

NIAGARA COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PUBLIC HEARING FOR:

SOMERSET SOLAR, LLC

HELD:

March 11, 2026

2:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

TOWN OF SOMERSET TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

8700 Haight Road

Barker, New York 14012

1 PRESENT:

2

3 ANDREA KLYCZEK
4 Executive Director
5 Niagara County Industrial Development Agency
6 Appearing as Hearing Officer.

5

6 Additional attendance noted on sign-in sheets.

7

Index to speakers included on page 64.

8

9

MS. KLYCZEK: Welcome. This

10 public hearing is now open. It is March 11, 2026 at

11 2:00 p.m. My name is Andrea Klyczek. I'm the

12 Executive Director of the Niagara County Industrial

13 Development Agency. I have been designated by the

14 agency to be the Hearing Officer to conduct this

15 public hearing.

16

This public hearing is being

17 live-streamed and made accessible on the Agency's

18 website at www.niagaracountybusiness.com.

19

Notice of the public hearing is

20 hereby given that a public hearing pursuant to

21 Article 18-A Subdivision 2 Section 859-a of the New

22 York General Municipal Law will be held by the

23 Niagara County Industrial Development Agency (the

1 Agency) in connection with the Somerset Solar, LLC
2 project.

3 Notice of this hearing appeared in
4 The Niagara Gazette on February 28, 2026.

5 We are here to hold the public
6 hearing on the Somerset Solar, LLC and/or
7 individuals, affiliates, subsidiaries or entities
8 formed or to be formed on its behalf. The
9 transcript of this hearing will be reviewed and
10 considered by the Agency in determination of the
11 project.

12 The purpose of the hearing is to
13 solicit comments, both written and oral, for
14 Somerset Solar, LLC. The project application and
15 project summary are posted on the Agency's website
16 at niagaracountybusiness.com. I have copies with me
17 today.

18 Somerset Solar, LLC will be
19 constructing a 125-megawatt utility-scale utility
20 solar project in the Town of Somerset. The
21 construction of this facility will lead to 98
22 construction jobs and two permanent positions to
23 maintain the facility.

1 A resolution passed by the Town
2 of Somerset Board supports the Somerset Solar, LLC
3 application to the Niagara County Industrial
4 Development Agency for a tax agreement. The
5 resolution also states that this project is subject
6 to Real Property Tax Law 575-b, which mandates solar
7 projects of at least one megawatt be assessed for
8 real property tax values under the Discounted Cash
9 Flow Methodology using a model formula and
10 discounted rates established by the New York State
11 Department of Taxation and Finance. This assessment
12 determination enables the Town to define tax
13 payments providing property tax stability to the
14 each of the affected taxing jurisdictions, which
15 will be provided through the NCIDA application
16 process.

17 All those in attendance are
18 required to register by signing in at the sign-in
19 sheet at the lectern. You will not -- you will be
20 permitted -- you will not be permitted to speak
21 unless you have registered. Everyone who is
22 registered will be given the opportunity to make
23 statements and/or comments on the project.

1 If you have a written statement or
2 comments to submit for the record, you may leave it
3 at this public hearing, submit it on the Agency's
4 website, or deliver it to the Agency as 6311 Inducon
5 Corporate Drive in Sanborn, New York 14132. The
6 comment period closes on March 12, 2026. There are
7 no limitations on written statements or comments.

8 If anyone is interested in making
9 a statement or comment, please raise your hand,
10 state your name and address. If you are
11 representing a company, please identify the company.

12 I request that the speakers please
13 keep statements and/or comments to three minutes.

14 Supervisor?

15
16 MR. SUPERVISOR: Thank you,
17 Andrea.

18 Just a few things. I want
19 everybody to understand that we were not in favor
20 of this project. This project got rammed down our
21 throats by New York State, our lovely governor. I
22 just need you to understand that. This has not been
23 of our doing.

1 So with that being said, it was
2 like we're going to go after and get the most money
3 we can get out of this project for our town. And if
4 the HCA and the partial PILOT is the way to get the
5 max money for this town, that's what we're shooting
6 for.

7 Now, just some numbers on that.
8 The taxing on this for the -- the life of this deal
9 is 20 years, we would get 1.47 million out of it.
10 With doing it this way, with the HCA and the partial
11 PILOT -- and that goes up two percent every year on
12 that number with the HCA and the PILOT -- we'd end
13 up with a little over 6.5 million dollars over the
14 life of the contract. So there's, you know, five
15 million if we take it with just straight taxes or
16 whatever.

17 But just so you understand this.
18 This, hopefully, is all in the best interest to do
19 this with the IDA Board, with the partial PILOT and
20 the HCA here for the us, for the Town.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So instead
22 of getting five million over the 20 years, you
23 get six?

1 MR. SUPERVISOR: 6.5, because
2 you've got a little over five million for the HCA
3 and then 750,000 for the partial PILOT. So that
4 equates to a little over 6.5, and it comes right to
5 the Town.

6 (Inaudible cross talk)

7 MS. KLYCZEK: Can we -- I'm
8 sorry. We can't have a discussion. We can't have a
9 discussion. We can just have comments for the
10 purposes of this hearing. We can certainly have a
11 discussion following the hearing.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why
13 wouldn't those numbers be available to us right now?

14 MS. KLYCZEK: I can provide
15 those numbers to you.

16 All right. Ms. Ray, Marcia Ray.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me.
18 But before the comments, shouldn't we know how much
19 the school's getting, how much the Town is getting?

20 MS. KLYCZEK: All that
21 information is available on the Agency's website and
22 the Project Summary and -- I believe it's in the
23 Project Summary, as well. So we can --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So do you
2 know how much does the school get? Do you have it
3 right there?

4 MS. KLYCZEK: Yes, I do.
5 Ms. Ray?

6 MARCIA RAY: We came here
7 to listen, to hear a proposal, but we never got much
8 information for that.

9 MS. KLYCZEK: Can you come
10 up? I'm sorry to interrupt you. Can you come up?

11 MARCIA RAY: Where do you
12 want me?

13 MS. KLYCZEK: Right up to
14 the lectern. Just because we have an obligation
15 to --

16 MARCIA RAY I should speak
17 to you?

18 MS. KLYCZEK: Yes.

19 MARCIA RAY: Well, I hope
20 you listen to everyone's concerns. We have a good
21 turnout. That shows we care.

22 The area along Lake Ontario from
23 Hartland Road to Hess Road in the Towns of Somerset

1 and Newfane have been desecrated. This portion of
2 New York State was settled over 200 years ago by
3 people looking for prime farmland for raising crops,
4 for moderate climate for producing fruit, and fresh
5 air for rural family living.

6 In the last 70 years it has been
7 taken away from farmers and has become a major
8 industrial area.

9 As a family that has lived here
10 for over 200 years, and we have eight generations in
11 our family, we are truly disgusted and heartbroken
12 with the ravaging of our natural resources and
13 habitat, not to benefit us as residents, but to
14 provide service to larger cities in our state and
15 country.

