

# Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency

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Administration provided by  **TCAD**

## MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

Ulysses Solar III, LLC

September 11, 2017

11:00 AM

Town Hall of Ulysses

10 Elm Street, Trumansburg NY

Present: Heather McDaniel (for Tompkins County Industrial Development Agency), Jim Dennis, Martha Robertson, Will Burbank (TCIDA Board), Kate Millar (Renovus Energy/Ulysses Solar), Elizabeth Thomas, Darby Kiley (Town of Ulysses)

1. Heather McDaniel called the public hearing to order at 11:00 AM
2. Public hearing notice was read and an overview of the project was provided. It was noted that the TCIDA was asked to negotiate the PILOT agreement as the company requested a 20 year PILOT which is more than the 15 years allowed by Real Property Tax law 487.
3. Call for comments.
4. Comments

William O'Brien – He hopes that the applicant chose land for the solar project that is not appropriate for other (agricultural) uses. He is concerned about the misuse of valuable farmland. He also feels that Renovus should have some “skin” in the game – some risk/loss – similar to that of the customers of the facility so that Renovus might be more willing to advocate for policy that makes these successful for the customers. He feels that, after talking with the representatives from Renovus, they don't stand to lose anything if the project is not successful.

Nancy Zahler – She is a member of the Town Board and the liaison to the Agriculture Committee. She mentioned that the former owner of the property in question is on the Ag. Committee and that he indicated that it was not a very farmable piece of land. She is grateful to the IDA for taking on the PILOT negotiations. She felt that 11:00 AM is not a great time to get the public to the hearing. The Town often holds an information session prior to a public hearing as well.

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Jim Dennis mentioned that the IDA would not be involved if the Town of Ulysses had not asked them. Also the IDA does not handle land use issues, that is under the Town's authority.

Martha Robertson stated that she is glad the Town Ag. Committee has looked at land use. She also mentioned that the IDA does the best it can with scheduling public hearings.

Anne Koreman – She stated that she is glad we are considering supporting another solar project in Ulysses and thanked the IDA for this.

5. The hearing was adjourned at 11:30 AM