

ORDINANCE NO. 21-93

To amend Chapter 21, Taxation, to add Article XV to establish, levy, administer and enforce a local tax upon the sale of cigarettes within Spotsylvania County and reordained, as follows:

PUBLIC HEARING: June 22, 2021

WHEREAS, staff has reviewed the code amendments and recommends approval as stated in the executive summary dated June 22, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors held a public hearing, duly advertised in a local newspaper for a period of two weeks, on June 8, 2021 and June 15, 2021, and interested citizens were offered an opportunity to be heard; and

WHEREAS, the general welfare is served by approval of the code amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE COUNTY OF SPOTSYLVANIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That Chapter 21, is hereby **amended** and reordained as follows:

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 58.1-3830 provides that effective on July 1, 2021, “[a]ny county, city, or town is authorized to levy taxes upon the sale or use of cigarettes;” and

WHEREAS, the County did not have any tax upon cigarettes as of January 1, 2020, and therefore Virginia Code § 58.1-3830(c)(1) sets the maximum rate at “two-cents (\$0.02) per cigarette sold;” and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 58.1-3832 provides that “[a]ny county, city, or town having a tax upon the sale or use of cigarettes may by ordinance, provide for the administration and enforcement of any such cigarette tax;” and

WHEREAS, the Board carefully considered the recommendations of the Commissioner of the Revenue, staff, Northern Virginia Cigarette Tax Board and the public testimony, if any, at the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to adopt this Ordinance No. 21-93 into the County Code and further finds that it will secure and promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the County and its citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors on this the 22nd day of June, 2021, that Spotsylvania County Code Chapter 21, Article XV, be and it hereby is amended and reordained as follows, with all other portions remaining unchanged:

ARTICLE XV. –CIGARETTE TAX

Sec. 21-360. Short title.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the Spotsylvania County Cigarette Tax Ordinance.

Sec. 21-361. Definitions.

For the purposes of this article, the following words and phrases have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section, except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Administrator means the person appointed by the NVCTB to exercise the authority provided herein.

Carton means any container, regardless of material used in its construction, in which packages of cigarettes are placed.

Cigarette means and includes any roll of any size or shape for smoking, whether filtered or unfiltered, with or without a mouthpiece, made wholly or partly of cut, shredded or crimped tobacco or other plant or substitute for tobacco, whether the same is flavored, adulterated or mixed with another ingredient, if the wrapper or cover is made of any material other than leaf tobacco or homogenized leaf tobacco, regardless of whether the roll is labeled or sold as a cigarette or by any other name.

Cigarette Machine Operator means any individual, partnership or corporation engaged in the sale of packages of cigarettes from vending machines.

County means Spotsylvania County, Virginia.

Dealer means and includes every manufacturer's representative, wholesaler, retailer, cigarette machine operator, public warehouseman or other person who sells, receives, stores, possesses, distributes or transports cigarettes within or into the County.

NVCTB means the Northern Virginia Cigarette Tax Board.

Package means and includes any container, regardless of the material used in its construction, in which separate cigarettes are placed without such cigarettes being placed into any container within the package. Packages are those containers of cigarettes from which they are consumed by their ultimate user. Ordinarily a package contains twenty cigarettes; however, "package" includes those containers in which fewer or more than twenty cigarettes are placed.

Person means and includes any individual, firm, unincorporated association, company, corporation, joint stock company, group, agency, syndicate, trust or trustee, receiver, fiduciary, partnership and conservator. The word “person” as applied to a partnership, unincorporated association or other joint venture means the partners or members thereof, and as applied to a corporation, includes all the officers and directors thereof.

Place of business means and includes any place where cigarettes are sold, placed, stored, offered for sale or displayed for sale or where cigarettes are brought or kept for the purpose of sale, consumption or distribution, including vending machines, by a dealer within the County.

Registered agent means and includes every dealer and other person required to report and collect the tax on cigarettes under the provisions of this article.

Retail dealer means and includes every person who, in the usual course of business, purchases or receives cigarettes from any source whatsoever for the purpose of sale within the County to the ultimate consumer; or any person who, in the usual course of business, owns, leases or otherwise operates within his own place of business, one or more cigarette vending machines for the purpose of sale within the County of cigarettes to the ultimate consumer; or any person who, in any manner, buys, sells, stores, transfers or deals in cigarettes for the purpose of sale within the County to the ultimate consumer, who is not licensed as a wholesaler or vending machine operator.

