

To the Residents of the Town of Montgomery:

Based on the comments of the Town Supervisor, the Town Board and the residents of the Town, the Board of Directors of the Town's Industrial Development Agency ("Agency") began the process of revising its Uniform Tax Exemption Policy ("Policy") in August 2020. Since then, the Agency has drafted proposed revisions to the Policy, delivered the revised draft Policy to the affected taxing jurisdictions (Orange County, Valley Central School District and the Town) requesting their comments, held two public hearings at times convenient for the public to attend, and kept the written comment period open until 1:00 PM on November 10, 2020.

The Agency has reviewed and considered all of the written and public comments received. Given the number of comments, it is impossible for the Agency to individually respond to each. However, the public should be assured that each comment was carefully reviewed and considered. In addition to the review of public comments, the Executive Director of the Agency met with a representative of the local community group, Residents Protecting Montgomery, to discuss policy edits in a grassroots effort to ensure citizen participation in the policy process. Prior to the first public hearing, the Executive Director also met with the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of Valley Central School District to discuss this policy and how it may serve as a tool to attract cutting-edge projects that might otherwise not come to the Town if not for IDA benefits.

Based on the comments received to date, the Agency has revised the draft Policy and has posted a clean version on the Agency website (www.montgomeryida.com). In addition, a comparison version showing the proposed changes from the initial draft has also been posted to provide an ease of review.

The Agency realizes that not all of the comments raised have been incorporated, although a number them have been considered and implemented in the most recent draft. This decision has been made at this time in order to address the primary concern which led to the revision process – to replace an almost 13-year old policy with an up-to-date Policy. As stated on more than one occasion, the Agency will review the Policy at least annually and more often as needed (such as when the Comprehensive Plan of the Town is formally adopted sometime in 2021).

Once again, the members of the Agency express their individual thanks and gratitude to the public officials and residents who have taken the time to submit thoughtful comments to the Policy. We cannot do our important work for the Town without your expressions of support and thoughtful comment.

Town of Montgomery Industrial Development Agency
Montgomery, New York
November 2, 2020