

Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency

ADMINISTRATION PROVIDED BY 

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING
Delaware River Solar NY Newfield IV and V
January 24, 2018
3:00 PM
Newfield Town Hall
166 Main Street, Newfield NY

Present: Heather McDaniel (for Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency), Martha Robertson, Jennifer Tavares (TCIDA Board), Mike Sigler

1. Heather McDaniel called the public hearings to order at 3:15 PM
2. Ms. McDaniel gave a brief overview of the projects and incentives contemplated by the TCIDA.

The question was asked if the project is sold to another entity, does the TCIDA need to approve the sale? The answer is, if there is a transfer to a related or affiliated entity, the IDA does not need to approve. If there is a sale to a new entity, approval would be needed.

3. Call for comments.

Tayler Peck, Cayutaville NY – Mr. Peck stated that Millard Hill Road is his shortcut to Ithaca. He is familiar with the location of the projects. It is a better option with more detail than one year ago. Those two properties are paying just under \$200 a year in property taxes now. Each will be paying \$9,600 a year with the PILOT. The main beneficiary will be the school district. He is a volunteer coordinator for Solar Schuyler. With the jump to utility scale solar we are trying to figure out how to deal with it. The scale is larger. Newfield I, II, and III together will be 6MW, which is small compared to other projects in other states. Delaware River Solar, will they own them for the long term?

Jeff Hart – Town Supervisor of Newfield – Mr. Hart stated that he is for solar. It works with national goals. His issue is with Delaware River Solar. They don't follow through on agreements NexAmp agreed to a host community agreement with a \$150,000 de-commissioning fee. They have not paid it. We heard there was a sale to another entity. Why do they get a mortgage recording tax incentive? All of us homeowners would like a mortgage recording tax incentive, too. Going forward, he is concerned. He would rather see an incentive going to a company with a track record for follow through.

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Greg Griffith – 166 Millard Hill Road, Newfield – He lives directly across from the solar field closest to Route 13. The interconnection to 3-phase power is on private property behind houses – not on main road. He and his neighbor have tried to get information from DRS on whether they will use eminent domain to access the 3-phase power. His other concern is the view and value of his home. He opposes the project and the incentive (PILOT) program. The roads and infrastructure are in bad shape here. He hopes the IDA can get the State or County to improve the roads.

Daniel Winch – 310 Burdge Hill Road, Newfield – He presented a map of the project site and pointed out his and three neighbor's homes. He passed around photos of the view from his home. He supports solar but he does not think they should build on farmland and view sheds. He held up a sales brochure of his home from two years ago that features the view and the location. His wife grew up on this farm that was sold to a local farmer. He will be greatly impacted and fears for the loss of property tax values. He invited everyone to come see the view.

Joseph Downs – 309 Burdge Hill Road, Newfield – His wife and he purchased 40 acres and moved to Newfield 15 years ago. He pointed out where he lives on the map. He pays \$14,000 in property taxes. That is more than the solar panel project will pay. He opposes the the project, It will ruin his property tax values.

Phyllis Van Allen – 308 Burdge Hill Road, Newfield – On Saturday she celebrated 50 years on Burdge Hill Road. The project is going to impact property taxes and views. She is not opposed to sola, just not in her backyard.

4. The hearings were adjourned at 3:31 PM