

Report of the Genesee County Industrial Development Agency d/b/a Genesee County Economic Development Center, Public Hearing for Six Flags Darien, LLC held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 4:00 PM – Darien Town Hall – 10569 Alleghany Road, Darien Center, NY

I. ATTENDANCE

Mark Masse, Senior VP of Operations, Genesee County EDC
Penny Kennett, Operations Manager
Michael Plitt, Darien Town Board
Chris Thorpe, Darien Lake Park President
Deborah Conti, Town of Darien Assessor

II. CALL TO ORDER

The public hearing for the proposed incentives for Six Flags Darien, LLC was called to order at 4:00 pm at the Darien Town Hall.

A notice of this public hearing describing the project was published in the Batavia Daily News, a copy of which is attached and is an official part of this transcript.

III. PROJECT SUMMARY

Six Flags Darien Lake plans to construct a new water ride for the 2020 operating season. The company plans to invest approx. \$1,575,000 and retain 380 jobs. The company is seeking assistance from the GCEDC with a sales tax exemption valued at approx. \$126,000.

IV. COMMENTS

Michael Plitt, Darien Town Board Member and Deborah Conti, Town of Darien Assessor, who attended the meeting, did not express any concerns or issues with the proposed incentives for the Six Flags Darien Lake project. However, they did want to express their other concerns.

They discussed the sales tax sharing agreement with Genesee County that they feel could affect Six Flags and other businesses going forward if the new agreement is approved as proposed. If the sales tax sharing agreement is capped, they may be forced to set a tax rate for the Town to make for that lost revenue. If they have to do that, their fear is that the additional increased operating costs to Six Flags could have a substantial effect on their operations here in Genesee County.

Deborah Conti also expressed concern over the need for sufficient water supply to meet the needs of Darien Lake as well as the other businesses and the residents of Darien. Water improvements are important for the area to ensure this.

Michael Plitt added that he would like to remind the GCEDC Board of the Fire Department's needs. Mark Masse reminded Mr. Plitt that this project is a sales tax exemption only project and that PILOT projects do not include special district fees. Therefore any PILOT project that is put into place will not affect the fire department.

CC: Board
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Michael Plitt added that the County is looking to fund a new jail, although he is not saying that the GCEDC Board should not support this project, he did want the Board to keep in mind the needs of the County. Mark Masse stated that GCEDC does look at the Counties needs. An economic impact analysis was done on this project and the anticipated increase in sales tax revenues from this project will exceed the sales tax exemption benefits being proposed to the company.

Michael Plitt mentioned that the Town will be evaluation the comprehensive plan and wondered if Darien Lake had any future plans for expansion. Chris Thorpe, Darien Lake President, stated that any expansions in Darien Lake's 5 year plan will be within their existing footprint.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing was closed at 4:50 PM.

