

# Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency

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ADMINISTRATION PROVIDED BY 

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARINGS  
Enfield I Community Solar & Mecklenburg Solar  
May 10, 2017  
10:00 AM  
Enfield Community Building  
182 Enfield Main Road, Enfield NY

IDA Members Present: Jennifer Tavares, Martha Robertson, Will Burbank (TCIDA Board), Heather McDaniel (Recording)

Ms. McDaniel called the hearing to order at 10:01am.

She introduced herself and gave an overview of the public hearing purpose, briefly described both projects, and detailed the financial assistance contemplated by the agency.

Kate Millar, from Renovous Solar gave a brief overview of the Mecklenburg solar project. the project is located behind the Snug Planet building. It is a pay as you go solar project and the community will be able to get a 10% discount on energy using solar.

Pete Dolgas, from Delaware River Solar gave a brief overview of the Enfield I project. This project is a similar project to the Mecklenburg Solar project. We have been through all NYSEG approvals and have presented site plans to the Enfield board. The project is at the stage of working with the IDA on a PILOT agreement

Ms. McDaniel called from the speaker's list. She stated that minutes from the hearing will be made available to the IDA members for their review prior to any final decision making. The next IDA Board meeting is May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM in the TC Legislative Chambers.

Joel Harlan – I am a resident of Newfield. I am interested in County issues. You need to get new technology in this County but to do that you need to go against these anti- developers. You need to pay attention to the future. NYSEG costs for energy are increasing and we need to do something. Get rid of the negatives and build these things. I am thinking about money and building buildings and factories and affordable housing – like Silicon Valley – how the County and schools can make money. This is successful in other Counties and I want to bring it here.

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Beth McGee – See attached comments.

Beverly Gingerich – I am not really familiar with the two projects. However, if I understand correctly these two projects are \$4 million projects paying \$16,000 in taxes, which is less than ½% when we pay more property taxes. Please negotiate a little more in terms of the PILOT agreements.

Ann Rider – See attached comments.

Don Scutt – I live in the Town of Dryden. I came here because I think it is important to be here. We had a similar hearing in the Town of Dryden last night with about 41 speakers. Everyone was in favor of solar but not one was in favor of these agreements. This is a net loser in terms of taxes. We had our taxes increase 17% last year. The Town of Dryden needs tax dollars. These projects are the County residents getting hosed by the IDA Board. Only three of the board are here today, the other 4 could not find time to come listen to your concerns. The solar companies coming into NYS are financed by Wall Street. They are not NYS corporations they are not Tompkins County businesses. We are subsidizing out of state corporations if we give them a tax break. When we add on to our home, we are reassessed and our taxes go up. Four members of this board are elected officials on the County board. They would never consider giving us a tax break like they do to these corporations. There is a strong tie between these projects. Finally, I have a letter here from the Newfield Town Supervisor. Newfield was able to get a better rate than this project. I recommend that they do not approve these projects as they stand as it is proven that they can get a better rate.

Mimi Mehaffey – See attached comments.

The hearing was closed at 10:26 AM.