16 What a sacrifice you have asked of
17 us. What a destruction to our rural charm and
18 beauty.

19 This property was obtained by
20 eminent domain and has continued to be destroyed by
21 stripping of trees, building of concrete and steel
22 and changing trends of the times.

23 First, a state-of-the-art

1 coal-fired generating plant, a whole new railroad
2 system, and now the largest AI center in the
3 country. Our community does not want to be
4 recognized as industrial. We are an earth-loving
5 township that protects habitat for wildlife, bird
6 migration, fruit-growing and encouraging tourist
7 travel.

8 How can New York State designate
9 Route 18 as a Seaway Trail after the hundreds of
10 overloaded truck dumps and 18-wheelers pound the
11 pavement continuously and with excessive speeds.

12 We have given Lake Mariner and
13 AES nearly exclusive use of our highways, with no
14 safety measures being taken whatsoever. The
15 disturbance caused by this enormous construction
16 cannot be underestimated. Excessive noise and
17 rumbling for miles, upsetting human sleep patterns
18 and pets. Traffic of trucks, equipment at all hours
19 of the day and weekends with no traffic lights or
20 warnings. Lights that distract sleep, cause alarm
21 to unknowing passer-bys.

22 And local benefits? The employees
23 come from a distance, only to grab a sandwich at the

1 convenience store. There's no consideration for our
2 township at all.

3 And you're asking for us to
4 approve a PILOT that gives a mere six million
5 dollars to maybe the town, with no consideration to
6 the school, with no consideration to our environment
7 or infrastructure. Please, take that into
8 consideration. Please. Thank you.

9 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you.

10 Mr. Ray. Richard Ray.

11 RICHARD RAY: Yeah, I'm
12 here.

13 I hate to tell you how many
14 meetings like this I have attended in the last four
15 years.

16 MS. KLYCZEK: Sir, could
17 you -- we have to have this recorded, so if you
18 could stand up here.

19 RICHARD RAY: You know,
20 that's kind of an interesting fact, since we can't
21 hear you. And you know, maybe you should have taken
22 some consideration for making sure that everybody on
23 both sides could hear.

1 I'm going to stand right where I
2 am. If it doesn't get recorded, tough.

3 I come to these meetings and
4 they're all basically the same. The decision's been
5 made, we'll get shortchanged. We'll have it in the
6 middle of the day. No, we'll change it from Monday
7 to Wednesday. Hopefully, nobody will turn up. I'm
8 appreciative of all of the people that have turned
9 up. And when we get all said and done, we will do
10 want we want to do.

11 I am upset that we don't get more
12 consideration. I'm also upset that when you have
13 the figures in front of you and a question is asked,
14 you cannot tell us that the school will get X number
15 of dollars. You've got it right in front of you.
16 What the hell's the matter with you?

17 I leave it at that. Carry on your
18 little charade.

19 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you.

20 I'm sorry. I can't read this
21 name. It's Lake Road, 6737.

22 JOE MOORE: Excuse me.

23 Can I just say something?

1 MS. KLYCZEK: Yeah. Sure.
2 Do you want to go next?

3 JOE MOORE: I have to
4 leave and I do want to speak. Everybody okay with
5 that?

6 My name is Joe Moore. I live at
7 1449 Hosmer Road at the north end, right down by the
8 plant, right by Lake Road, all right.

9 I know this isn't the place for
10 the noise and all that as far as like 1985. I've
11 been dealing with the noise at that power plant
12 since 1985, with the dump trucks backing into the
13 plant, with the trains banging across the street on
14 the railroads all night long, rattling my windows
15 and door frames and knocking pictures off my walls
16 when -- the trains all the way down the tracks.

17 And now, here we are in today's
18 society dealing with the dump trucks for this
19 project, the AI that's going on, the building, the
20 construction, the noise, the diesel smell of the
21 fuel that we're dealing with down here from the
22 diesels, the smell -- the smell of diesel, the
23 noise, again, like I said.

1 And I own 89 acres from Lake Road
2 to Haight Road. And my property is going to be
3 surrounded by these solar panels. Surrounded by
4 them. Okay.

5 And I agree 100 percent with what
6 the Rays said, spot on, both of you. You hit the
7 nail right on the head. But, you know, this stuff
8 is already in. Their minds are already made up. We
9 don't get a chance to really -- we can speak and say
10 what we want, but nothing's going to be done about
11 it because the mind's already made up, everything's
12 done.

13 And I just wish -- I don't know
14 how we're going to manage as far as spreading out
15 this tax money. But as far as I'm concerned, the
16 people that live down there in front of that project
17 dealing with the noise and the pollution and all
18 that stuff going on, I'm hoping we get a bigger tax
19 break than a lot of other people because we've been
20 dealing with it our whole lives down there.

21 And another -- one last thing I
22 have to say about that is, you know, everything is
23 hidden. It's a secret. You can't find out any

1 My biggest issue is everybody
2 outside of our area is getting the tax break. We're
3 the ones that have to deal with this. What are we
4 getting out of it? Nothing.

5 I mean, we'll get a pittance of a
6 tax break maybe, but we're the ones that have to --
7 I've got -- I'll have solar panels on two sides of
8 my -- on the front side of my property and on the
9 north side of my property. I'm used to seeing deer
10 and animals and stuff coming through the fields.
11 Now I won't be able to see that.

12 I just -- and like Joe and
13 everybody else, the Rays, we're not informed about
14 what's going here whatsoever. I mean, I don't know
15 what's going on.

16 I know there's an AI plant going
17 on, you know, where the old power plant is. I live
18 right there and I don't know. Along where the
19 tracks were, they got a bunch of -- I don't know
20 what they're storing out there. (Inaudible cross
21 talk.) Along the railroad tracks it's transformers
22 and things like that, electrical equipment for the
23 power plant or for the AI.

1 I just -- I would like the IDA to
2 consider the residents and what we have to put up
3 with. We have to live with this. The rest of my
4 life, you know, I'm going to have to look at these
5 solar panels.

6 And the buffers that we were told
7 way back when, is that going to happen? I mean, is
8 there still going to be woods in front along the
9 road so we don't have to see those panels? I mean,
10 when they built the power plant, there was no woods.
11 Now it's grown up. Now they're going to rip out all
12 those woods, put probably little pine trees there,
13 and we're going to have to see it.

14 So I know that's not your thing,
15 but I just -- I just think the residents that have
16 to deal with it, the ones that are right there,
17 should see something out of it, you know.

18 That's what I've got to say.

19 **MS. KLYCZEK:** Thank you.

20 Ms. Koerner. Marsha Koerner. Marsha.

21 **MARSHA KOERNER:** My writing is
22 terrible, and I think there was a water spot there.

23 So I've been pretty ignorant about

1 this whole thing. I still don't understand what an
2 AI facility is. So it would have been nice if
3 somebody would please explain that whole thing to us
4 at some point.

