

MAYOR'S UPDATE ON STERLING FOREST RESORT AND MEETINGS

I know that when we voted in last November's election, whether to allow casinos in "upstate" New York, none of us could imagine that we would be facing this decision here in Tuxedo. The location of lands near Tuxedo Ridge and the Renaissance Faire on Route 17A is one that Genting finds very appealing: they are calling it Sterling Forest Resort. They have been marching forward with their bid to win the one of 4 casino sites the state will award this coming fall. It has been a very long 2 months since Genting Americas first showed the Town, Village and ultimately the residents, their plan for a casino/resort at Sterling Forest. The timeline the state has imposed has meant that many factors needed to be weighed with little time and an unclear process and much of it being "made up" by the state, as it moves forward, has meant that this very serious decision has had to be pushed at an unfortunately fast pace and has resulted in dividing our small, tight knit communities.

After attending Town meetings and Village meetings, the Town and Village was asked to make up a list of Town and Village interests that might be gifted by Genting, a "Wish List" if you will, were the project to go forward. The specifics would be detailed in the Host Agreement which the Town must vote on at their meeting Monday night. It was clear from the onset that Capital Projects that would benefit both the Town and the Village were of the utmost importance and those involving the health and safety of our water are at the top, along with land purchases to protect these waters. The concerns of the town were topped by among many others, such as sewer, police, fire and ambulance, DPW needs as well as recreational facilities.

The Village Board appointed Village Trustee, John Kilduff to represent the interests of the Village during this phase. What this list means is that if the bid for the casino is ultimately granted to Genting and their Sterling Forest Resort site, some of the \$50 million dollars that has been promised to the Town will help to offset costs of Capital Projects benefiting the entire community. How this money will be distributed will likely be outlined in the Host Community Agreement.

At the Town Board meeting Wednesday evening, the consultants gave a presentation to approximately 100 residents and concerned parties. We heard from representatives from both Stroock and Stroock, the town's legal counsel, along with Alvarez and Marsal, corporate consultants. The presentation was to be released and made available to the Town and Village for their websites; this has not yet happened. Those in attendance were then allowed to ask questions and I imagine many more came up as the evening went on. The next step is that the Town, at their meeting on Monday night, June 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at the George F. Baker High School, will vote on the Host Agreement as well as Zoning changes, a "Gaming Overlay District."

Then on Tuesday night, June 24, at 7 p.m. at the Village Office, the Village Board will discuss and vote on a "Resolution of Support" which will accompany the Town's Host Agreement to Albany. There will be a Public Comment period for residents to ask questions and voice their comments and/or concerns. This bid for the Sterling Forest

resort needs to be finalized and submitted by June 30, 2014. It is at some time this fall when the State of New York will award the 4 casino sites, including up to 2 sites in the areas of Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties.

To watch the initial Sterling Forest Resort presentation by Genting you can go to www.rwnyork.com/sterling-forest-resort. Please keep in mind that the scope of the project has grown, Genting has expanded the amount of rooms in the hotel from the initial 350 to 500, to a total of 1000 rooms. They have given a gift to the Tuxedo School District of \$340,000.

We will also vote on becoming an "Interested Party" in the project, as it continues through the State Environmental Quality Review Act process, known as SEQRA. The process will continue over the course of the next several months in anticipation of the state's decision to locate the casinos. This means that the Village will be apprised of all steps during the SEQRA process, where the environmental, traffic, noise and a myriad of quality of life issues will be considered under the purview of the SEQRA lead agency, which will likely be the Town Planning Board. This review will fall under the guidance of Gail Suchman, Special Counsel in Environmental Law at Stroock and Stroock. Today, Genting's project is dependent upon the successful completion of the SEQRA process and we will keep you updated going forward. Please also look at the Tuxedo Town website for further information as well.