

Mayor Monson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Members Present: Mayor John Monson, Trustees Jessica Banks, Gary Baker and Sharon White
Members Excused: Trustee J.D. Freer

Others Present: Melanie Countryman, Ed Flynn, Larry Hogan, Ron Lancy and Beth Marriott

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing – Restore NY Grant Round 3

Mayor Monson opened the Public Hearing on the Restore NY grant program. The Village of Wolcott will be applying for up to \$2,085,000 from the Restore NY grant program for a \$2,780,000 project to redevelop the Reckitt Benckiser Plant from an apple processing plant into a modern apple packaging plant. The project includes demolition of a 50,000 sq. ft. outdated section of the plant and the construction of an 18,000 sq. ft. addition to the plant. Rehabilitation of the plant will allow the vacant plant to be operational again and bring more than 40 jobs to the Village of Wolcott.

Mayor Monson explained the purpose of the grant application and benefits to the community.

- The Restore NY Grant the Village of Wolcott is applying for will be used at the former RB property to do the following: restore/replace old and inefficient facilities in order to allow a business a financial inducement to locate in a municipal area. Otherwise, there is little if any incentive to locate in an area with higher taxes and older facilities.
- Absent of this grant, it may take years to attract a new business- allowing for a continual decline in the property and minimal tax revenues. Therefore, no one wins and everyone loses.
- The strength of our local economy is largely dependent on the apple business and the residual benefits provided to employees, municipalities and other businesses in the immediate area.
- The investment in the apple businesses in our area will allow for the success of local growers and therefore foster increased investment in their own businesses. This process will help to insure a local economic base for years to come. You can not pick up apple trees, soil, and weather and move them to another part of the country while still having access to the large, east coast markets. However, if we allow “farms” to transition to other uses, our area will lose an important part of our history and economic value.

Mayor Monson stated that letters of support have been received from:

Restore NY Grant Letters of Support

Letters Received:

Senator Michael F. Nozzolio
Chris Davis, EA
Greg Vandeusen
Wayne County Economic Development
WCIDA
Assemblyman Robert C. Oaks
Wolcott Fire Department
Town of Ontario
Wolcott Building Supply & Home Center, LLC.
Town of Wolcott
Farm Bureau

Village of Wolcott Planning Board
NY Apple Association
Town of Butler
Wayne County Board of Supervisors
Cahoon Farms, Inc.
Lyons National Bank
Wolcott Rotary Club
Jim & Deb Sanford
Wolcott Cold Storage Co., Inc.
Farm Fresh First LLC
Village of Palmyra

Letters on the way:

Town of Huron
Congressman Maffei
Village of Sodus

Mayor Monson asked for comments from the public.

Ron Lancy stated that he is in favor of the project.

Larry Hogan stated that he is in favor of the project as well.

Mayor Monson stressed the importance of supporting the local farming industry. There are farmers in the region currently paying between \$11 and \$15 per bin to ship apples out of the state for packing. A local packing facility would keep the business right here. The investors for the project have recently decided to utilize the entire vacant facility and have a revised project cost of \$6.4 million. This change will not affect the grant application or project plans as outlined in the application.

Beth Marriott of Marriott Orchards in the Town of Butler stated that her farm is in pre-production at the present time. They have trees planted but they are still being established. Mrs. Marriott did not have any specific comments regarding the project. She stated that she came to the public hearing to find out more information about what the proposed project entailed. Mayor Monson gave Mrs. Marriott information about the Restore NY grant program as well as the apple packing facility project.

Ron Lancy stated that he has noticed a lot of farms in the area pushing out old trees and planting new ones as well as clearing land for new orchards. With the apple industry apparently expanding a local packing facility would be a great idea.

Ed Flynn of Stuart Brown Associates, Inc. stated that the investors for this project are contributing 25% for the grant. The grant requires a 10% matching contribution so the fact that the investors are prepared to exceed that minimum makes this a more competitive application.

Trustee White stated that the project is a very good idea and it will be good to have the plant back in working order.

When asked what the deadline was for the application, Ed Flynn stated that he expected to have the application complete by the 29th of April. Notification of project awards will be made at the end of June or early July.

Mayor Monson closed the Public Hearing at 6:15pm.

Resolution 2009-8

Trustee Baker made the motion to approve Resolution 2009-8, authorizing the submission of the grant application for the Round 3 Restore NY Communities Initiative Municipal Grant Program. Trustee White seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Executive Session

Trustee Banks made the motion to go into executive session at 6:18pm for the purpose of discussing contractual and personnel matters. Trustee White seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Acting Village Justice

- Trustee Baker made the motion to suspend the appointment of David Miller as Acting Village Justice, pending his certification and effective immediately. Trustee White seconded the motion and Mayor Monson, Trustees Baker and White voted in favor. Trustee Banks abstained from voting to avoid any conflict of interest.
- Trustee Baker made the motion to approve the appointment of George Lachnicht as Acting Village Justice. Trustee White seconded the motion. Mayor Monson, Trustees Baker and White voted in favor. Trustee Banks abstained from voting to avoid any conflict of interest.

Trustee Baker made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35pm. Trustee Banks seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie A. Countryman
Clerk/Treasurer