5 But I did -- I was able to come up
6 with some information for today's meeting.

7 And I guess, Mr. Supervisor,
8 wherever you are back there, I know that we aren't
9 in favor of this. We fought very hard against this.
10 And so I'm still trying to wrap around my head when
11 the State overrode us that they wanted -- and let
12 me see it's 125 -- 12.5 million is what you want,
13 not you, but they want from Niagara County 12.5
14 million for a tax exemption towards a planned 276.6
15 million. I'm taking this from your -- what you just
16 read. Okay. Or maybe not. Somerset Solar, nope,
17 that's from this one over here.

18 So this document is from -- oh,
19 the paper. The paper article, February 19th. The
20 proposed 12 -- 125 millawatt Somerset Solar project
21 has -- may have received its site permit from the
22 State in 2024, but now it's looking for county
23 incentives. Project developer AES is seeking 12.5

1 million in Niagara County Industrial Development
2 Agency tax exemptions for its planned 276.6 million.

3 And I just find it very ironic,
4 very ironic, that the State overrode us and we're
5 stuck with this thing out here. And yet -- and in
6 addition, to add insult to injury, they want exempts
7 from taxes.

8 So taken from the project -- or
9 was it the application -- from the project summary,
10 that 12.5 total cost in tax exemption, three and a
11 half from property tax exemption, sales tax
12 exemption 8.5 million in tax exemptions, mortgage
13 recording tax exemption, 414 hundred -- 414 hundred
14 thousand, or whatever. I'm saying it wrong because
15 I'm a little ticked off.

16 Local benefits, our benefits,
17 nominal value, 34.6 million dollars, discounted
18 value -- which I don't understand that -- is 29.9
19 million. To private individuals, here's our
20 whopping 21.6 million for the nominal value, and
21 then discounted value, it went up for some reason,
22 19.3 million.

23 I don't think that it's been

1 explained very well to us. So unless you had access
2 to a computer and you could go onto the website, I
3 don't know how many people here have seen the
4 project summary or the application for financial
5 assistance.

6 I just think it's -- in blunt
7 language, it sucks. This whole process sucks.
8 We're not in favor of this.

9 I may not live immediately close
10 to the project plant -- to the plant. However,
11 every morning I take our dogs out for a walk in the
12 woods and I get to hear boom, boom, boom. And I'm
13 trying to figure out, what in the world are they
14 doing over there. The only time that I knew that
15 something was happening is when they imploded the
16 stack. And that's only because that was big news
17 around here.

18 I don't think that our community
19 has been treated fairly or just in any way at all.
20 And I think it's very sad that now we're having to
21 fight for moneys that never should have been taken
22 from us, and that we didn't want their contribution
23 to begin with. And I don't know anything else to

1 say. Thank you.

2 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you.

3 Mr. Snyder.

4 FLOYD SNYDER: I'm a resident
5 of 8464 Chapman Road, and I'm not a resident of the
6 Town of Somerset.

7 I have provided my -- and I'll
8 just read who I am, give you a little background.
9 My name is Floyd Snyder. I live at 8464 Chapman
10 Road. My background allows me the advantage to
11 make statements on energy and the economics of
12 agriculture communities like ours.

13 I attended SUNY Cobleskill.
14 Graduated there and went to the University of
15 Georgia and got a degree in economics.

16 I came home from Georgia. And
17 I'm proud to wear this coat right now. I wasn't
18 afterwards. And obviously, we know why. But I
19 ended up in the -- I enlisted in the United States
20 Navy Seabees in construction.

21 I didn't want to sit behind a
22 desk. So I spent 24 years in heavy construction.
23 Helped build and worked on a lot of engineering

1 projects in the coal plant here in Somerset while
2 working at Lockport Cogen and -- for 15 years. And
3 then I learned a great deal after I had to buy fuel
4 for a small plant in Niagara Falls.

5 So I feel I have a very good sound
6 understanding of the power grid, what's going on and
7 everything. I don't think any of us here do. It's
8 the worst kept secret in the State of New York.

9 Today everybody is totally excited
10 about their power bill, okay, including mine.
11 Mine doubled. I don't know what yours is. I have
12 solar panels on my house, so I'm breathing with a
13 little bit of fresh air.

14 I have taken all this information
15 from several sources, the New York State ISO, which
16 you're total able to get on, it's called dashboard.
17 It gives you -- it tells you what the price was when
18 Somerset was running and Lockport was running. We
19 had a fixed contract powered into the grid, meaning
20 every day that our plant ran, every day it was
21 cha-ching cha-ching. Money was going to NYSEG at
22 the time, because that's who billed it.

23 Pricing of electricity comes --

1 That's my problem. I've got to stay with this
2 because I'm liable to get shot.

3 So what I'm saying is, the future
4 demand for power generation in New York State is
5 going to ramp up three to seven percent in the next
6 three years.

7 I won't get into politics, because
8 it has nothing to do with it.

9 To give you an example right
10 now -- I took this off of the gold book -- they
11 estimated in '24 that we were going to need 27
12 hundred megawatts. A lot of this is for chip
13 manufacturing, Syracuse, (inaudible) obviously,
14 there's several others across the state. Okay.
15 Now, I'm not going to put everybody to sleep.

16 This problem needs to be
17 addressed. We have not upgraded the natural gas
18 system in New York State. We haven't got a plan in
19 New York State for new development for plants. And
20 at that 32,000 last summer, 68 percent of the total
21 power of the grid came from natural gas and oil,
22 eight percent from solar and wind, and the rest from
23 nuclear and water.

1 Now, I left -- I've got to comment
2 here -- to build a new gas fire plant, which I was
3 part involved in this plant down here.

4 **MS. KLYCZEK:** Mr. Snyder,
5 I'm sorry. I hate to interrupt, I have --

6 **FLOYD SNYDER:** All I'm going
7 to say is this. I will say this to you. I want to
8 finish this point. Solar is the main in the
9 short-term to get around this problem. There's no
10 other way. PILOTs, and I am in favor of the county
11 to guarantee the fixed source of revenue for 12, 20
12 years -- financially better off than Niagara County
13 to control the taxes based on -- or should we state
14 let the State of New York control our taxes. That's
15 up to you people. But I am -- you know what I say
16 in this. It's not a good picture. Thank you very
17 much.

18 **MS. KLYCZEK:** Thank you,
19 Mr. Snyder.

20 **FLOYD SNYDER:** And I've got
21 copies here if anybody wants it.

22 **MS. KLYCZEK:** Thank you.
23 Mr. Reimer.

1 JACOB REIMER: Good afternoon.

2 I am Dr. Jacob Reimer, Superintendant of Barker
3 Central School District.

4 All I wish to do today is provide
5 information on the affects of the PILOT structure
6 and the harm it will cause the town and school
7 district by not having this project put directly on
8 the tax rolls and taxed at the same rates as the
9 rest of the community.

10 Per calculations provided to us
11 based upon the expected tax evaluation of the
12 project, if this project were allowed to be fully
13 taxed under the evaluation process set forth within
14 Section 487, referred to earlier, of the Real
15 Property Tax Law, it did receive approximately
16 11.6 million dollars over 20 years for annual
17 average of 581 thousand dollars.

