

COUNTY OF FRANKLIN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PUBLIC HEARING REPORT

**JERICHO RISE WIND FARM LLC
TOWN OF CHATEAUGAY, TOWN HALL, CHATEAUGAY NY
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016**

“The time is 5:06 p.m. and it is May 2, 2016. My name is John Tubbs and as Chief Executive Officer of the County of Franklin Industrial Development Agency, I am convening this Public Hearing at the Town of Chateaugay Town Hall, in Chateaugay, New York, pursuant to Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York.

This public hearing concerns Jericho Rise Wind Farm LLC. They have made an application to the Industrial Development Agency to undertake a project, namely construction and operation of a 77.7 MW wind farm project consisting of 37 wind turbine generators – 29 in the Town of Chateaugay and 8 in the Town of Belmont. They have proposed that the Agency provide financial assistance for the project.

The public hearing is an opportunity for the public to provide comment (orally or in writing) regarding the project. The Agency will compile the comments in a public hearing report, which will then be considered by the members of the Agency when they make their final determinations and take final action with respect to the project.

We have a sign-in sheet for attendees and we have a copy of public hearing procedures for everyone here. We also have on hand a copy of the application that was made to the Agency along with a PILOT Application Impact Analysis for your review. These documents can also be found on the Agency website at www.franklinida.org.

We do have, now that we have opened the Hearing, a couple of things to enter into record. We'd like to enter into record first a copy of the Agency's Resolution authorizing this Public Hearing. This Resolution is dated April 18, 2016. We also would like to enter into record the notice, the actual text of the notice of the Public Hearing, which was printed in two newspapers. It was printed in the Malone Telegram on April 22, 2016 and in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise, also on April 22, 2016. In addition, we have correspondence to enter into the record from Joseph Shields of the firm of Ferrara Fiorenza, legal counsel for the Chateaugay Central School District. This is dated today, May 2, 2016.

In addition to myself, others present at this time on behalf of the County of Franklin Industrial Development Agency are:

John Child, Board Chair
Andrew Schrader
Justus Martin
Phil Wagschal
Paul Cantwell, Agency Counsel
Maria Bourgeois, Executive Assistant

I'd like to recap the Public Hearing procedures; that people are welcome to speak and provide comment to the Agency concerning the proposed project. This Public Hearing is NOT intended for the public to address questions to members of the Agency, to the project applicant OR to engage them in discussion, and comments are limited to five minutes per speaker.

This Public Hearing will be open for one hour or until all persons wishing to speak have been heard. When called to speak, please identify yourself by name and address. After all speakers on the sign-in sheet have been heard, I will ask if there are any additional persons not already heard who would like to provide comment.

At this time we invite members of the public to comment, and speakers will be called in the order of their sign-in.

- 1) **Jerry O'Connor (Chateaugay, NY):** I am speaking on behalf of those who will be building or have a stake in employment. We have harsh winters up here and construction needs to start sooner rather than later. This should get done as soon as possible.
- 2) **William "Bill" Wood (Burke, NY):** Burke stands to get 2 towers in this project. I signed a letter of intent in December 2006, and an agreement in December 2008. In 2014, Cuomo put aside money for renewable energy project. It's time to get this project moving – we look forward to making this happen. Best wishes and thanks to all the officials who have tried to get this moving.
- 3) **Gilbert Merrill (Town of Chateaugay, NY):** This project has been dragged out for 10 long years. The IDA and both Towns have done a great job getting this going. There's a lot riding on this and we need to get this going.
- 4) **Joyce King (Town of Bellmont):** We were one of the first people to sign with Horizon. This is going to help the whole community and I sincerely hope the project goes through. It's good clean energy. Let's move forward and get the show on the road!
- 5) **Bob O'Connor (Chateaugay, NY):** Everyone is just reinventing the wheel. Enough already. Time to move forward.

- 6) **CJ Madonna (Special Counsel Towns of Chateaugay and Belmont):** You referenced a letter from Mr. Shields, is that dated May 2, 2016? It requests that the school consents provided it is agreed to terms set forth therein. The terms are not in agreement with the draft PILOT. The PILOT states payments start in year 5 – the letter is confusing and needs to be looked at closely by bond and agency counsel. I have spoken with bond counsel and asked if the notice of public hearing was set forth to comment on project and pilot agreement. I have a copy of the draft PILOT agreement, but it's not available for inspection here. It states that payments to PILOT for real property should be given to the jurisdictions as if the property was not exempt. My understanding is that you take 25% of property taxes and allocate to one of the affected jurisdictions. Look at the cost benefit and look at the impact. ANY PILOT should be distributed as standard procedure – always given the same to the jurisdictions as if the property wasn't exempt. I believe this to be a deviation to the PILOT payment and would ask that you revisit the policy from 1995. You may have the authority, but all jurisdictions should agree and have a clear understanding to what that should be and it should be the same for all projects – not just wind projects. These need to be all clearly understood policies. The Towns are going to discuss whether they will agree to the standard policy.
- 7) **Bob O'Connor (Chateaugay, NY):** Who's the head of the IDA? Who should have the draft PILOT? It's been two years – where is it? Who's supposed to have the papers here?

The time is now 5:45 p.m. and we have held this Public Hearing open but will now proceed with closing this Public Hearing on the Jericho Rise Wind Farm, which is proposed for construction and operation in the Towns of Chateaugay and Bellmont. The Hearing is now closed. Thank you all.”