Submitted April 13, 2020

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Jill Enfield** <jill@jillenfield.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 12:26 PM
Subject: Fwd: casino
To: Gil Piaquadio <supervisor@townofnewburgh.org>
Cc: Scott Manley <CouncilmanManley@townofnewburgh.org>, Jill Enfield <jill@jillenfield.com>

Begin forwarded message:

I am sorry, but I can’t remember where you said we should comment. But my comment tonight was about the fact that this company is deeply in debt, and you answered me very rudely.

If a company is saying they are going to put all of the money into building and giving back to the town, I think my comment was legitimate in asking how they would do that if they were so deeply in debt.

While their gaming facility in Monticello has closed due to lack of revenue and (and having reviews that said it was “disgusting”, they put their money into the resort hotel, which is hard to say how it is doing because of covid.

The same article that stated that this company is over $500 million in debt also stated that New York State is over saturated with gaming facilities.

Several articles also state that the housing market plummeted because of these types of casinos going up in their neighborhoods.

That mall is a disaster as is almost every mall in this country. The ones that are doing ok are the ones that have outlets and bring in bus loads of people that come to shop and then leave. The company stated that “as of now” they are not considering bringing in buses. That didn’t rally answer the question about busses coming here and parking at the mall.

A better idea might be to put money into the mall that brings in markets and outdoor dining, a movie theatre, more places for kids to go to have classes, etc. Something that is more conducive to families. (My kids are grown - this has nothing to do with my children). But that is what makes towns more viable. Look at the other Hudson Valley towns that are doing well.

It seems as if the board has already made up your minds, which is exactly what people in the town have been saying. I was hoping that was not the case.

Jill

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Ahmed Rehman** <amrehman@hotmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 31, 2021 at 2:57 PM
Subject: Town casino project
To: supervisor@townofnewburgh.org <supervisor@townofnewburgh.org>

Dear Mr Piaquadio,

My name is Ahmed Rehman and I am a resident of TON, been here good part of my life now, over 30 years or so, went to school in NECSD and attended SUNY New Paltz, and decided to call Newburgh home after I finished my education instead of moving out of the area like a lot of people do in quest to find sustenance for themselves.

I care about the town and the area we live in, hence...the reason for this email.

I would like to point your attention to the link below to a petition online which is signed by 114 people so far and growing, albeit slowly who are opposed to the proposed VLT location at the Newburgh Mall.

There is no doubt that the TON needs businesses that can generate taxes and employment for the area, a lot of the residents now commute to NYC, CT, PA for their jobs, over half of the Meadow Winds residents are commuters, the new Polo club residential facility is geared towards the millennials who commute to NYC and surrounding areas for employment and I am sure the newly proposed Overlook Farms by Farell who just completed the Gardnertown location isn't going to be much different.

The area is seeing a huge growth in demand for residential units, considering the economic climate, it seems like this is similar to the trend we saw back in 2005-2008 years when huge farms became subdivisions in the area and surrounding counties, then the property market cratered, and it seems once the moratorium on the eviction and foreclosures are lifted in July 2021 we will see the script play out again. The local attorneys are gearing up for what's to come.

In light of that I am sure it will affect the local economy as well. Keeping that in mind and the tri-state economies and rate of expansion, lack and loss of sustainable wages etc, a lot of the residents in town of Newburgh do not think this project is going to be a good fit for our area.
I understand the company is promising a lot of money to the TON to host the facility but keeping their past record in mind- Catskill location, they will not be able to operate at the rate and capacity they are anticipating. In the current economic climate its just not possible. The revenue they are anticipating isn't going to match what they are expecting, it will not only affect the quantity and quality of potential employment, it will affect the tax rolls and the host fee to town as well.

I am sure you are already aware that the company that operates the RWC Thompson facility almost went bankrupt, the owner of the parent company, a malaysian billionaire stepped in and his personal family offices bought out the entire operations. Besides all that they just injected another round of $60 million of so to keep the facility afloat.

RWC Thompson laid off 1256 employees, that became public information because by law they have to notify the State of NY, along with that they laid off 955 people at their other facility in NY, thats besides the number of people they placed on furlough. So far I have not seen any notification that says they are calling the old employees back. They may have issued such a notice but I haven't seen anything on their website or being reported anywhere.

As per the date reported by the State of NY website [www.gaming](http://www.gaming/).[ny.gov](http://ny.gov/), (the data is certainly open to all kinds of interpretations) NY tax revenue from casinos are down $600 million.

The state of NY has failed to collect $13 million owed by four different casinos due to economic conditions, the information above is all pre-covid times, so going forward its not going to be pretty at all.

The casinos, 28 or so operating casinos are required by NY state  to report their revenue data, its posted on the website i mentioned above, if you look at the numbers you will see the steady decline in revenue, the numbers that I saw were only past 4 years, further details are posted as well. In terms of the last 12 months those numbers are posted as well, they certainly don't look pretty either. They are operating at lower capacity, but even at that they numbers are not steady. The weeks when people received their stimulus payments the local and surrounding area casinos saw a small increase, then it went back down. I am sure there is going to be another uptick at the new round of stimulus payments are being sent and spent.