18 Under the proposed exemption
19 PILOT application the calculation is reduced to an
20 average of 278,000 which is more than a six million
21 dollar loss in potential revenue. It's more than a
22 50 percent reduction that the school will receive
23 under the current application and how it's structured.

1 Due to the decline in revenues
2 from the Energy Cessation Mediation Fund each year,
3 we've have access to limited increases in State aid
4 and a substantial challenge of increasing the school
5 levy by more than two or three percent each year
6 under the current tax cap laws, the district will
7 fall into a true structural deficit in the next two
8 years.

9 In the past when the plant did not
10 pay their agreed-upon amounts under the previous
11 PILOTs, and we had minimal State aid and local tax
12 levy increases, see the commonality here, is nearly
13 identical to what we face now.

14 The district made significant
15 reductions and changes in how we restructure. We
16 reconfigured the campus to be more efficient. We
17 eliminated bus runs. We have shared -- more shared
18 programs than ever with other schools, just to name
19 a few. Many of these decisions were not popular,
20 but they allowed us to continue to provide services
21 to our students and our learning community.

22 The potential revenues from this
23 entity, if this property were on the tax rolls,

1 would merely supplant the loss of the revenue coming
2 from the Energy Cessation Mitigation Fund in our
3 last year of eligibility.

4 The proposed exemption or PILOT
5 structured as it currently is ensures we will not
6 be structurally balanced for some time and will be
7 required to exhaust all of our reserves in a few
8 short years to maintain the current levels of
9 programing that we have for our students and our
10 community.

11 The only recourse we see with this
12 reduction of the anticipated revenue would be to ask
13 our community to exceed the tax cap and increase our
14 tax levy potentially between 10 to 20 percent,
15 depending on how things go.

16 For a frame of reference, across
17 New York State since the tap cap has been in place
18 for schools, 80 percent of all votes have gone down.
19 If this was somehow to be done here, the entire cost
20 of this tax increase would fall on the backs of our
21 taxpayers, not on this entity.

22 While the town and IDA may be
23 making out very well with this proposed exemption

1 and PILOT application, the school, our students and
2 our learning communities, of course, simply will
3 not. This decision we have will have a
4 substantially has a long-term impact on our
5 students, our staff and the entire learning
6 community.

7 We truly hope the IDA will meet
8 with myself and our Board of Education prior to
9 making any decisions so we can truly show you the
10 impact this will have upon the school system, both
11 short and long term.

12 To date, we have not received a
13 single communication from the IDA related to this
14 matter, other than the notices of the hearing, and
15 have largely been left out of the discussions,
16 except for a few perfunctory discussions with the
17 town and the Somerset plant and AES attorneys.

18 Our hope is that additional
19 discussions and the sharing of information will let
20 you see the full impact of this decision and its
21 effect on our entire school, our community and our
22 taxpayers.

23 I do have a written statement

1 that's a bit longer. I will leave this with you.

2 And thank you for your time.

3 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you.

4 Mr. -- I'm sorry if I mispronounce this -- Atwater,
5 Carmen Road; is that right?

6 RANDY ATWATER: Yes.

7 MS. KLYCZEK: I'm sorry. I
8 couldn't really read it.

9 RANDY ATWATER: My name is
10 Randy Atwater, a long-time resident of the Town of
11 Somerset and member of the Barker Central School
12 Board of Education and proudly serving as President.

13 I'm speaking as a private citizen
14 and taxpayer and not on behalf of the school today.

15 I have multiple concerns with the
16 PILOT for the Somerset Solar project, the subject of
17 today's hearing. The evolution of this PILOT has
18 largely been below the radar. The school was not
19 informed from the outset of the development of
20 negotiations behind the proposal we're here to
21 discuss today.

22 I recently learned that the Town
23 endorsed the proposed PILOT at the July 9, 2025

1 meeting. Not following the Town Board meeting
2 minutes more carefully, the development of this
3 magnitude that impacts the school should have been
4 communicated with the school in a timely fashion and
5 the potential impacts considered far earlier in the
6 process.

7 Dr. Reimer received notice of the
8 rescheduled hearing only a week ago today. I was
9 interested to note the Notice was submitted to the
10 Niagara Gazette, which I trust is the official paper
11 of record for the NCIDA. However, I doubt many town
12 or district residents are subscribers to this paper.

13 The Notice says attached is a copy
14 of the Notice of Public Hearing describing the
15 project and the financial assistance contemplated by
16 the Agency. Other than the Notice itself, no such
17 additional information was included. It's unclear
18 how the average citizens of Somerset would be aware
19 of the scale or any of the details thereof.

20 I do not understand why this PILOT
21 is even being considered. As you know, wind and
22 solar projects are automatically exempt from normal
23 property taxes under RPTL 487, unless opted out by

1 the affected municipalities.

2 The Town, Barker Central Schools
3 and Niagara County all opted out of RPTL 487 years
4 ago. According to the NYSERDA Solar Guidebook For
5 Local Governments, Section 6, there is no provision
6 I could find that allows for a PILOT if the
7 municipalities have opted out with this section.

8 From the guidebook, payment in
9 lieu, or PILOTs, are an alternative revenue source
10 that allows municipalities to receive annual
11 payments from renewable developers in place of
12 property taxes for projects eligible for property
13 tax exemptions. On page six it says local
14 governments that do not want to use property
15 exemptions can opt of RPTL 487 by passing a law or
16 resolution to opt out and filing copies accordingly.

17 If a municipality has opted out
18 all applicable solar and energy solar projects in
19 its jurisdiction are subject to local property
20 taxes.

21 In spite of the clear direction of
22 the Solar Guidebook, I have been told that the IDA
23 may have the authority to grant a solar project a

1 PILOT under RPTL 412-a.

2 It seems clear that the town,
3 school and county opted out with the full intent to
4 keep the renewable projects on the tax rolls. What
5 has changed?

6 It's my understanding that the
7 state requires the assessment of solar projects for
8 property tax purposes to be based on the method
9 outlined in RPTL 575-b. The total cost of
10 installation is estimated to be 276 million.
11 The assessment calculation under 575 is reported
12 to be about 31 million. Clearly, the State has
13 already made a favorable assessment (inaudible) for
14 solar systems. To grant a PILOT that gives further
15 substantial discounts seems unnecessary and
16 inappropriate.

17 I'm not coming at this out of
18 opposition for renewable energy. For our home we
19 have solar panels and a geothermal HVAC system. I
20 have often read how the cost of solar power has come
21 down dramatically and is very competitive with other
22 forms of energy. As such, tax breaks should be
23 subject to great scrutiny.

1 Dr. Reimer has already spoken
2 about the potential impact on the school. I'd like
3 to elaborate on that. It appears that the town
4 budget for 2026 is on the order of 5.4 million.
5 The current school year tax -- current school
6 year budget is 22.5 million dollars. The school
7 employment (inaudible) with a direct impact on over
8 600 students school and their families. The tax
9 rate for the town is about 13 percent of that of the
10 school. Both provide essential services to the
11 community.

