

**RESOLUTION**

A regular meeting of the County of Sullivan Industrial Development Agency (“Agency”) was convened on September 12, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. local time via videoconference as authorized by Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021, which took effect on September 2, 2021 and was most recently amended on August 13, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Suzanne Loughlin, and, upon roll being called, the following members of the Agency were:

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Suzanne Loughlin	[ √ ]	[   ]
Edward T. Sykes	[ √ ]	[   ]
Carol Roig	[   ]	[ √ ]
Howard Siegel	[ √ ]	[   ]
Scott Smith	[ √ ]	[   ]
Paul Guenther	[   ]	[ √ ]
Sean Brooks	[ √ ]	[   ]
Philip Vallone	[ √ ]	[   ]

The following persons were also present:

- Jennifer M. Flad, Executive Director
- John W. Kiefer, Chief Executive Officer
- Julio Garaicoechea, Project Manager
- Walter F. Garigliano, Agency General Counsel

The following resolution was duly offered by Edward T. Sykes, and seconded by Scott Smith to wit:

Resolution No. 34 - 22

***RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE SALES TAX ABATEMENT PERIOD FOR THE EMPIRE RESORTS REAL ESTATE I, LLC (COMPANY) PROJECT FROM OCTOBER 1, 2022 THROUGH AND INCLUDING MARCH 31, 2023***

***WHEREAS***, by Title 1 of Article 18-A of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York ("State"), as amended, and Chapter 560 of the Laws of 1970 of the State, as amended and codified as Section 960 of the General Municipal Law (collectively, the “Act”), the Agency was created with the authority and power to own, lease and sell property as authorized by the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, EPT Concord II, LLC (“EPT II”) for itself and on behalf of an entity or entities to be formed (collectively the, “EPT Entities”) submitted an application (“EPT Application”) to the Agency on February 12, 2013, requesting that the Agency undertake a certain project in one or more phases, (the “Master Development Project”) for the benefit of the EPT Entities consisting of: (i) the acquisition by the Agency of a leasehold interest or other interest in approximately seventy-one (71) parcels of land containing in the aggregate approximately 1,735 acres within the Town of Thompson, Sullivan County, New York (the “EPT Land”), (ii) the construction and equipping on the EPT Land of a master planned destination resort community to include (a) an 18-hole golf course with clubhouse and maintenance facilities, (b) a casino resort to include a casino, hotel, harness horse racetrack, grandstand/showroom, simulcast facility, banquet event center, restaurants and related facilities, (c) hotels, (d) a waterpark, (e) a recreational vehicle park, (f) an entertainment village with a cinema and supporting retail facilities, (g) a residential village containing a mix of unit types including condominiums, apartments, townhouses and detached single-family homes, a civic center and an active adult residential community, all or a portion of which will be connected, via a multi-use trail system, to open space (collectively, the “EPT Improvements”), and (iii) the acquisition in and around the EPT Land and the EPT Improvements of certain items of equipment and other tangible personal property (the “EPT Equipment”, and collectively with the EPT Land and the EPT Improvements, the “EPT Project”); and

**WHEREAS**, on October 21, 2013, the Agency and EPT II entered into a Master Development and Agent Agreement authorizing the EPT Entities to proceed with certain work limited in scope to soil erosion and sediment control, clearing and grubbing, earthwork, construction of new roads and improvements and enhancements to existing roads, constructed wetlands, landscaping, sanitary sewer, water, storm sewer, electric power, telephone service, cable tv, internet connectivity, demolition of existing structures, and all other related facility, equipment, improvements and infrastructure costs as set forth in the EPT Application together with a Lease to Agency, Leaseback to Company, Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement and related documents (collectively the, “EPT Transaction Documents”); and

**WHEREAS**, on or about December 31, 2013, with the consent of the Agency, EPT II transferred a portion of the EPT Land to EPR Concord II, L.P. (“EPR II”); and

**WHEREAS**, the EPT Entities and Empire Resorts Real Estate I, LLC (“ERREI”) , a wholly owned subsidiary of Montreign Operating Company, LLC (“MOC”), entered into an agreement whereby ERREI leased a portion of the EPT Land from the EPT Entities effective only if MOC a wholly owned subsidiary of Empire Resorts, Inc., was selected by the New York State Gaming Facility Location Board to apply to the New York State Gaming Commission (“NYSGC”) for the award of a license to operate a Gaming Facility (as hereinafter defined); and

**WHEREAS**, on December 21, 2015, the NYSGC awarded a Gaming Facility License (the “Gaming Facility License”) to MOC; and

