Village prepares for marijuana vote

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Stars and Stripes

WAVERLY — Village voters will be taking to the polls Tuesday to decide whether or not to allow marijuana dispensaries to open and operate within the municipality.

Debate on the issue has raged on in Wysox since marijuana was legalized statewide. The village board of trustees had until Dec. 31 to make a decision on the matter and just before the deadline opted to put the residents vote on the issue in a general election, which will be held from noon to 9 p.m. Tuesday, March 14 at the village hall on Illica Street.

Specifically, the “yes” or “no” question will read, “Shall the Village of Waverly vote to allow retail cannabis dispensaries from locating and operating within the boundaries of the Village of Waverly?”

Therefore, a “yes” vote will allow dispensaries from setting shop within the village while a “no” vote will allow the businesses.

Regardless, the outcome of the vote, recreational marijuana will be legal to possess and consume in the village.

Residents of the Village of Wysox will be deciding on Tuesday whether or not to allow licensed marijuana dispensaries in the municipality.

If dispensaries were banned from the village, the municipality would miss out on tax revenue from the sales of cannabis. In New York, the state tax marijuana sales at 9 percent. The county would get a 1 percent tax and the Town of Barton and the Village of Waverly — if sales were allowed — would divide a 3 percent tax share. However, the Town of Barton has already approved a permit.

But opponents of the dispensaries cite potential negative impacts on children, especially when the cannabis is consumed in the form of edibles, which don’t look like candy or baked goods.

Regardless, the outlook for the referendum will have no impact on the so-called “sticker stores” that have already been established in the village. Sticker stores take advantage of a state law that permits them to sell recreational marijuana for free.

Officials on Thursday over the “nonsense from both countries less dependent on Russia, and protecting our feet. We need pipelines, pipelines, pipelines,” he said. “We can talk about permits and acquisition, but if you can’t ship it, it’s not going.”

McLinko cited the proposed $800 million project for natural gas pipelines in Wyoming that has been paused on the new presidential administration as an example of how the current national energy policy is “killing workers.”

The $800 million project was previously expected to be operational in 2022, and would have liquified the Russian-Ukraine warhead in a bond of strategic fuel reserves at the port, which Miller noted is reminiscent of the gas crisis of the 1970s.

“We, of course, fully support natural gas development right here in Bradford County and rural eastern America,” Miller said. “Producing more energy here would make ourselves and European countries less dependent on energy from nations that themselves are like we are.”

It is no secret that the Russia-Ukraine warhead has become a textbook in strategic fuel reserves at the port, which Miller noted is reminiscent of the gas crisis of the 1970s.

“We haven’t learned,” he said. “It’s beyond my comprehension, while state officials have declared the stores illegal, and one of the stores closed by July 31 last month, all four establishments remain open for now.

Residents will also vote on three propositions. Incentivists Heathen Comestead is running for the State Kyle Burns’ seat in 2022 and is running for reelection. Each seat consists a two-year term.