According to [worldcasinodirectory.com](http://worldcasinodirectory.com/), the state of NY is home to 28 casinos which are operating and 23 facilities (it includes cruise casinos as well) which "closed" in the state of NY pre-pandemic!! Now we have another one on the books for TON, there is a talk of a new license to be issued by the state of NY and the state of NJ is going to place gambling at Meadowlands on the ballot which is barely an hour drive from Newburgh!! That is to attract people from the boroughs of the city and the tourist who come to that area. That is still far considering the pandemic times we are going thru but its all on the books. In light of that do you think this facility is going to see the kind of revenue that the company is anticipating in the coming years where they are constantly getting cash infusion from their parent company to stay afloat and there is competition on the horizon?

And on top of that.....for the next NY budget the casinos are lobbying the Governor for tax breaks!!!

A lot of opposition from the residents of the town are in light of what will happen next. Facilities like this bring other crimes with them when they operate. The Poynter Institute did a study which is available on their website which shows that the 3165 counties they studied across US, it showed that Casinos and facilities similar to them increase all crimes in the host towns and surrounding areas except murder. Most offenses showed impact at 2.5-3 years after the facilities were open. The study shows 8% of property crimes and 10% increase in violent crimes in counties with casinos.

The areas surrounding Atlantic city saw 100% increase in crimes when the town was flourishing. Now, today besides the boardwalk in AC nothing much is left, the closed casino's are being demolished to make way for a different kind of development.

Besides all that, has anyone asked why would such company would invest in Newburgh? Do they have another motive? I may be wrong but I think it is possible. Consider the amount and number of tax breaks that RWC Thompson facility received when they opened, PILOT, revenue tax breaks etc, it amounted to millions of dollars I am sure, now that facility and company is part of a private individuals personal office holding! Along with that the tax breaks as well which he can write off just like our ex President Donald Trump who hasn't paid taxes in past many years because he carried the losses and breaks he received from his businesses. So this new facility proposed in Newburgh isn't going to be built without PILOT and other breaks that they will ask for from the State, County and Town governments. Say after few years of operations they say....its not working out for us,  what would town do? Would the town have any recourse ? Who is going to absorb the affects of the lack of tax revenue coming in? Who is going to 'pay' for the lack of revenue coming in from the VLT facility in Newburgh....?  Ultimately the residents, who are already moving out in troves from the area due to high cost of living.

There are other examples of such instances I can give you where one company or an individual acquires another money losing enterprise just to get tax breaks on their books.

I wasn't able to attend the Zoom meeting on 3/22/21 but watched the video on Youtube, I hope that you and other town officers will take into considerations the points I raised above, the opinion of the residents who are against this project, and hopefully this project will not receive approvals behind closed doors. I hope that people in charge will not take any decision for short term gain which the next generation and current residents will regret.

Best Regards

Ahmed Rehman.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Christopher Tausch** <ctausch@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 31, 2021 at 9:25 PM
Subject: I support the casino
To: <supervisor@townofnewburgh.org>

I know that a vocal minority is against a casino in Newburgh but I feel strongly that it will be beneficial to our town.  You can count on my support!

**Christopher Tausch**

**189 N Fostertown Dr, Newburgh, NY 12550**

cell/text  201-579-3040

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Margie124** <margie124@aol.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 1, 2021 at 2:48 PM
Subject: I support the casino
To: supervisor@townofnewburgh.org <supervisor@townofnewburgh.org>

To whom it may concern

I have seen a petition online asking people to contact town supervisor against the casino proposal.

I am writing to say I do NOT agree with them.  I think the casino would be great for Newburgh.

Please do not cave to the pressure of a few.  I hope this goes through before Newburgh Mall becomes another Ghost Mall.

Thank you

Margaret Toub

City of Newburgh Resident

Submitted April 15, 2020

Please forward this to the board. I was not able to speak at the hearing.

Comment regarding Video Gambling

What do want for our town? When the Town of Newburgh is brought up in conversation are the images that first come to mind?

If you were a visitor from a faraway place coming to Newburgh the first time what is the first impression. As we see Route 300 the main thoroughfare, one is assaulted by commercial big business, not the small businesses that might support a downtown area.

One can notice a plethora of businesses that are associated with low-income areas: liquor stores, smoke shops, and if the zoning laws are changed a video gaming sites.

The average income of patrons of video gaming locations is approximately 30-35K dollars. Living in the Mid-Hudson and specifically in Newburgh is very expensive, the average 2 bedroom apartment is between 1500-2000K per month. The opening of a video gaming site is not going to help elevate our community but only enlarge the gap between the low-income and high-income groups. Enlarging the gap between the two groups creates an environment of distrust, increased violence, and lack of community. We can easily see this in other communities where community gaming has been allowed.

Newburgh is at a point where we can decide to embrace community, diversity and strengthen the goal of the common good. Leadership can make the bold decision to create a community center at the Newburgh Mall instead of creating more profits for Resorts World. Resorts World makes profits off low-income people with promises of money as a return for the host town. In my research, I have only found more despair as a result of these gaming sites, not increased community health, wealth, and cohesiveness.

I ask that the board consider the wellness and health of our community and not be wooed with false promises of money.

Respectfully

Lauren Mandel

7 Rockwood Drive

Newburgh