

**SPECIAL SESSION**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023**

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

All members present except Legislators Reed, Montigelli, McBride, Jareo and Maxon.

**Public Hearing**

**Application of Jefferson County for Restore NY, Round 7, Grant Funding in  
Regard to the Deferiet Paper Mill Demolition and Revitalization**

Chairman Johnson opened the public hearing at 6:01 p.m.

Janet Zando, Mayor, Village of Deferiet said that St. Regis Paper Company at one time was the 5<sup>th</sup> largest paper company in the world and that her family worked in various positions at the paper mill. She stated that after the mill closed it was purchased by two gentlemen for \$500,000 who stripped it for money and left it with buildings that are crumbling and in various stages of decay. She is here in support of the County applying for the NY Restore Grant so buildings can be demolished for aesthetic and safety reasons and the property be marketable. She said it is beneficial to the Village of Deferiet and Jefferson County to make this defunct mill property viable again. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

There being no further comments, Chairman Johnson closed the public hearing at 6:05 p.m.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

None.

Chairman Johnson requested a motion and a second to waive Standing Rules 35 and 60 to permit the introduction of the following resolution. A motion was duly made by Legislator Ferris and seconded by Legislator Doldo and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION**

**Resolution No. 25**

**Supporting the Application for RESTORE NY, Round 7, Grant Funding  
for the Demolition and Revitalization of the Deferiet Paper Mill Site**

By Legislator: John D. Peck

Whereas, New York State Empire State Development is requesting funding proposals for Restore

NY Communities Initiative, a grant program for revitalizing urban and rural areas, disadvantaged communities, and stabilizing communities, and

Whereas, Jefferson County is currently partnering with the Village of Deferiet, Town of Wilna, Tug Hill Commission, Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency, and New York State Energy Research and Development Agency to redevelop the former Deferiet Paper Mill site for solar energy production and other uses, and

Whereas, By Resolution 281 of 2021 this Board of Legislators entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with NY Energy Research and Development Authority (hereinafter“NYSERDA”) and Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency to facilitate the planning, investigation and redevelopment of the Deferiet Paper Mill site into a “Build-Ready” solar energy generation facility, and

Whereas, The proposed project to build a renewable energy generation facility, demolish the existing decapitated manufacturing structures, and refurbish and preserve the hydro electric power canal supplying the Brookfield hydro-electric dam at the site is determined:

1. To be consistent with the policy of the Board of Legislators to rehabilitate and restore to the tax roll tax delinquent property.
2. That the proposed financing is appropriate for the scope of the work required at the site (i.e. demolition of all existing structures condemned for occupancy).
3. The proposed use of the facility as a renewable energy generation site including solar and hydro-electric generation, with possible mixed use commercial/light industrial is the most effective use of existing and future resources to promote economic development and preservation of community resources.
4. The project will enhance community infrastructure in order to attract, create and sustain employment opportunities.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, That the Board of Legislators finds that the application and Property Assessment List (Exhibit “A” hereto) by Jefferson County, NY for Restore NY grant funding for the Demolition and Revitalization of the Deferiet Paper Mill site is in the best interest of the people of Jefferson County and the North Country and urges the New York State Empire State Development to grant such application.

Seconded by Legislator: Allen T. Drake

Legislator Nabywaniec stated that his family worked at the Deferiet Paper Mill as well as himself during college and that it upsets him to see the disarray that the property is in right now. He is hopeful that this grant application will be successful to repurpose that property.

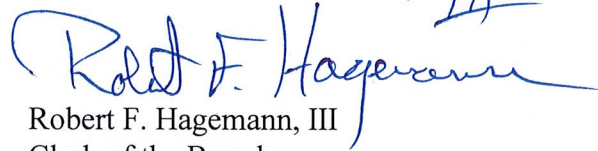
All members present voted aye on Resolution No. 25.

Chairman Johnson advised that there is nothing new to report regarding a candidate to fill

the District #13 vacancy at this time.

There being no further business, on a motion by Legislator Peck seconded by Legislator Grant and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert F. Hagemann, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a distinct "III" at the end.

Robert F. Hagemann, III  
Clerk of the Board