12 With the current proposal for the
13 PILOT, the school would lose over six million
14 dollars over 20 years, and actually received less
15 from the solar project than would the town.

16 **MS. KLYCZEK:** Excuse me.
17 Mr. Reimer. You've exceeded three minutes. I can
18 take your comments and --

19 **RANDY ATWATER:** My wife will
20 finish my statement.

21 **MS. KLYCZEK:** That's fine.
22 I can also take your comments to put, you know,
23 into --

1 PAM ATWATER: Okay. I'm Pat
2 Atwater, not Reimer.

3 MS. KLYCZEK: Oh, Atwater.
4 Sorry.

5 PAM ATWATER: Okay. He just
6 said school employment will have a direct impact on
7 over 600 students and their families.

8 The tax rate for the town is about
9 13 percent of that of the school. Both provide
10 essential services to the community.

11 The current proposal for the PILOT
12 Host Community Agreement for the town, the school
13 would lose over six million over 20 years and
14 actually receive less from the solar project than
15 would the town. Under the current proposal the
16 town would come out ahead by over five million over
17 20 years relative to having this project on the tax
18 rolls.

19 Congratulations to the town for
20 savvy negotiations. But the school has, to date,
21 not been given the same opportunity and consideration.

22 Randy's been on the school board
23 for nearly 38 years, and has seen the glory days of

1 tax revenue from the power project in the NYSEG
2 days. With the elimination of coal-fired power
3 plants in the state, it's understandable that those
4 days wouldn't last forever.

5 However, the challenges of dealing
6 with the multiple PILOTs and loss of major revenue
7 for the district put us in a structural deficit for
8 years. With the advent of the Energy Cessation
9 Mitigation money we've been able to get back on our
10 feet, and even finance major capital projects,
11 improvements to the campus with the help of major
12 state support without raising local taxes.

13 As the mitigation funds drop off
14 completely in a couple of years, we're again looking
15 at a structural deficit and loss of revenue from
16 this proposed PILOT. And the loss of revenue from
17 this proposed PILOT would clearly be harmful
18 relative to having this project on the tax rolls.

19 Sadly, the PILOT as currently
20 proposed would actually work against the school due
21 to tax cap calculations. According, again to the
22 Solar Guidebook, page S6.16, PILOTs may limit the
23 ability for local governments to increase their

1 property tax revenue while the PILOTs are in effect.

2 In summary, Randy finds this
3 entire proposal does not comport with the guidelines
4 as published by NYSERDA, and as it's currently
5 structured would be a great disservice to the school
6 district that is so integral to our community.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you.

9 Lyndsy Payne.

10 LYNSY PAYNE: Hello. I live
11 at 7482 Lake Road. If you have no idea where that
12 is, it's directly across from the power plant. So
13 I deal all day with the construction that they're
14 doing.

15 To add to that, they will be then
16 wanting to add another road to the other side of my
17 property. And then fill three sides of my property
18 with solar panels because they couldn't abide by the
19 town's 400 feet or 350 or 250.

20 Are you guys answering questions,
21 or is it just solely comments?

22 MS. KLYCZEK: We're just
23 taking, yeah, comments. Thank you.

1 LYNDSY PAYNE: Okay. So I
2 guess my comment is I just don't understand how
3 the -- it can be justified for a tax break for 20
4 years for two permanent jobs, which I believe is
5 part of the IDA and getting back the environmental,
6 everything, all for two jobs for this area.

7 My other question I guess I can't
8 ask is, if the PILOT didn't go through, would this
9 still be able to happen? They're getting 50 percent
10 of funding from the federal government. So they're
11 already getting substantial amounts. So why, as a
12 community who's going to have two permanent jobs, do
13 we need to also back that?

14 And I guess my other comment is
15 the loss of the tax revenue over the 20 years or
16 what we would potentially get is how long is this
17 plant going to last? I mean, are they going to be
18 out of there? Is it going to be a waste to
19 literally all of our farmland down there? For what?

20 And I guess everyone's asked about
21 the difference between host payments and how that
22 affects it.

23 I think that that's all my

1 comments. Thank you. I guess, just really consider
2 what we're getting to what they're getting.

3 My other comment is I've heard --
4 it might be the rumor mill -- but Somerset Solar is
5 owned by AES, who's owned by (inaudible). And
6 they're all -- they're leasing it to themselves.
7 You know, everyone's been passed down, AES, filed
8 bankruptcy. (Inaudible) so now AES is back, this
9 and that.

10 So that's what, you know, I'm
11 confused about, the entire situation. But as you
12 know, they don't even want the solar panels because
13 there's -- the amount they're trying to do inside
14 the AES facility will be too big for the solar
15 panels to even be worth it. So are they going to
16 start this project, go as the other man said, go to
17 nuclear energy, and then again, what? We're left
18 again with nothing but my home that few want.

19 Drive down Lake Road by the power
20 plant, you'll see my house. It's only one that's
21 in like a certain distance, and you'll see the
22 construction on one side, listen to the noise, and
23 then look at -- literally, through my property line

1 there's a little field where they want to put
2 another road. So just sit down there and see.

3 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you,
4 Lyndsy.

5 Ms. Betty Wolanyk, did you want to
6 speak?

7 BETTY WOLANYK: Oh, yes.
8 Please excuse my back. I will use my teacher voice
9 so you can hear me.

10 Both this town and the Niagara
11 County IDA have experience with AES, of which
12 Somerset Solar is a subsidiary. Because of this,
13 I'm surprised that the Niagara County IDA would
14 seriously consider giving Somerset Solar a panel.

15 Need I remind you of how AES has
16 behaved in the recent past? Perhaps, I do.

17 Let's start with the
18 trustworthiness of AES Somerset Solar and see how
19 they pay attention to detail with a couple of
20 examples.

21 In their application to New York
22 State through the 94C process, AES Somerset Solar
23 claimed that 250 full-time equivalent construction

1 jobs would be created. Yet, in pages three and 13
2 of Exhibit 18 in your state proposal, that number
3 appears as 205 and 203. In their proposal to you
4 they claim that 99 full-time equivalent construction
5 jobs would be created. So which number is true; 99,
6 250, 205?

7 And how many construction jobs did
8 they claim when they spoke to the various labor
9 unions? I fully expected this room to be full with
10 labor unions.

11 What about full-time jobs? In
12 their application to New York State AES Somerset
13 Solar claimed 3.6 full-time equivalent jobs on pages
14 nine and 13 in Exhibit 18, that they will be
15 created. To you, they claim only two full-time
16 equivalent jobs. Again, which number is true?

17 They paint whatever picture they
18 think will get them what they want.

19 And how wonderful will those
20 not-very-high-paying jobs be with a payroll of
21 102,000 dollars for two jobs, or even worse, 3.6
22 jobs? After state and federal taxes and FICA these
23 will be minimum wage jobs. These jobs will be

1 mowing the grass and shoveling snow, and perhaps
2 brushing snow off the solar panels, and
3 troubleshooting problems so that people with
4 some sort of expertise can be called in to do
5 repairs.

