Town.

Carnes stated that he staffs approximately 20 people and Keno would be a good way to generate revenue in the offseason.

Gagnon stated that the Town already has an all-day kindergarten program and questioned how it would impact. Morgan responded that it would not have any impact in 2019-2020 and also that the distribution does not have any bearing on the amount received. The more that participate, the more revenue is generated.

Morgan stated that people need to determine what is in the best interest and whether it helps. His concern is that Keno is only allowed where alcohol is served. Carnes responded that is the way they can regulate its use by adults only. It also encourages people to stay at an establishment longer.

Businesses will receive 8% of the take for hosting it. Currently, 40 other towns have it and several abutting towns have it on their warrants for Town Meeting.

Dan Fischbein commented that he was witness to people gambling their paychecks each week and it is tough to see.

Morgan stated that the question will be on the Town Warrant for vote at the Town Meeting.

Comeau stated that he did not vote for Keno; it should be allowed at the business' discretion and should not have been mixed with education. He noted that it is illegal to play poker for money in your own home. Morgan questioned how much it has helped as the school tax is increasing.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, Morgan made a motion to close the public hearing. Martin seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Adjourned at 5:14 PM.

Richard H. Morgan, Chairman

Robert C. Freeman

Sandra P. Martin

To be approved 3/12/2018