



The Town of East Greenbush

225 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, NY 12144

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, June 12, 2014

Call to Order 4:30 PM
Pledge to the Flag
Town Board Meeting: **Members of Town Board**

Present	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor Langley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilperson Mangold
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilperson Malone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilperson DiMartino
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilperson Matters

Pledge to the Flag
Call to Order: 4:30 PM
Special Meeting: **To consider a site specific resolution for a casino in the Town of East Greenbush.**

Linda Kennedy, Town Clerk read the following notice and stated that it was on the website, legal board and the media notified:

Notice: The Town Board of the Town of East Greenbush has scheduled a Special Meeting to be held on Thursday, June 12, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. at the East Greenbush Town, 225 Columbia Turnpike, to consider a site specific resolution for a casino in the Town of East Greenbush.

Supervisor Langley opened the public portion at 4:32pm. The supervisor stated that residents are limited to two minutes each and remarks will end at 5:30 pm.

There were 32 residents that spoke against with the same concerns, children, to close to schools and in a residential neighborhood.

There were 10 residents that spoke for stating the tax on the land alone will help the town financially.

Be this duly noted that the Town Clerk as received written complaints from the following and are on file in the Clerk's Office: Jennifer Delgrosse, Laurraine Wiese, Christine Tierney and Community Gospel Church.

Open portion closed at 5:40pm

TOWN OF EAST GREENBUSH RESOLUTION 85-2014

Supporting the Location of a Gaming Facility in the Town of East Greenbush

WHEREAS, an application will be filed with the New York Gaming Commission by a joint venture of Saratoga Casino and Raceway and Churchill Downs, Inc., for the location of a casino facility on Thompson Hill Road in the Town of East Greenbush; and

WHEREAS, the law governing the establishment of casinos under the recent constitutional amendment mandates a casino operator to make a substantial annual payment to the host community; and

WHEREAS, in addition to a substantial host community fee, the casino facility will be required to pay all of the required property taxes, school taxes and other real property tax levies, based upon the assessed value of the property; and

WHEREAS, in addition to a sizable revenue source to the Town, a new casino facility would create new jobs in the Town of East Greenbush, both in the construction of the facility, and in the operation of the facility; and

WHEREAS, any such facility, if approved by the Commission, must still go through the SEQRA process, with the Town being the lead agency; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has required the applicant to provide a resolution from the Town Board in support of the location of a casino facility; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Comptroller has certified that there is no adverse impact to the Town finances; now, therefore

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in furtherance of the above goals, the Town of East Greenbush hereby agrees to the location of the gaming facility on Thompson Hill Road in the Town of East Greenbush.

The foregoing Resolution was duly moved by Supervisor Langley seconded by Councilperson Malone and brought to a vote resulting as follows:

Supervisor Langley	VOTED	YES
Councilperson Malone	VOTED	YES
Councilperson Mangold	VOTED	YES
Councilperson DiMartino	VOTED	YES
Councilperson Matters	VOTED	YES

**** the following statements were read prior to the vote.**

Councilperson Mangold prior to her vote Sue stated" we as a board are in a difficult position. Had we had time to go through the normal channels for a development proposal; things would have moved along differently. The fact is NYS voters approved Casino's, they are legal. The Casino operators have a time table that they need to adhere to for licensing.

As I listen to the public I am hearing many of the same concerns both for and against. Many in the Town are angry, frustrated and fearful of what a Casino will bring in to the area. That is understood. Many others are excited at the potential of having a major business coming in to Town that will provide entertainment option, restaurants and shops.

It is our responsibility as a board to do all we can to continue to provide services and act in a financially sound manner.

When I think about what I love about East Greenbush, I take a look at the activities going on just this past month: In our schools we had PTO meetings, Field days for elementary students, High Honor Awards for students, graduations, proms, concerts and many sporting events.

In Town we had a Spotlight on Youth Ceremony. We have day camp registration, Bocce ball leagues, and music in the park will begin shortly.

I have attended the Memorial Day Parade to honor our Veterans, a golf outing for our EG PBA, a run for life to help bring awareness to Domestic Violence and a torch run from the East Greenbush police station to Albany city hall to raise money for NY Special Olympics.

All of these activities are what makes our community the wonderful place we know. All of these events are going to continue whether or not we have a Casino.

We are a growing Community and have many challenges ahead. It has been difficult to attract any business to East Greenbush over the past decade. Our taxes are high, our impact fees are high which Prevent many small businesses to make a profit. We have an opportunity to give East Greenbush the shot in the arm it needs for economic growth.

We have an opportunity to collect substantial impact fees, sales tax revenues, water/sewer fees. There will be an opportunity to reduce our taxes. It will be the responsibility of this and future boards to act responsible with the income. We have a community amenities plan which outlines many of the opportunities we will be able to afford.

There is a quote by Charles Kettering that seems appropriate " The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress", I hope we can move forward together in the fashion that continues to make East Greenbush a wonderful place to live".