

East Greenbush Town Board Member Withdraws Support For Casino Project

Written by Administrator
Sunday, 27 July 2014 16:14 -

EAST GREENBUSH, N.Y. -- After voting for the proposed casino on Thompson Hill in East Greenbush, one Town Board member is now backing out.

East Greenbush Town Board member Maryann Matters voted in favor of the proposed Capital View Casino and Resort in June. She said that was before the developer downsized the project from a 4-star, 300-room hotel to a 3-star, 100-room hotel.

"Now, I'm really more concerned about how our relationship with the developer has deteriorated," said Matters.

Matters said it was only a few weeks after the vote when she realized the project had changed dramatically.

"We want what we were pitched back in April: a world-class destination resort casino, not a local casino that primarily features what seems like a gambling parlor," said Matters.

Representatives for the proposed casino said they've been forthright about changes to the project.

In a statement, they said in part: "At every step of the process, we have engaged with every member of the town board and provided them with a full and detailed account of what our proposal is and will be. While we have made some adjustments to our proposal to accommodate and protect local business interests, this is still a \$300 million project that will generate millions in revenue for the town, county and school district and create thousands of jobs."

"East Greenbush is not the right place for a casino. Period," said Dwight Jenkins of Save East Greenbush.

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Jenkins has been against the casino project all along.

"We were sold a Mercedes, and what they're trying to deliver is a Ford," Jenkins said.

He encourages town board members to join Matters in reconsidering the casino.

"You voted on something, and now the developer is saying something completely different," said Jenkins. "How could you stay with that vote?"

"I think that if the project has been severely downsized and we're not going to get the revenues that we thought we were going to get, then maybe it's not worth what some people would consider, to me, wrecking our community," Matters said.

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