

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency

July 22, 2019 @ 11:00 AM

Town Hall, Town of Webb, 3140 State Route 28, Old Forge, NY

Re: Old Forge Properties dba Enchanted Forest Water Safari

John J. Piseck, Jr. introduced himself as the Executive Director of the Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency and opened the public hearing at 11:00 AM.

Mr. Piseck appointed Stacey Holleran to record the minutes of the hearing.

Mr. Piseck stated that on July 10, 2019 a Public Hearing Notice was published in the legal section of the Times Telegram as well as being posted on the Agency website. The Agency also provided a copy to the CEO of all affected taxing jurisdictions. The following is the published notice:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing pursuant to Article 18-A of the New York State General Municipal Law, will be held by the Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") on the 22nd day of July 2019, at 11:00 AM, local time at the Town Hall, Town of Webb, 3140 State Route 28, Old Forge, Herkimer County, New York, in connection with the following matter:

WHEREAS, OLD FORGE PROPERTIES, INC. D/B/A ENCHANTED FOREST WATER SAFARI (the "Company") has presented an application (the "Application") to the Agency, copies of which are on file at the office of the Agency, requesting that the Agency consider undertaking; (i) to provide assistance through sales tax and mortgage tax incentives for the constructing, equipping, and financing of the above described project Facility and real property tax relief in the form of a Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement (the "Assistance"), (ii) to acquire, construct, equip, and finance the Facility or to cause the Facility to be constructed, equipped, and financed; and (iii) to lease (with an obligation to purchase) or sell the Facility to the Company or such other person as may be designated by the Company and agreed upon by the Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Facility will consist of the acquisition, construction, and equipping of three new water slides located in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County, State of New York, known as 3183 State Route 28, Old Forge, New York 13420. The Project has an estimated cost of Three Million and 00/100 Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) (the "Project Costs"); and

A representative of the Agency will be at the above-stated time and place to review the project application, and hear comments and accept written statements from any persons with views in favor of or opposed to either the proposed Assistance to the Company or the location or nature of the Facility. A copy of the Application filed by the Company with the Agency with respect to the Facility, including an analysis of the costs and benefits of the Project, is available

for public inspection during business hours at the offices of the Agency. A transcript or summary report of the hearing will be made available to the members of the Agency.

Additional information can be obtained from, and written comments may be addresses to John J. Piseck, Jr., Executive Director, Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency, 420 E. German Street, Suite 101 A, Herkimer, New York 13350; Telephone 315-866-3000.

Mr. Piseck invited public comments.

Jennifer Dunn asked if the assessed value has been changed by \$150,000.00? Mr. Piseck replied that this hearing is just to hear comments and not answer questions.

Justin Masters asked if the IDA considered publishing notice in a publication up north? Also asked if there was an idea on how long it will take for the closing to take place. Mr. Piseck said we cannot estimate that.

Also attached are comments submitted by email from Alison Albright 7/13/2019.

Being no further public comment, the public hearing was closed at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stacey J. Holleran
Assistant Secretary

Attachment: Sign in sheet
Email 7/13/2019

Subject: HCIDA Website Inquiry
Date : Saturday, July 13, 2019 9:01 pm
From : "Alison Albright" <albrightali.aa@gmail.com>
To : <jpiseck@herkimercountyida.org>

Dear Mr. Piseck,

I am unable to attend the public hearing regarding the \$3 million tax break given to the Water Safari. I am wondering why there is a public hearing, if there is no bond issue. Secondly, the owner of the water park owns a second home in the Caribbean, which, I dare say is worth more than the 3 million in tax breaks the county will give him to rebuild some water slides that he has the wherewithal to do anyway. Is it really prudent to have the taxpayers foot the bill for a private business which already exists and is thriving???? This is not economic development. It is a tax break for a thriving business funded by the taxpayers of the county, which is economically depressed. The water park, in my opinion has contributed negatively to the town of Old Forge. The traffic is ridiculous. People come to the water park and then go home. They do not stay. They also deposit their garbage wherever they choose on their way out. Please let me know what the purpose of the public hearing is.

Sincerely,
Alison Albright