**WHEREAS**, subsequent to the award of the Gaming Facility License, in December 2015, ERREI and EPR II (and its successors or related entities) entered into agreements wherein it was agreed that ERREI will be the entity developing the Monster Golf Course on the Golf Project Land; and

**WHEREAS**, on or about March 25, 2016, ERREI presented an application (“Golf Project Application”) to the Agency requesting that the Agency consider undertaking a project consisting of the: (i) acquisition, construction, installation and equipping of a new eighteen (18) hole golf course (“Golf Course”), an approximately 14,000± square foot clubhouse, an approximately 12,800± square foot maintenance building and related structures (“Buildings”) situate on eleven (11) parcels of real estate consisting of approximately 237± acres located along Thompsonville Road and Chalet Road, Town of Thompson (“Town”), County of Sullivan (“County”), State and identified on the Town tax map as all or a portion of tax map numbers (that existed in 2016) 15.-1-13, 15.-1-14.1, 15.-1-14.2, 15.-1-15, 15.-1-16, 15.-1-17, 15.-1-18, 15.-1-50, 23.-1-52.2, 23.-1-53.2, and 23.-1-54.5 (“Golf Project Land”); (ii) acquisition, construction and equipping of the Golf Course and Buildings; (iii) acquisition, construction and installation thereon and therein of certain furniture, fixtures, machinery, equipment and tools (“Golf Project Equipment”); (iv) construction of improvements to the Golf Course, the Buildings, the Golf Project Land and the Golf Project Equipment (collectively, the Golf Course, the Buildings, the Golf Project Land and the Golf Project Equipment are referred to as the “Golf Project”); and (v) lease of the Golf Project Land from the Agency to ERREI; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 859-a, on Monday, June 13, 2016 at 10:30 a.m., local time, at the Legislative Hearing Room, Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, New York, the Agency held a public hearing with respect to the Golf Project and the proposed financial assistance being contemplated by the Agency (the “Golf Project Public Hearing”) whereat interested parties were provided a reasonable opportunity, both orally and in writing, to present their views. A summary of the Minutes of the Golf Project Public Hearing together with the Notice of Golf Project Public Hearing published and forwarded to the affected taxing jurisdictions ten (10) days prior to said Golf Project Public Hearing were attached to Resolution No. 21-16; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto by the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York (“SEQR”), the Agency constitutes a “State Agency”; and

**WHEREAS**, to aid the Agency in determining whether the Golf Project may have significant adverse effects on the environment, ERREI presented a Full Environmental Assessment Form (“EAF”) and supporting SEQR documents, including a Technical Memorandum with Appendices, to the Agency with respect to the Golf Project for its review; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency determined that the Golf Project is an Unlisted Action under SEQR; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency gave due consideration to the Golf Project Application of ERREI and to representations by ERREI that the proposed financial assistance is an inducement to ERREI to undertake the Golf Project; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to adoption of Resolution No. 21-16 on June 20, 2016, the Agency considered the following matters as more fully set forth in its then in effect Uniform Tax Exemption Policies (“UTEPS”):

- A. Permanent private sector job creation and retention;
- B. Estimated value of the tax exemption;

- C. Whether the affected taxing jurisdictions shall be reimbursed by ERREI if the Golf Project does not fulfill the purposes for which the exemption was granted;
- D. Impact of the Golf Project on existing and proposed business or economic development projects;
- E. The amount of private sector investment generated or likely to be generated by the Golf Project;
- F. Demonstrated public support for the Golf Project;
- G. Likelihood of accomplishing the Golf Project in a timely fashion;
- H. Environmental impact;
- I. Extent to which the Golf Project will require additional services including, but not limited to educational, police, transportation, EMS and fire;
- J. Extent to which the Golf Project will provide additional revenues; and
- K. Extent to which the Golf Project will serve the public purposes of the Act by preserving permanent, private sector jobs or increasing the overall number of permanent, private sector jobs in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the Golf Project fell within the Agency’s “Destination Resort Program<sup>a</sup>” under the Agency’s then in effect UTEP; and

**WHEREAS**, as further set forth in Resolution No. 21-16 on June 20, 2016, the Agency determined that, based on representations made by the ERREI to the Agency, a review of the EAF and supporting SEQR documents, including a Technical Memorandum with Appendices, the Golf Project would result in no major impacts and therefore, is one which may not cause significant damage to the environment and will not have a “significant effect on the environment” as such quoted term is defined in Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and Regulations adopted pursuant thereto by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and that no “environmental impact statement” as such quoted term is defined in SEQR need be prepared for this action, and that such determination constituted a negative declaration of environmental significance for purposes of SEQR and adopted a Negative Declaration of Environmental Significance.