6 AES Somerset Solar does not pay
7 attention to detail in any way, shape or form. A
8 good example can be found on their website in their
9 community involvement demonstration to the public,
10 where they claim they want to be a good community
11 partner.

12 And I would appreciate it if you'd
13 get off your phone and listen to me.

14 They have -- on their website they
15 have a PowerPoint presentation that's supposed to be
16 a representation of the Town Hall meeting they held
17 here. But if you'll look at that, there's a
18 problem. The PowerPoint on their website is of
19 Riverside Solar in Jefferson County.

20 If they can't even post the
21 correct town meeting, how can you consider them to
22 be credible at all?

23 Their proposal for you indicates

1 to me that they expect Niagara County IDA to
2 actually own the Somerset Solar facility and lease
3 it back to them. Knowing their past behavior, what
4 a perfect way for AES Somerset Solar to declare
5 bankruptcy when they choose to do so, and leave the
6 Niagara County IDA holding the bag. When the
7 subsidies end, or they discover that this is a poor
8 area to generate electricity and they aren't making
9 the money they thought they would, they will
10 disappear.

11 In their application to the State,
12 they claim that they own and operate Somerset Solar.
13 Another discrepancy. A fairly large one to me.

14 MS. KLYCZEK: Ms. Wolanyk,
15 you've exceeded the three minutes. If you'd like I
16 can take your comments --

17 BETTY WOLANYK: No, I'm going
18 to finish.

19 Your legal authorization is to
20 attract business and creates jobs. AES Somerset
21 Solar is already planning to come, and they're not
22 creating good jobs after construction.

23 They're already receiving

1 subsidies, a guaranteed market, a state limiting the
2 assessed value of the facility. Why do they need
3 more tax breaks?

4 You are a public benefit
5 corporation. This project is not wanted here.
6 It's being shoved down our throat in New York State.

7 AES Somerset Solar claims they're
8 improving the land. They are industrializing prime
9 farmland. They claim that after decommissioning the
10 land will be returned to its pristine condition and
11 that they're saving it from other development.
12 This is prime farmland and it has a forest of
13 200-year-old trees that they plan to cut down.

14 If this project is built, it will
15 never be prime farmland again. You cannot undo five
16 miles of gravel roads, nor change the substructure
17 with miles of underground cables.

18 This land has already been
19 productive growing food. There's very little prime
20 farmland in the world, and in Western New York it's
21 being industrialized at a shocking rate. There will
22 come a time when this is deeply regretted.

23 I ask that you not give a PILOT to

1 AES Somerset Solar, and certainly not take on any
2 ownership of this project.

3 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you.
4 Is there anybody else that would like to make a
5 comment?

6 Please, come on up, sir. And if
7 you could state your name and address.

8 DOUG LEWIS: My name is
9 Doug Lewis, 8456 Haight Road. I just have a couple.

10 I'm very disappointed in the -- I
11 understood that they would -- you'd give a
12 presentation to us about the -- no, doesn't happen
13 that way, huh? Wow.

14 Okay. How much is the IDA getting
15 out of this project? Can you answer anything? No.
16 Just stand and look on your phone again.

17 So we don't know how much they're
18 getting. Probably what? Four or five million,
19 ballpark. Yeah. Yeah. Ballpark. They're getting
20 four million and the school is getting stiffed. My
21 biggest taxes is the school, not the town.

22 Let's give -- let's -- this is
23 ridiculous. It ought to be shut down -- or no, I

1 mean they shouldn't be given any tax break. And
2 that's my comment.

3 And I don't think they're going to
4 leave. Twenty-five cents a kilowatt to my electric
5 bill, they're not going to leave if you don't give
6 them a tax break. They're going to be right there
7 getting their 25 cents a kilowatt out of that
8 hundred and whatever it is.

9 **MS. KLYCZEK:** Thank you, sir.
10 Come on up to the lectern. If you could just state
11 your name and address.

12 **JAMES HOFFMAN:** 8737 Lake
13 Road, Mr. James Hoffman. Long-time resident of the
14 Town of Somerset, and spent many years on the
15 planning board, among other things.

16 Most of what I was going to touch
17 on has already been reported in The Union Sun and
18 The Buffalo News because about a week ago I spouted
19 off on the whole project. So I will be drawing on
20 that. And I have a handout for you.

21 But it's very clear listening to
22 the people that live here, the residents of
23 Somerset, this nice quiet rural facility is being

1 totally violated currently by a big project, and
2 what we don't need is another project superimposed
3 on us. Our community is being overrun already.

4 Point of information: The Union
5 Sun and Journal is our town newspaper. I saw
6 nothing in The Union Sun. And I was grasping to
7 figure out when and where this meeting would be.

8 Now, I totally oppose any
9 financial incentives for this project. If it can't
10 economically stand on its own, it shouldn't go
11 forward. And the project should be fully assessed
12 and be on the tax rolls. And this may be contrary
13 to all the fancy rules and regulations that come
14 forth.

15 And Somerset is already a low-tax
16 area. Look at the Town of Lockport. Look at
17 Lewiston. Look at all those towns. And then here
18 we are, rural, because we're rural, a lower tax
19 situation to start with. And then people come in,
20 industries come in and want more tax breaks yet.

21 Now, the whole project should be
22 re-overhauled, because one of the major concerns I
23 have is if you go back to the construction of the

1 power plant, coal plant originally, a green space
2 was created around it in protection of our
3 community. That green space has been totally
4 violated and will be totally eliminated under this
5 current project.

6 They're going to be clearing the
7 trees. That's already been mentioned. That's
8 counterproductive. Trees, among other things, put
9 oxygen in the air. We're destroying 247 acres of
10 prime farmland that's currently being farmed, and if
11 removed from production, will be a negative impact
12 on this town.

13 We always hear about how many
14 houses a solar project like this is going to light.
15 Only when the sun shines. Only when the sun
16 shines. You need fossil fuel backup. You need
17 nuclear backup. You need hydro backup. So the
18 whole solar idea is very felicitous.

19 And in summary, I'd like to make a
20 point that I made before again. As a township we
21 are unable to absorb another major project like
22 this. And if the project were totally scuttled at
23 this time, I believe we'd all be ahead of the game.

1 Thank you very much.

2 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you, sir.

3 If you could just state your name
4 and address, please.

5 JOHN WOLANYK: John Wolanyk,
6 7792 Haight Road, Barker, New York 14012.

7 Their project is going to directly
8 affect me and my property. We have a 101-acre farm,
9 and those solar panels are going to be directly
10 north of my house. So therefore, those black panels
11 are going to be facing my windows, my north windows
12 on the house.

13 It's going to raise the heat. I
14 don't know how much damage it might cause trying to
15 grow crops on the farm because of the heat.

