

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
HIGH PEAKS DISTRIBUTING PROPOSAL  
TOWN OF ST. ARMAND  
May 7, 2014

A Special Board Meeting of the Town of St. Armand was held on the above date at the Town Hall, Bloomingdale, NY.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Town Supervisor Charles Whitson, Jr.  
Deputy Supervisor Samuel Grimone  
Councilperson Donald Amell  
Councilperson D. Joseph Bates

TOWN EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Town Clerk Davina Thurston  
Robert Drosdowich, Code Enforcement Officer  
Donna Bramer, Assessor

GUESTS: Sandy Hayes, Jodi Olcott, Tom McCraith, Dan McCraith

EXCUSED: Councilperson Jennifer Fuller

Notice was sent to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise regarding this meeting.

Town Supervisor Charles Whitson, Jr. called the Public Hearing to order at 6:33 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deputy Supervisor Samuel Grimone.

Supervisor Whitson opened the meeting by introducing Jodi Olcott, Co-Executive Director of Essex County Industrial Development Agency Office. Ms. Olcott handed out the proposal documents. She then discussed the scope of the project expansion, and what they are requesting as far as a tax reduction for High Peaks Distributing. The PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) program was explained.

Mr. Tom McCraith and his son Dan McCraith introduced themselves to the Board. They are the owners and operators of High Peaks Distributing. They have been in business for over 40 years, and in 2010 purchased Don Scammell Distributing. Mr. McCraith explained that High Peaks Distributing is interested in expanding their existing building, to increase space and expand the number of products that they can distribute. They will also be adding additional staff to the business. Mr. McCraith expressed their desire to remain in their current location.

Discussion ensued. Plans for the proposed new warehouse space were passed out. Mr. McCraith stated that the plans for expansion do include using all available local contractors for site work, as well as local mechanics for vehicle maintenance.

Sandy Hayes made a statement of disclosure. Sandy stated that he has never met Mr. McCraith or his son Dan, however he does have a business deal with Mr. McCraith regarding this project, and he has a family member employed by Mr. McCraith. Sandy continued by asking about the size of the building, and the proposed expansion, and how the two did not add up per the current tax assessment. Sandy went on to explain that several other business owner's have recently made improvements and expansions and none of them are asking for the Town to give them a PILOT. Sandy is against giving any tax breaks to any businesses or personal properties in the Town of St. Armand. Further discussion ensued. Mr. McCraith, Dan McCraith, Jodi Olcott and Sandy Hayes left the meeting.

Discussion continued regarding the proposal. Donna explained the way the assessments are calculated.

Traffic, taxes and other impacts were discussed. It was decided that the proposal would be added to the Agenda on May 13, 2014

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Deputy Supervisor Samuel Grimone made a motion to adjourned the meeting, Councilperson Bates seconded the motion, meeting adjourned at 7:46PM.

I, Davina M. Thurston, Town Clerk for the Town of St. Armand, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the Special Board meeting minutes held on the above-referenced date.

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Davina M. Thurston  
St. Armand Town Clerk

May 7, 2014