Sale or sell means and includes every act or transaction, regardless of the method or means employed, including barter, exchange or the use of vending machines or other mechanical devices or a criminal or tortious act whereby either ownership or possession, or both, of any cigarettes shall be transferred within the County from a dealer as herein defined to any other person for a consideration.

Stamp means a small gummed piece of paper or decal used to evidence provision for payment of the tax as authorized by the NVCTB, required to be affixed to every package of cigarettes sold, distributed, or used within the County.

Store or storage means and includes the keeping or retention of cigarettes in this County for any purpose except sale in the regular course of business.

Use means and includes the exercise of any right or power over any cigarettes or packages of cigarettes incident to the ownership or possession of those cigarettes or packages of cigarettes including any transaction where possession is given or received or otherwise transferred, other than a sale.

User means any person who exercises any right or power over any cigarettes or packages of cigarettes subject to the provisions of this Article incident to the ownership or possession of those cigarettes or packages of cigarettes or any transaction where possession is given or received or otherwise transferred, other than a sale.

Wholesale Dealers means any individual, partnership or corporation engaged in the sale of packages of cigarettes for resale into or within the County.

Sec. 21-362. Levy and rate.

In addition to all other taxes of every kind now or hereafter imposed by law, there is hereby levied and imposed by the County upon every person who sells or uses cigarettes within the County an excise tax at a rate of thirty cents (\$0.30) for each package containing twenty cigarettes and two cents (\$0.02) for each cigarette contained in packages of fewer or more than twenty cigarettes sold or used within the County on or after **October 1, 2021**. The tax must be paid and collected in the manner and at the time hereinafter prescribed; provided, that the tax payable for each cigarette or cigarette package sold or used within the County must be paid but once.

Sec. 21-363. Methods of collection.

- (a) The tax imposed by this section is evidenced by the use of a tax stamp and must be paid by each dealer or other person liable for the tax under a reporting method deemed by the NVCTB to carry out the provisions of this article. The stamps must be affixed in such a manner that their removal requires continued application of water or steam. Each dealer or other person liable for the tax is hereby required, and it shall be his duty, to collect, pay the tax and report the following as it relates to all packages of cigarettes on forms prescribed for this purpose by the NVCTB:
- (1) The quantity of NVCTB-stamped cigarettes sold or delivered to:
 - (A) Each registered agent appointed by the NVCTB for which no tax was collected;
 - (B) Each manufacturer's representative; and
 - (C) Each separate person and place of business during the preceding calendar or fiscal month; and
 - (2) The quantity of NVCTB stamps on hand, both affixed and unaffixed, on the first and the last day of the preceding calendar or fiscal month and the quantity of NVCTB stamps or NVCTB stamped cigarettes received during the preceding calendar or fiscal month; and
 - (3) The quantity of cigarettes on hand to which the NVCTB stamp had not been affixed on the first and last day of the preceding calendar or fiscal month and the quantity of cigarettes received during the preceding calendar or fiscal month to which the NVCTB stamp had not been affixed; and
 - (4) Such further information as the Administrator may require for the proper administration and enforcement of this article for the determination of the exact number of cigarettes in the possession of each dealer or user.

