

October 2020

Dear Higley Association Member,

We are sending this communication to inform you of the actions of Erie Boulevard Power Company (a.k.a. Brookfield) as it could affect all taxpayers in the Town of Colton. This past spring, the company requested another reduction to the assessments of their six (6) properties in the Town of Colton. Their request was denied at the local level and on July 30, 2020 filed for a judicial review with the NYS Supreme Court. Another dramatic reduction to those assessments would cause a devastating increase to our taxes. We will present a letter to the Town Board at its' October 14th meeting regarding such. To see this letter and other information or updates as we become aware, regularly check our website at www.higleyflow.com and click on the page for **Brookfield Info**.

Board of Directors, The Higley Association

Note: We are also developing a group email. If you have an "X" in the bottom left corner, we **do not** have an email on file for you. You can send to thehigleyassociation@gmail.com

The Higley Association

P.O. Box 310, Colton, NY 13625

President

Linden Snyder
(315) 262-2433

Sec./Treasurer

Robin St. Andrews
(315) 262-1199

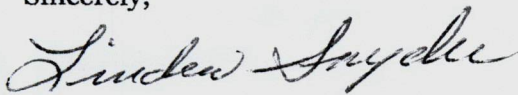
October 14, 2020

Town of Colton Supervisor Cayey
And Members of the Town Board:

It is with great concern that we communicate on behalf of the membership of The Higley Association in regards to the assessment of the six (6) Erie Boulevard properties/facilities along the Raquette River in the Town of Colton. With the Board of Assessor's denial of the Power Company's request for further and significant reduction in assessment earlier this year, they have since filed a petition for review with the NYS Supreme Court (July 30, 2020). Should the Court grant said reduction, the property owners on Higley Flow as well as the entire town, CAN NOT be relied upon to make up the difference with more dramatic tax increases. To do so would cause great hardship and cause many to have to sell properties they have perhaps owned for years.

The Colton Town Board must take any and all steps necessary to show and prove the accuracy of which these parcels are assessed. Again, any significant change to those assessments CAN NOT be recovered on the backs of the taxpayers!

Sincerely,



Linden Snyder,
President

Sept. 17, 2020

Donna Buckley
Colton Town Clerk
94 Main St., Colton, NY 13625

We are writing to the Colton Town Board to express our concern over an attempt by Erie Blvd., Hydro to lower the assessment of their facilities within the Colton Township.

From what we have heard, Kevin Beary presented a very informative presentation regarding this issue. We were very surprised to learn about this issue from the Town of Colton taxpayers before being appraised of it by the Colton Town Board. We can't think of a more important issue to keep the taxpayers appraised of, than this assessment issue. Brookfield Power received well more than their fair share several years ago during negotiations with the Town of Colton and the State of New York. It's difficult to imagine that Brookfield is approaching this assessment issue once again. Brookfield Power facilities are more valuable now than they were at the time of the last assessment review which ended up reducing their assessment substantially. Renewable energy is increasing in value every day. The assessment of these facilities should be at a minimum, enough to keep pace with inflation, since the time of the previous negotiated settlement. The taxpayers of the Town of Colton deserve the best representation possible by an attorney with experience in hydropower facility assessments and tax law and not someone preoccupied by other legal work at this most important time. The Town of Colton needs to join with St Lawrence County in an all out effort to oppose this assessment reduction effort by Brookfield Power.

We request this letter be entered in the Public Record regarding this assessment issue.

Regards,

John and Rosie Bartholomew
PO Box 364
82 Sunset View Lane
S. Colton, NY 13687