16 There's a setback of 250 foot to
17 neighboring properties. And from what I was told
18 it's a thousand foot before you can discharge a
19 firearm. So that's going to affect both neighbors,
20 and all neighbors, actually.

21 And it's a lot of crap. You guys
22 keep taking away.

23 Plus, it's going to drop my

1 property value, because if I ever sell that house,
2 nobody's going to want to live across the street
3 from solar panels and look at them all day long
4 sitting on the front porch in the shade. That's
5 baloney.

6 Now, our power vista, the last
7 time I had noted they were producing -- they were at
8 65 percent of production. Wouldn't it be better to
9 invest that money into the power vista and produce
10 at least 20 percent more than what they're producing
11 now?

12 I shoot this down. And I'm going
13 to be very upset. I'm going to lose property value.
14 Who's going to want to buy that property?

15 So what do I do? AES, a
16 subsidiary from AES, am I going to have to sue them
17 for damages caused to me? Do I have to go after you
18 people because you allowed it and you gave them a
19 tax break? When am I going to get a tax break?

20 New York State is destroying our
21 community. They took away -- they took away home
22 rule. And our town board said nothing south of 18.
23 You can take the brown fields north of 18, do what

1 you want with them basically.

2 But no, money speaks. Now they
3 cry for tax breaks. Baloney.

4 And I hold every one of you
5 responsible if you allow this tax break to go
6 through. Thank you very much.

7 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you, sir.
8 Come on up.

9 JEANNE DARSOW: Jean Darsow.
10 3095 Johnson Creek Road.

11 I live in the Town of Hartland.
12 And I am in with the solar project. I signed up for
13 that on my personal property. I also own Ravenwood
14 Farm and I Sheep You Not.

15 And what I do is I take rescue
16 sheep and I do solo grazing. And I know that this
17 is going to take a lot of prime farmland. My sheep
18 are going to be going in a brown field to try and
19 remediate the soil at Niagara University at their
20 front entrance so that that soil might be good again
21 to grow low crops. You can grow low crops
22 underneath the solar panels.

23 I want to know if there will be

1 any incentives or any tax breaks or anything,
2 grants, for me to get smaller farm machinery that
3 actually fits between the rows of solar panels so I
4 can grow hay for my sheep in the winter.

5 And then my sheep also provide
6 lambs for food, wool for clothing, the soil
7 remediations. They're a rescue animal I get at
8 local auctions. They're doing their purpose.

9 I'm just trying to farm where I
10 can. I don't have a lot of money. I don't have a
11 lot of room. And solar paneled areas can be farmed.
12 I know it's not great, but it can be done, just to
13 let you know.

14 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you.
15 Yes.

16 JUDE HINTON: Hi. I'm Jude
17 Hinton from 7440 Lake Road, right across from --
18 right basically across from the property where the
19 stone house is, the historical society.

20 And I've kind of maybe come late
21 a little bit to this project, because at the other
22 town meetings and board meetings I've been to here
23 the solar thing was like a done deal, there's

1 nothing we can do about it.

2 And then less than a week ago I
3 heard about this meeting. And I saw in the paper,
4 in The Buffalo News, an article that I thought was
5 not only important, but full of a lot of errors and
6 misconceptions.

7 The land that these panels are
8 going to be put on was described as like abandoned
9 unused land. I don't think that would ever be the
10 case. Everything is being planted and harvested if
11 it can be. It's, again, awesome agricultural land.

12 Sid Silsby and his family, his son
13 Jeremy and his family, have rented property for
14 cropping on our farm over the years. And he has
15 also rented or leased much of the property that's
16 going to be going to these thousands of acres of
17 solar panels.

18 So to describe them as abandoned
19 or unused is really very much misinformation, except
20 for that this past year the Silsbys were told that
21 they were not allowed to plant crops on those
22 properties. So it's not by the nature that they
23 were just abandoned.

1 Also, I think I'm going to kind of
2 repeat what other people have said. If this solar
3 project is not viable on its own, without multiple
4 levels of tax breaks from the federal, state,
5 counties, local municipalities, then it should not
6 be built if it can't make it on its own.

7 They're counting on tax dollars
8 for us to give up what revenues we can get from
9 them. And in that scenario, we're experiencing and
10 getting all the downsides and taking all the risks,
11 as Betty said, about you know, they're going to
12 abandon, go bankrupt and dump this eyesore on us
13 eventually. And it will happen, I believe, and
14 you're never going to get farmland back again. So
15 we take all the downsides. We take all the risks
16 without getting any of the benefits.

17 And adding insult to injury that
18 we must foot the bill for building this energy
19 structure, as well as having our individual, our
20 own utility bills, being saddled with paying for
21 this once-in-a-century upgrade of the electrical
22 grid. It's on all of our bills, you know, the
23 system upgrades.

1 So not only are these power-hungry
2 structures, like the AI that's happening, not paying
3 their fair share, they're getting tax breaks from
4 the power authority that we don't get. And we are
5 expected to pay for all these upgrades because the
6 whole system everywhere in the whole country can't
7 keep up, mostly with the IA -- AI and that type of
8 build-out.

9 So what they're getting out of
10 over 20 years is a very valuable commodity. A
11 commodity that will have increasing value. We see
12 it going up on our bills practically monthly. So
13 they're going to have that in their pocket.

14 Meanwhile, they throw us a
15 pittance over 20 years and expect us to be
16 gung ho and appreciative of it, which I believe
17 nobody is, nobody in this room possibly. So
18 they're basically throwing us crumbs and kind of a
19 like it or not, this is happening, your hands are
20 tied.

21 So I just feel like I'm totally
22 against it. This community has been ravaged by
23 different things like this before, including the

1 original coal plant, which as a child I, you know,
2 went down striking against it with my little sign.
3 So this has been a part of our lives for a long
4 time. Thank you.

5 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you,
6 Ms. Hinton.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What do
8 you intend to do with the information you've gotten
9 today? What's the next step? I just think we need
10 communication. And what are you going to do with
11 what you've heard from this meeting?

12 MS. KLYCZEK: So all the
13 public comments that have been submitted, and I've
14 taken some notes of summary, and that will all be
15 provided to our Board and taken into consideration
16 when they are deciding whether or not to approve the
17 tax agreement.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now, do
19 you have another Board meeting that we could come to
20 when they make that decision?

21 MS. KLYCZEK: Yes. Our
22 Board meeting is next Wednesday. And it's posted on
23 our website.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I know,
2 but we don't get the website. So I mean,
3 communication has been lax. I would love it if you
4 would mail our residents information about meetings,
5 because communication has not been good enough for
6 us. We haven't -- I mean, I feel like we're on the
7 back burner of whatever's happening in our
8 neighborhood.

9 Please help us find a way to get
10 more information from you. How is that possible?

11 MS. KLYCZEK: Hold on one
12 second. Is there any other public speakers?

13 Can I get back to you after we
14 finish the public speakers, please?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

16 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you.
17 Come on up.

