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## **Hillsdale officials opt to re-introduce tobacco sales ordinance**

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PASCACK VALLEY COMMUNITY LIFE

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### **Update to tobacco sales ordinance will include e-cigarettes**

Changes to tobacco sales regulations will soon be coming to Hillsdale.

While the borough council scheduled a public hearing on an ordinance amending their current tobacco sales law at its Aug. 11 council meeting to raise the age for purchasing tobacco products, officials decided to re-introduce the ordinance given revisions, one of which includes the addition of electronic cigarettes.

The council first introduced the ordinance amending Chapter 363 of their borough code entitled, "Tobacco Sales" to raise the minimum age to buy cigarettes from 18 to 19 in early July. The borough's original ordinance was outdated, as the state changed the tobacco-buying age to 19 nine years ago.

While the public hearing was slated for Aug. 11, members of the governing body received a letter on July 20 from Karen Blumenfeld, executive director of the Global Advisors on Smokefree Policy nonprofit, asking if the council would consider amending the proposed ordinance to include electronic smoking devices to be consistent with state law.

The letter outlines language from New Jersey law, which includes penalties such as a \$250 fine for the first violation, \$500 for a second and \$1,000 for a third. Additional penalties include revocation of license by the Division of Taxation upon a municipality's recommendation.

The council opted to re-introduce the ordinance on their Tuesday, Sept. 8 meeting with revisions, Borough Clerk Susan Witkowski said.

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