

SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2012

The Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Bremen, County of Lewis and the State of New York was held at the New Bremen Fire Dept. Meeting Room, 8154 State Rte. 812, New Bremen, New York on the 23rd day of January 2012.

Town Officer's Present: Peter J. Keys, Supervisor
 David L. Becker, Councilman
 Matthew E. Bush, Councilman
 Ralph L. Bush, Councilman
 Susan J. Sauer, Councilwoman
 Elizabeth B. Jones, Clerk

Attended by: Approximately 87 people

Supervisor Keys called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag. This meeting was called to discuss issues concerning the Adirondack International Speedway (AIS).

OPENING OF FLOOR

Keith Zehr representative for AIS thanked everyone for coming and the Board for arranging the meeting. Showed a video of the building of the race track from start to finish and of what it was when in operation. After the viewing of the video Mr. Zehr reviewed a handout that outlined areas of discussion and business plan notes and possibilities pertaining to the AIS.

Mr. Zehr mentioned that NASCAR stated in a phone conversation on January 20th that the AIS is in good standing with NASCAR and looks forward to hearing from the AIS and rescheduling races in the near future. Additional events have been considered for further revenue to the track such as concerts by the DPAO, vintage automobile and racing automobile exhibitions, driving school and monster truck racing. There are problems with the management of the track and that they are being addressed. His main concern is the assessed value of the track and stated it is the highest taxed short track in the north. The race track can only benefit the community. When race fans stay in the area they spend money in restaurants, hotels, bed and breakfasts and local stores which only benefits the area economically.

Tracey Miller, owner of the Ridge View Lodge, Lowville, NY stated they were guaranteed revenue for the one (1) big race weekend in July and that it not only benefits them but Lewis Co. with the sales tax and bed tax that is collected. When the race families come to this area they not only stay there they want to know what else there is in the area to do. Need to think of new ways to bring in revenues to the county and what the Town of New Bremen can do to help Lewis Co. to help with tourism.

Owner of The Edge Motel, Lyons Falls, NY stated that the AIS not only benefits the Town but the County also and feels shutting the track down has cost the Town and County money. He feels the assessment is "stupid" and that a lower assessment would benefit the community and the tax base. A lower assessment would be an asset. When the racers and their families stay in local hotels and bed and breakfasts they come to have a good time and don't care how much money they spend.

Walt Van Tassel, owner of the Thunder Alley Speed Park, Evans Mills, NY asked what the Towns equalization rate is. The Board responded 100%. Mr. Van Tassel feels the assessment is horrible. He commended Paul for building one heck of a facility and hopes he reopens the track. If you open the track they will come.

Scott Zehr, employee of the AIS, stated that drivers come from all over to race at AIS (Ohio, Canada, etc.) and when they are here they spend money in local restaurants. He believes that local businesses feed off of the race track. He also understands that the Town Board does not set assessments, but would like to know what steps the AIS needs to take to resolve the issue.

A brief intermission was held at 8:16 p.m.

Supervisor Keys stated that the Board cannot resolve the issue tonight but will work on a solution. He noted that a series of meetings will be held and that the Town Board will discuss it further at the next regular meeting with the Town Attorney present to figure out what the Board can do next.

Scott Zehr asked if the Board agrees that the speedway is in the best interest of the town and asked the Board to state their position.

Supervisor Keys would like to hear from the community either showing their support of the track or non support which will help the Board with their decision.

Councilman M. Bush would like to see the track up and running. Councilwoman Sauer feels it's a tremendous opportunity for the county for the town and for all of us and wants to see it up and running. Councilman Becker is on Mr. Lyndaker's side but stated that the Boards hands are tied due to the lawsuit Mr. Lyndaker currently has against the Town. Councilman R. Bush is for the race track and stated he attended every race held there.

Paul Lyndaker appreciated the support of the Board and thanked everyone for coming. A show of hands was asked for and showed full support of the track by the attendees of the meeting.

Supervisor Keys thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Elizabeth B. Jones, RMC
Town Clerk/Tax Collector