

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**VILLAGE OF WESTFIELD  
EASON HALL  
23 ELM STREET  
WESTFIELD, NY 14787  
9:30AM**

**GROWERS COOPERATIVE GRAPE JUICE  
COMPANY, INC.**

In Attendance:

|                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Linda Burns        | CCIDA (Hearing Officer) |
| Greg Peterson      | Phillips Lytle          |
| Steve Cockram      | Growers Co-op           |
| Martha Bills       | Town of Westfield       |
| Michael VandeVelde | Village of Westfield    |

**HEARING OFFICER:** Hello. My name is Linda Burns. I am a Business Development Manager at the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency. Accompanying me today is Greg Peterson from the law firm Phillips Lytle in Jamestown, counsel for the Agency.

Members of the Transactions Committee of the Agency authorized me to hold this public hearing pursuant to section 859-a of the New York General Municipal Law, as amended. Today is April 22, 2019 and the time is now 9:31 a.m. We are at the offices of the Incorporated Village of Westfield, North Room, 23 Elm Street, Village of Westfield, and County of Chautauqua, New York.

This is a public hearing pursuant to Section 859-a of the New York General Municipal Law, as amended. The Agency has received an application for financial assistance in connection with the following matter:

Growers Co-operative Grape Juice Company, Inc. (the “Applicant”) requested by application (the “Application”) that the Agency consider undertaking a project (the “Project”) that consists of the following: (A)(1) the acquisition of an interest in one or more parcels of land commonly known as 112 N. Portage Street, Incorporated Village of Westfield, County of Chautauqua, New York (collectively, the “Land”), (2) the construction of an approximately 800 square foot utility building and two (2) 500,000 gallon storage tanks, all located on the Land (collectively, the “Building”, and together with the Land, collectively, the “Facility”), and (3) the acquisition of certain furniture, fixtures, machinery and equipment necessary for the completion thereof (the “Equipment”), all of the foregoing for use by the Applicant as a bulk storage facility (collectively, the “Project Facility”); (B) the granting of certain “financial assistance” (within the meaning of Section 854(14) of the Act) with respect to the foregoing, including potential exemptions or partial exemptions from real property taxes and mortgage recording taxes (collectively, the “Financial Assistance”); and (C) the lease of the Project Facility to the Applicant or such other entity as may be designated by the Applicant and agreed upon by the Agency.

The Project Facility would be initially owned, operated and/or managed by the Applicant or such other entity or entities as may be designated by the Applicant and agreed upon by the Agency.

The Applicant (or such other designated entity or entities) would receive financial assistance from the Agency in the form of potential exemptions or partial exemptions from real property taxes and mortgage recording taxes (hereinafter, collectively, the “Financial Assistance”).

Copies of the Application, including an analysis of the costs and benefits of the Project, are available for review by the public online at [www.ccida.com](http://www.ccida.com), or at the offices of the Agency by appointment.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide an opportunity for all interested parties from the public to present their views, both orally and in writing, with respect to the Agency’s involvement in this Project and the Financial Assistance proposed in the Application. I am here collecting comments on behalf of the Agency, not the Applicant. I cannot address any of the specifics of the Project itself; that is the responsibility of the Applicant. During the course of this public hearing, the Agency will be unable to respond to comments or questions. The Agency will, however, transcribe all of the comments made by those interested in the Agency’s proposed involvement with the Project and the Financial Assistance proposed in the Application and provides that transcription to the Agency’s members.

Notice of this public hearing was mailed to the Chief Executive Officer of each affected tax jurisdiction on April 11, 2019 and published in the *Observer* on April 12, 2019.

Is there anyone wishing to be heard with respect to the Project or the Financial Assistance proposed in the Application?

**Martha Bills:** I'd like to say that I am in support of this expansion of Growers Coop in our community. I have read the application and I agree that this expansion would have a positive impact on the economics of our agriculture community, Once any financial incentive is granted, particularly property tax exemption, will we be notified prior to tax election next year? For The Town of Westfield

**Greg Peterson:** That's part of the 412-a process...the CCIDA granting tax abatement is required to provide to the affected taxing authorities in Town, County, and Village and School a 412-a copy of the PILOT Tax Lease Agreement to all. You will have before tax bill March.

**Michael VandeVelde:** the Village is fully supporting of this Project.

**HEARING OFFICER:** Great, thank you for the support. We appreciate it.

**HEARING OFFICER:** On behalf of the Agency, I would like to thank the members of the public for attending this public hearing and for their comments with respect to the Agency's proposed involvement with the Project and the Financial Assistance proposed in the Application. It is now 9:36 a.m. I now call this hearing to a close.