- (b) Each dealer or other person liable for the tax must file such reports with the NVCTB and pay the tax due to the NVCTB on, or prior to, the due date, and must furnish copies of all cigarette tax reports submitted to the Virginia Department of Taxation.
- (c) When, upon examination and audit of any invoices, records, books, cancelled checks or other memoranda touching on the purchase, sale, receipt, storage or possession of tobacco products taxed herein, any dealer or other person liable for the tax is unable to furnish evidence to the NVCTB of sufficient tax payments and stamp purchases to cover cigarettes which were sold, used, stored, received, purchased or possessed by him, the prima facie presumption arises that such cigarettes were received, sold, used, stored, purchased or possessed by him without the proper tax having been paid. The NVCTB must, from the results of such examination and audit based upon such direct or indirect information available, assess the tax due, impose a penalty of ten percent (10 %) and may impose interest of three-quarters per cent ($3/4$ %) per month of the gross tax due.
- (d) When any dealer or other person liable for the tax files a false or fraudulent report or fails to file a report or fails to perform any act or performs any act to evade payment of the tax, the NVCTB must administratively assess the tax due and impose a penalty not to exceed fifty percent (50 %) of the tax due and interest of three-quarters per cent ($3/4$ %) per month of the gross tax due.
- (e) The dealer or other person liable for the tax must be notified by certified mail of such deficiency and such tax. Penalty and interest assessed is due and payable within ten (10) days after notice of such deficiency has been issued. Every dealer or other person liable for the tax is required examine each package of cigarettes to insure that the NVCTB stamp has been affixed thereto prior to offering them for sale.
- (f) Any dealer or other person liable for the tax who receives cigarettes not bearing the NVCTB stamp must, within one hour of receipt of such cigarettes, commence and with all reasonable diligence continue to affix the NVCTB stamp to each and every package of cigarettes until all unstamped packages of cigarettes have been stamped and before offering such cigarettes for sale. Any dealer or other person liable for the tax who has notified the NVCTB that he is engaged in interstate or intrastate business is permitted to set aside such part of his stock as may be legally kept for the conduct of such interstate or intrastate business (that is, cigarettes held for sale outside the jurisdiction of the NVCTB) without affixing the stamps required by this article. Any such interstate or intrastate stock must be kept entirely separate and apart from the NVCTB-stamped stock, in such a manner as to prevent the commingling of the interstate or intrastate stock with the NVCTB stock. Any dealer or other person liable for the tax found to have had untaxed cigarettes which have been lost, whether by negligence, theft or any other unaccountable loss, is liable for and must pay the tax due thereon.
- (g) It is also the duty of each dealer or other person liable for the tax to maintain and keep for a period of three years, not including the current calendar year, records of all cigarettes received, sold, stored, possessed, transferred or handled by him in any manner whatsoever, whether the same were stamped or unstamped, to make all such records available for audit, inspection and

examination at all reasonable times, as well as the means, facilities and opportunity for making such audit, inspection or examination upon demand of the NVCTB.

Sec. 21-364. Registered agents.

- (a) Any dealer or other person liable for the tax who sells, uses, stores, possesses, distributes or transports cigarettes within or into the County must first make application to the NVCTB to qualify as a registered agent. Such application blank, which shall be supplied upon request, shall require such information relative to the nature of the business engaged in by said applicant, as the NVCTB deems necessary for the administration and enforcement of this article. There is a yearly Registration Fee for all Wholesale Dealers and all Cigarette Machine Operators. Applicant must provide a surety bond to the NVCTB of 150 percent (150 %) of his average monthly tax liability with a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Such bond must be so written that, on timely payment of the premium thereon, it continues in force from year to year. Any applicant whose place of business is outside the County automatically, by filing his application, submits himself to the NVCTB's legal jurisdiction and appoints the Administrator for the NVCTB as his agent for any service of lawful process.
- (b) Upon receipt of the properly completed required application forms, and the required surety bond executed, the NVCTB shall determine whether the said applicant qualifies to be a registered agent. The NVCTB issues to each qualified applicant a yearly registered agent permit to qualify him to purchase, sell, use, store, possess, distribute or transport within or into the County, NVCTB-stamped cigarettes.
- (c) Registered agents agree to the reporting and payment requirements placed upon them by this article and the rules and regulations as from time to time may be promulgated by the NVCTB. When any registered agent's monthly report and payment of the tax is not received within the dates prescribed, the NVCTB must impose a late reporting penalty of ten percent (10 %) of the gross tax due or ten dollars (\$10.00) whichever is greater, but in no event more than \$1,000. The NVCTB also may require such registered agent to provide proof that he has complied with all applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia to legally conduct such business and to file financial statements showing all assets and liabilities. The NVCTB may revoke or suspend any registered agent's permit due to failure to file tax reports in a timely manner, non-payment of taxes due, or if the cigarette tax surety bond should become impaired for any reason.
- (d) All money collected as cigarette taxes under this ordinance are deemed to be held in trust by the dealer collecting the same until remitted to the NVCTB.
- (e) Registered agents must account for all NVCTB authorized tax stamps purchased. Periodic audits may be conducted to determine any unaccounted variance between the number of stamps purchased and the number of stamps reported and an assessment made for all unaccounted for stamps. Any assessment of registered agents located outside the jurisdictions of the NVCTB is based upon the average sales of packages of cigarettes by jurisdiction during the audit period. For registered agents located within the jurisdictions of the NVCTB, any assessment is based

upon the tax rate of the jurisdiction in which they are located. In addition, there is a penalty for non-reporting of ten per cent (10%) of the gross tax due.

Sec. 21-365. Requirements for retail dealers.