**WHEREAS**, the Agency desired to encourage ERREI to advance the job opportunities, health, general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Sullivan County, New York by providing the contemplated financial assistance and undertaking the Golf Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Director negotiated the Golf Project Transaction Documents with ERREI; and

**WHEREAS**, on or about December 22, 2016, the Agency (i) designated ERREI as its agent for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, installing and equipping the Golf Project; (ii) negotiated and entered into an Agent Agreement, a Lease, a Leaseback and a PILOT Agreement with ERREI (collectively, the “Golf Project Transaction Documents”); (iii) took a leasehold interest in the Golf Project Land, the improvements and personal property thereon which constitute the Golf Project; and (iv) provided financial assistance to ERREI in the form of (a) sales tax exemption for purchases related to the acquisition, construction, installation and equipping of the Golf Project; (b) a real property tax abatement on increased value resulting from improvements to the Golf Project Land

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<sup>a</sup> The Destination Resort Program was eliminated by the Agency on March 14, 2022 by Resolution No. 10-22.

through a PILOT Agreement; and (c) a mortgage recording tax exemption for financing related to the Golf Project; and

**WHEREAS**, on or about December 22, 2016, the Agency and the EPT Entities entered into a Third Omnibus Amendment of the EPT Transaction Documents to amend the project description to remove the Golf Project Land from the project description and reduce the TVSP as established in Section 1.3(a) of the EPT PILOT Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, by letter dated March 9, 2022, ERREI requested the Agency amend the Golf Project Transaction Documents to reflect proposed amendments to the Golf Project; and

**WHEREAS**, by letter dated March 23, 2022, ERREI requested the Agency amend the Golf Project PILOT Agreement so the sixteen- (16) year period of benefits starts the year following completion of the Golf Project; and

**WHEREAS**, to aid the Agency in determining whether proposed amendments to the Golf Project may have significant adverse effects on the environment, the Agency reviewed the EAF and supporting SEQR documents, including a Technical Memorandum with Appendices, to the Agency with respect to the Golf Project for its review; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency determined that based on representations made by ERREI, the proposed amendments to the Golf Project will result in a reduction of impacts and therefore the Golf Project remains an Unlisted Action under SEQR; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency determined that, based on representations made by ERREI to the Agency, a review of the EAF and supporting SEQR documents, including a Technical Memorandum with Appendices, the Golf Project would result in no major impacts and therefore, is one which may not cause significant damage to the environment and will not have a “significant effect on the environment” as such quoted term is defined in Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and Regulations adopted pursuant thereto by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and that no “environmental impact statement” as such quoted term is defined in SEQR need be prepared for this action, and that such determination constituted a negative declaration of environmental significance for purposes of SEQR and ratifies the previously adopted Negative Declaration of Environmental Significance; and

**WHEREAS**, on or about March 31, 2022, the Agency and ERREI entered into an (i) Amended and Restated Agent and Project Agreement; (ii) Omnibus Amendment to Project Documents and (iii) First Amended PILOT Agreement to amend the Golf Project Transaction Documents as follows:

- A. Modify the description of the Golf Project to update the reference of “an approximately 14,000± square foot clubhouse” to “a comfort station including restrooms and light snacks”;
- B. Increase the total budget from \$17,600,000 to \$33,700,000;
- C. Increase the total authorized exempt purchases by an additional \$12,125,000;
- D. Increase the authorized sales tax exemption by an additional \$970,000; and
- E. Extend the date for completion to June 1, 2023.
- F. Amend the PILOT Agreement so the sixteen- (16) year period of benefits starts the year following completion of the Golf Project; and

**WHEREAS**, contemporaneously with the execution of the Amended and Restated Agent and Project Agreement, the Agency delivered to the Company a Sales Tax Exemption Letter, which letter will expire on September 30, 2022; and

**HEREAS**, on or about September 6, 2022, the Company requested that the sales tax abatement period be extended for another six (6) months to expire on March 31, 2023 to continue construction of the Project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the sales tax abatement period for the Project be, and hereby is, extended through and including March 31, 2023.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Suzanne Loughlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Edward T. Sykes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Carol Roig	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Howard Siegel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Scott Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Paul Guenther	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Sean Brooks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Philip Vallone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent	<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.