

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Public Hearing
September 1, 2016
East Greenbush Town Hall

Start: 10:00 a.m.
Closed: 10:31 a.m.

At 10:00 am the Hearing Officer read the Notice of Public Hearing, which was published August 18, 2016 in the 21st Century Media Newspaper, LLC (Troy Record). The Hearing Officer identified himself and stated that anyone who wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to the project was welcome to speak. It was stated that the purpose of this hearing was to gather information from all interested parties which would be transmitted to the Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency Board prior to its September 8, 2016 meeting. As it was not the purpose of this hearing, no questions would be answered at this hearing.

Speakers: Jack Conway, Supervisor, Town of East Greenbush. He wanted the hearing to be suspended and rescheduled for 7:00 PM some night. He said his slate had run on a "transparency in government" platform and he did not think the 10:00 A.M. time served the community. Further, he felt there was inadequate notice of meeting and he didn't know about the hearing. Also, he wanted to have the PILOT to study prior to the meeting. He did not feel that PILOTs were appropriate.

Tom Grant, Town Councilman, he also wanted meetings at night and agreed with the other comments made by the Supervisor.

Mary Ann Matters, Town Councilwoman, she urged for night public hearings to ensure more participation by Town residents. She also agreed with the Supervisor's comments.

Lee Cookson stated that the meeting was invalid because a person trained in signing for the hearing impaired was not provided. He did not think we really wanted to have input from the public and read the following at the hearing. **(His written comments are attached to these minutes.)**

Tony Manfredi, Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town of East Greenbush said that the draft PILOT agreement should be provided for his review prior to the Public Hearing.

Susan McCarthy, Assessor for the Town of East Greenbush said the IDA's business should be to bring businesses into the Town and not to give businesses tax breaks. The IDA is bleeding the tax revenues away from the Town.

Eileen Grant said there was a flaw in our thinking. Regeneron was a good neighbor but how does it benefit the Town to have a parking garage built?

Peter Stenson echoed the Supervisor's requests. He said the PILOTs should appear on the IDA's web page.

Other Attendees: Robert Mehalich, Gregory Blatz, Brian Hennigan, Robert Downer (Times Union reporter), and Mary Hennigan

As there were no other speakers, the Hearing Officer closed the Public Hearing at 10:31 a.m.

The above is a true and accurate account of the events of the September 1, 2016 Public Hearing.


Jay Sherman, Hearing Officer for the RCIDA

(PLEASE SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENT)

Leighton Carter

Remarks To Rensselaer IDA

September 1, 2016

Before I begin my comments, I want to make sure we understand one of the ground rules. My 5-minute clock stops whenever any of you are commenting or responding.

Let me start off by asking you a question. Why are you here?

Remember that expression, "Actions speak louder than words". With your mouth you say you are here to hear from us, but that's not what your actions say. Facts are that you scheduled this public hearing:

1. for the last week in August, a week that is one of the most selected vacation weeks of the summer;
2. for a week when EG parents are extremely busy finishing last minute preparations for their children's return to school.
3. for 10AM on a weekday when most of the voters and residents in EG, who would like to be here to express their opinions, can't because they are at work.

Personally, I think you're here because the law requires it, you want to get in and out of here as quickly as possible, and don't really care what we have to say just like was the case with Fed Ex and especially with the casino.....you, Kathy and the legislature never asked the citizens of EG whether we wanted a casino in the town WE live in; you decided that you wanted a casino, you wanted it in EG and then you tried to con us with a bill of goods. We haven't forgotten.

As an EG homeowner and tax payer, I'm tired of paying high taxes. And some of that is yours and Rensselaer county's fault. You keep giving away our tax base with one sweetheart deal after another, and don't replace that lost revenue. That is not fair, and many of us as we did with the casino, are getting pretty ticked off with this situation. Frankly, given the way we've been treated, I think, as the largest and most attractive town in the county, we would be much, much better served by an East Greenbush IDA to negotiate with Regeneron & others from here on out to ensure 100% representation of our best interests in the future. Maybe the people of East Greenbush need to Save East Greenbush yet again.

Oh and by the way if you haven't guessed, for the record I'm not in favor of any additional concessions or tax breaks for Regeneron. They are one of the fastest growing companies in the entire country, and they're making money hand over fist, so it's now time to stop the handouts, it's now time for them to pay their own way and it's now time for them instead of increasing taxes for EG residents to start helping to reduce our taxes.