- (a) Retail dealers who sell, offer for sale, store, possess, distribute, purchase, receive or transport cigarettes for the purpose of sale within the County must purchase cigarettes only from registered agents giving or supplying the business trade name and business address of the location where the cigarettes will be placed for sale to the public. Cigarettes purchased for personal use cannot be brought into a business for resale. Only properly registered and licensed retail stores may sell cigarettes to the public. To be properly registered and licensed, a retail store must first have a valid Virginia state sales and use tax certificate and valid retail business license. Cigarettes must be purchased and stored separately for each business location. All copies of cigarette purchase invoices/receipts must be retained by the retailer for a period of three years and must be made available to Agents of the NVCTB upon request for use in conducting audits and investigations. All copies of cigarette purchase invoices/receipts must be stored at the business retail location for a period of one year from date of purchase. Failure to provide cigarette invoices/receipts may result in confiscation of cigarettes until receipts can be reviewed by the NVCTB to verify the proper tax has been paid. It is the responsibility of each retail location to insure that all cigarettes placed for sale or stored at that location be properly taxed and stamped. Cigarettes found without the NVCTB stamp or the proper jurisdictional tax paid will be seized by the Agents of the NVCTB.
- (b) Retail dealers must make their place of business available for inspection by Tobacco Revenue Agents to insure that all cigarettes are properly tax-stamped and all cigarette taxes are properly paid.

Sec. 21-366. Presumption of illegality; seizure of contraband goods, sealing/seizing of machines.

- (a) If any cigarette machine operator or other person liable for the tax imposed by this article is found to possess any cigarettes without the jurisdictional tax paid or the proper tax stamp affixed, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that any such operator or other person shall be in possession of untaxed cigarettes in violation of this section.
- (b) If any cigarettes are placed in any vending machines within the County, then there is a rebuttable presumption that such cigarettes were placed in that machine for sale within the County. If any vending machine located within the County contains cigarettes upon which the NVCTB tax stamp has not been affixed or on which the jurisdictional tax has not been paid or containing cigarettes placed so as to not allow visual inspection of the NVCTB tax stamp through viewing area as provided for by the vending machine manufacturer, then there is a rebuttable presumption that the machine contains untaxed cigarettes in violation of this article.
- (c) Any cigarettes, vending machines, cigarette tax stamps or other property found in violation of this Article must be declared contraband goods and may be seized by the NVCTB. In addition

to any tax due, the dealer or other person liable for the tax possessing such untaxed cigarettes or tax stamps is subject to civil and criminal penalties herein provided.

- (d) In lieu of seizure, the NVCTB may seal such vending machines to prevent continued illegal sale or removal of such cigarettes. The removal of such seal from a vending machine by any unauthorized person is a violation of this Article. Nothing in this Article prevents the seizure of any vending machine at any time after it is sealed.
- (e) All cigarette vending machines must be plainly marked with the name, address and telephone number of the owner of said machine.

Sec. 21-367. Illegal acts.

- (a) It is unlawful and a violation of the Article for any dealer or other person liable for the tax:
 - (1) To perform any act or fail to perform any act for the purpose of evading the payment of any tax imposed by this article or of any part thereof, or to fail or refuse to perform any of the duties imposed upon him under the provisions of this Article or to fail or refuse to obey any lawful order which may be issued under this Article; or
 - (2) To falsely or fraudulently make, or cause to be made, any invoices or reports, or to falsely or fraudulently forge, alter or counterfeit any stamp, or to procure or cause to be made, forged, altered or counterfeited any such stamp, or knowingly and willfully to alter, publish, pass or tender as true any false, altered, forged or counterfeited stamp or stamps; or
 - (3) To sell, offer for sale, or distribute any cigarettes upon which the NVCTB tax stamp has not been affixed or upon which the jurisdictional tax has not been paid; or
 - (4) To possess, store, use, authorize or approve the possession, storage or use of any cigarette packages upon which the NVCTB tax stamp has not been affixed or upon which the jurisdictional tax has not been paid; or
 - (5) To transport, authorize or approve the transportation of any cigarette packages in quantities of more than sixty (60) packages into or within the county upon which the NVCTB tax stamp has not been affixed or upon which the jurisdictional tax has not been paid, if they are:
 - (A) Not accompanied by a receipt/bill of lading or other document indicating the true name and address of the consignor or seller and the consignee or purchaser and the brands and quantity of cigarettes transported; or
 - (B) Accompanied by a receipt/bill of lading or other document which is false or fraudulent in whole or part; or
 - (C) Accompanied by a receipt/bill of lading or other document indicating:

