

NORTH TONAWANDA: Remington Rand project earns raves at hearing

By Phil Dzikiy
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— North Tonawanda's Remington Rand revitalization project was met with great support at city hall Wednesday.

The Niagara County Industrial Development Agency held a public hearing for the building renovation project. The Kissling Interests, LLC is seeking a 15-year deviated PILOT, sales tax and mortgage recording tax exemptions from the IDA for rehabilitation of the building.

Former North Tonawanda Mayor Dave Burgio spoke of introducing Developer Anthony Kissling to the project in the city. Burgio is currently president of the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas Board of Directors.

"We're emphatic to the fact that we want to see it done," Burgio said. "We think it's a catalyst to the city." State Sen. George Maziarz was also on hand in support of the project.

"This is truly a good project for North Tonawanda, and particularly for the Erie Canal," Maziarz said.

Though the response was generally positive, there were still some concerns from current tenants of the building.

David Seyler runs Seyler Enterprises a one-man high-end rustic furniture operation, currently occupying about 5,300 square feet in the building. Seyler thinks the project is good for the city, but he's been left in the dark as to what might happen to his business if Kissling takes control of the building and he has to find a new home for his business.

"Things are on hold," he said. "I've had to sell furniture without a showroom. I'm stagnant."

The 167,000-square-foot warehouse at 184 Sweeney St. has received a \$1 million from the Restore New York grant program, and Kissling has a contract to purchase the building.

The proposed mixed use development of the building includes 51 work and living lofts for businesses, a restaurant, health club and antique boat museum, which would be occupied by the Niagara Frontier Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society.

The project is estimated to cost \$15.1 million. The building will create 125 full-time and 40 part-time jobs within two years, according to documents filed with the IDA.

If the deviated PILOT is approved, the annual property taxes on the parcel, currently at \$15,500, will remain the same for the next 15 years. Annual property taxes are estimated at \$402,045 for the life of the PILOT.

The Niagara County IDA plans to vote on project assistance on Aug. 16, according to Niagara County IDA Assistant Director Lawrence Witul.

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