18 CARMEN ALLEN: Hi. I think
19 I spoke with you yesterday.

20 MS. KLYCZEK: Oh, okay.

21 CARMEN ALLEN: I'm Carmen
22 Allen. I do not live in this town. I live in the
23 neighboring Town of Olcott.

1 I'm here on behalf of my sister.
2 My chickens also live here. So I'm here quite a
3 lot.

4 And I'd like to apologize to
5 everybody in this room because nobody else is going
6 to. You want them to accept this and give them a
7 tax break, and they know exactly what they've done
8 to this town. They've already given them enough of
9 a break. They've taken the value of their homes.
10 Now you want them to let them have a tax break.

11 How do we get ahold of the
12 Environmental Impact Study, because surely one was
13 done?

14 MS. KLYCZEK: I can try to
15 get that.

16 CARMEN ALLEN: This is also a
17 migration corridor. So there are endangered species
18 of fireflies. It takes three years for them to
19 cultivate.

20 They're destroying everything,
21 including the value of their properties and your
22 health. Your health will be next. They've done
23 nothing for the community.

1 MS. KLYCZEK: Is there any
2 other public speakers? Come on up, sir.

3 ALLEN ISRAEL: My name is Al
4 Israel. I live at 7830 Lake Road.

5 I was wondering if I could
6 petition Niagara County for a tax break?

7 I farm. I grow apples. Do you
8 have kids, grandkids? Yeah, everybody does.
9 Great-grandkids? I grow fruit for a living.

10 We can give a tax break to the
11 people who are generating power. How long can you
12 survive without food? Let me give you the answer;
13 roughly 40 days.

14 Maybe you could also help me out
15 with a little land-clearing expense, that way I can
16 plant more trees to feed your kids and grandkids.
17 Just a thought.

18 I'm being a little facetious here.
19 I hope you understand that.

20 But I'd really like to see full
21 tax breaks, not full tax breaks on this project.
22 The property owners around this project don't
23 deserve the devaluation of their property. Thank

1 you.

2 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you,
3 sir.

4 ALLEN ISRAEL: Oh, one more
5 comment. Instead of artificial intelligence, why
6 don't we try a little almighty intelligence.

7 MS. KLYCZEK: Any other
8 public speakers?

9 MIKE HENNIGAN: I just want to
10 make a comment. They consider this green energy?
11 All right. Last year they didn't plant a lot --
12 whatever, the power plant's property. Okay. Last
13 season, they didn't plant. So therefore, the crops
14 didn't eat any CO2 (inaudible). Okay. So now, they
15 want to take trees and forests down. Next they want
16 to stop growing on that property.

17 It's going to take from eating up
18 our CO2, and that's going to cause global warming.
19 If they're so concerned about global warming, then
20 they should leave the farmland alone and let the
21 farmers farm it. Sell it back to the farmers.

22 This solar plant has no -- no
23 right to be in this community, none. (Inaudible).

1 Thank you.

2 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you
4 have the time and date and place of that meeting?

5 MS. KLYCZEK: Yes. Yes.
6 Are there any other public comments? Come on up.

7 It's next Wednesday, sir. It's --
8 I'll give you my business card. The address is on
9 there.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you
11 just say it out?

12 MS. KLYCZEK: I did. It's
13 next Wednesday at nine a.m. And here's my business
14 card. It has --

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where?

16 MS. KLYCZEK: It has my
17 address on here. 6311 Inducon Corporate Drive.
18 6311 Inducon Corporate Drive in Sanborn.

19 JENNIE MEYERS: Hi. My name
20 is Jennie Meyers and I live at 1946 Hartland Road.

21 I just wanted to say from
22 everything I've heard tonight, I don't think the
23 revenue that's going to be brought in is worth them

1 getting this tax reduction that they're asking for.

2 The school, it benefits my
3 children. And what from he said, that it would
4 actually not get as much in funds and it would
5 actually affect us as taxpayers in the school.

6 So I'm against it for those
7 reasons. Thanks.

8 MS. KLYCZEK: Thank you.

9 Any other public speakers? Come on up, sir.

10 This isn't a -- I'd be glad to
11 speak to you after the public hearing.

12 Is there any other public speakers?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We have a
14 town attorney who's looking after that. And like
15 Mr. Hoffman stated, you have green space that was
16 signed legally years ago, and it's not being
17 acknowledged. Why don't -- and the majority of the
18 people, the residents, why isn't there some
19 significant consideration for that? And why don't
20 we get our town attorneys looking after that?
21 That's my question.

22 MS. KLYCZEK: Okay. Any
23 other public comments?

1 All right. Hearing none now, I
2 will adjourn this meeting. It is now 3:16 p.m.

3 The hearing is now closed.

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**SIGN IN SHEET
PUBLIC HEARING**

regarding:

**Somerset Solar, LLC and/or Individual(s) or Affiliate(s), Subsidiary(ies),
or Entity(ies) formed or to be formed on its behalf**

March 11, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.
Town of Somerset Town Hall

Name	Company and/or Address	X box to speak/ comment
Marcia Ray	Accident / 7406 Lake Rd	X
Richard Ray	7406 Lake Rd	X
Chris Zelusta	1643 Hosmer Rd	
James E Hoff	6737 Lake Rd	X
MICHAEL JOHNSON	1413 Hosmer Rd	X
Nick Williams	Hoffman Rd.	
MARSHIA LOEKNER	9159 Lake Rd Barker	X
Floyd Hoerner	" " " "	
Floyd Snyder	8464 Chapeau Rd	X
Jacob Reimer	Barker Central School	X
Randy Atwater	1097 Carmen Rd.	X
Pam Atwater	1097 Carmen Rd	X
Jud Leuen	8791 Lake Rd	X
Jessica Rohring	7899 Haight Rd	
Lyndsy Payne	7482 Lake Rd	X
Tracy Farrell & Alissa, ORV	NCR Real Property Tax Services	

X to come

Shawn Foti 3856 Coomer rd
Newport
Jon Hodoung 1965 QUAKER RD

Gail Damon 9142 Lower Lake Barker
Allen Israel 7830 Lake Rd Barker
Jill M Ruff

Kevin Britner 8776 Coleman Rd NO
Ann Hinton Assessor

f Betty Wolaryk 7792 Haight Road

ANDY ROSE 9180 SOMERSET DRIVE

**SIGN IN SHEET
PUBLIC HEARING**

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March 11, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.
Town of Somerset Town Hall

Name	Company and/or Address	X box to speak/ comment
Dennis Meyers & Jennie Meyers	1946 Hartland Rd. Appleton, NY 14008	
Agnes La Porte	9184 Coleman Rd Barber NY 14012	
Doug Lewis	8456 Haight Rd Barber NY	AAB 0/0
William Witsa	1710 County Line Rd 14098	
John Wolanik	7792 Haight Rd 14012	
Mark & Judy Remington	1490 Carmen Rd Barber 14012	
Joseph Moore	1449 Husmer Road Barber	
John Haight	8453 Haight Rd	
Karen Price	7885 Haight Rd	