- (i) A consignee or purchaser in another state or the District of Columbia who is not authorized by the law of such other jurisdiction to receive or possess such tobacco products on which the taxes imposed by such other jurisdiction have not been paid unless the tax on the jurisdiction of destination has been paid and said cigarettes bear the tax stamps of that jurisdiction; or
 - (ii) A consignee or purchaser in the Commonwealth of Virginia but outside the taxing jurisdiction who does not possess a Virginia Sales and Use Tax Certificate and, where applicable, any licenses issued by the Commonwealth or local jurisdiction of destination; or
- (6) To reuse or refill with cigarettes any package from which cigarettes have been removed, for which the tax imposed has been theretofore paid; or
 - (7) To remove from any package any stamp with intent to use or cause the same to be used after same has already been used or to buy, sell, or offer for sale or give away any used, removed, altered or restored stamps to any person, or to reuse any stamp which had theretofore been used for evidence of the payment of any tax prescribed by this Article or to sell, or offer to sell, any stamp provided for herein; or
 - (8) To sell, offer for sale or distribute any loose or single cigarettes; or
 - (9) To perform any act that violates the resolutions promulgated by the NVCTB.
- (b) It is unlawful and a violation of the Article for any person or individual to transport, possess, store, use, authorize or approve the possession, storage or use of any cigarette in quantities of more than sixty (60) packages upon which the NVCTB tax stamp has not been affixed or upon which the jurisdictional tax has not been paid.

Sec. 21-368. Powers of the Northern Virginia Cigarette Tax Board.

The NVCTB may delegate any of its powers to its Administrator or employees and may adopt regulations regarding the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Article.

(a) The County acknowledges that the NVCTB possesses the following powers in member jurisdictions and grants the NVCTB such powers in the County:

- (1) To assess, collect and disburse the cigarette tax;
- (2) To audit sales of cigarettes;
- (3) To provide information to Commonwealth's attorneys or County attorney for the County;
- (4) To designate an Administrator whose authority extends to the County;

- (5) To manage the Northern Virginia Cigarette Tax Funds;
 - (6) To retain a certified public accountant to audit the NVCTB books;
 - (7) To designate a depository bank or banks;
 - (8) To contract with member jurisdictions for administrative services;
 - (9) To hold and convey real and personal property;
 - (10) To enter into contracts;
 - (11) To hire, supervise and discharge its own employees;
 - (12) To sue and be sued in its own name;
 - (13) To prescribe the design of a stamp(s) and to issue and sell said stamps to authorized dealers;
 - (14) To establish different classes of taxpayers;
 - (15) To promulgate resolutions for the assessment and collection of cigarette taxes and the enforcement of this ordinance; and
 - (16) To conduct inspections of any place of business in order to enforce the provisions of this ordinance and all resolutions of the NVCTB.
- (b) The NVCTB may employ legal counsel, bring appropriate court action in its own name to enforce payment of the cigarette tax or penalties owed and file tax liens against property of taxpayers hereunder.
- (c) The NVCTB is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Virginia Department of Taxation under which a registered agent with the NVCTB who is also qualified to purchase Virginia Revenue Stamps, may qualify to purchase Dual Virginia-NVCTB stamps from the Virginia Department of Taxation. Authority to purchase dual Virginia-NVCTB stamps is granted solely by the NVCTB and may be revoked or suspended for violations of this ordinance or resolutions adopted by the NVCTB.
- (d) The NVCTB may appoint certain employees as Tobacco Revenue Agents, who are required to carry proper identification while performing their duties. Tobacco Revenue Agents are further authorized to conduct inspections of any place of business and have the power to seize or seal any vending machines, seize any cigarettes, counterfeit stamps or other property found in violation of this Article and have the power of arrest upon reasonable and probable cause that a violation of this Article has been committed. The NVCTB is authorized to provide its tobacco

revenue agents with (1) firearms for their protection; (2) emergency equipped vehicles while on duty; and (3) other equipment deemed necessary and proper.

- (e) The NVCTB may exchange information relative to the sale, use, transportation or shipment of cigarettes with an official of any other jurisdiction entrusted with the enforcement of the cigarette tax laws of said other jurisdiction.

Sec. 21-369. Jeopardy assessment.

If the Administrator determines that the collection of any tax or any amount of tax required to be collected and paid under this Article will be jeopardized by delay, he must make an assessment of the tax or amount of tax required to be collected and mail or issue a notice of such assessment to the taxpayer together with a demand for immediate payment of the tax or of the deficiency in tax declared to be in jeopardy, including penalties and interest. In the case of a current period, for which the tax is in jeopardy, the Administrator may declare the taxable period of the taxpayer immediately terminated and shall cause notice of such finding and declaration to be mailed or issued to the taxpayer together with a demand for immediate payment of the tax based on the period declared terminated and such tax will be immediately due and payable, whether or not the terms otherwise allowed by this Article for filing a return and paying the tax has expired.

Sec. 21-370. Erroneous assessment: notices and hearings in event of sealing of vending machines or seizure of contraband property.

- (a) Any person assessed by the NVCTB with a cigarettes tax, penalties and interest or any person whose cigarettes, vending machines and other property have been sealed or seized under processes of this Article, who has been aggrieved by such assessment, seizure or sealing may file a request for a hearing before the Administrator for the NVCTB for a correction of such assessment and the return of such property seized or sealed.
- (b) Where holders of property interest in cigarettes, vending machines or other property are known at time of seizure or sealing, notice of seizure or sealing must be sent to them by certified mail within twenty-four (24) hours. Where such holders of property interests are unknown at time of seizure or sealing, it is sufficient notice to such unknown interest holders to post such notice to a door or wall of the room or building which contained such seized or sealed property. Any such notice of seizure or sealing must include procedures for an administrative hearing for return of such property seized or sealed as well as affirmative defenses set forth in this section which may be asserted.
- (c) Such hearing must be requested within ten (10) days of the notice of such assessment, seizure or sealing and must set forth the reasons why said tax, penalties and interest, cigarettes, vending machines or other property should be returned or released. Within five (5) days after receipt of such hearing request the Administrator must notify the petitioner by certified mail of a date and time for the informal presentation of evidence at a hearing to be held within fifteen (15) days of the date notification is mailed. Any such request for hearing must be denied if the assessed tax, penalties and interest have not been paid as required or if the request is received more than ten (10) days from first notice to the petitioner of such seizure or sealing. Within

five (5) days after the hearing, the Administrator must notify the petitioner, by registered mail, whether his request for a correction has been granted or refused.

- (d) Appropriate relief shall be given by the Administrator if he is convinced by the preponderance of the evidence that said seized cigarettes were in the possession of a person other than the petitioner without the petitioner's consent at the time said cigarettes, vending machines or other property were seized or sealed or that petitioner was authorized to possess such untaxed cigarettes. If the Administrator is satisfied that the tax was erroneously assessed, he must refund the amount erroneously assessed together with any interest and penalties paid thereon and return any cigarettes, vending machines or other property seized or sealed to the petitioner. Any petitioner who is dissatisfied with the written decision of the NVCTB may within thirty (30) days of the date of such decision, appeal such decision to the Circuit Court in and for the County.

Sec. 21-371. Disposal of seized property.

Any seized and confiscated cigarettes, vending machines or other property used in the furtherance of any illegal evasion of the tax may be disposed of by sale or other method deemed appropriate by the NVCTB after any petitioner has exhausted all administrative appeal procedures. No credit from any sale of cigarettes, vending machines, or other property seized is allowed toward any tax and penalties assessed.

Sec. 21-372. Extensions.

The Administrator, upon written application and a finding of good cause, may grant an extension of time for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days to file a tax report. Except as hereinafter provided, no interest or penalty may be charged, assessed or collected by reason of the granting of such an extension.

Sec. 21-373. Penalty for violation of article.

Any person violating any of the provisions of this Article is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$2,500.00 or imprisonment for not more than twelve (12) months or by both such fine and imprisonment. Such fine and/or imprisonment does not relieve any such person from the payment of any tax, penalty or interest imposed by this Article.

Sec. 21-374. Violations of Ordinance.

The sale, storage, or transportation of any quantity of cigarettes upon which the NVCTB tax stamp has not been affixed or the proper jurisdictional tax has not paid, or the possession of more than sixty (60) packages of cigarettes upon which the NVCTB tax stamp has not been affixed or the proper jurisdictional tax has not been paid, constitutes a violation of this Article.

Sec. 21-375. Severability.

If any section, phrase, or part of this Article should for any reason be held invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the remainder of the Article; and every remaining section, clause, phrase or part thereof shall continue in full force and effect.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall be effective on July 1, 2021, after acceptance of Spotsylvania County as a member locality to the NVCTB and the Board authorizes the execution of an agreement with the NVCTB and its member localities, as applicable.

(Ord. No. 21-93, 6-22-21)

State Law reference – Authority for above tax, Code of Virginia § 58.1-3830, et seq. and 15.2-1300

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect on July 1, 2021.