

In The Matter Of:
Town of Thompson and Town of Fallsburg
Joint Public Hearing

Petition for: Incorporation of Village of Ateres Day 1 of 2
8-3-23
August 3, 2023

Jeric Corporation
Court Reporting Services
P.O. Box 385
Narrowsburg, NY 12764
(845) 252-3515



Original File Ateres_08-03-23.txt

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STATE OF NEW YORK : COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
TOWN OF THOMPSON and TOWN OF FALLSBURG

Petition for: DAY 1 of 2
Incorporation of Village of Ateres Pages 1 - 30
Joint Public Hearing

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169 Barnes Boulevard
Kiamesha Lake, New York
August 3, 2023
5:00 P.M.

TOWN OF THOMPSON

WILLIAM RIEBER, JR., Supervisor
MICHAEL MEDNICK, ESQ., Town Attorney
MERILEE CALHOUN, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FALLSBURG

KATHERINE RAPPAPORT, Supervisor
J. BENJAMIN GAILLEY, ESQ., Town Attorney
PAULA GROGAN, Deputy Town Clerk

JERIC CORPORATION
Court Reporting Services
Post Office Box 385
Narrowsburg, New York 12764
(845) 252-3515

Reported By: Rosemary A. Meyer

1 - JOINT PUBLIC HEARING / VILLAGE OF ATERAS -
2 public hearing upon such petition held on Thursday, August
3 3rd, 2023, at five p.m., located at 169 Barnes Boulevard,
4 Kiamesha Lake, New York, 12751.
5 The petition for the incorporation of the Village of
6 Ateres will be available for public inspection in the office
7 of the Town Clerk of the Town of Thompson located at 4052
8 State Route 42, Monticello, New York, as well as the office
9 of the Town Clerk of the Town of Fallsburg located at 19
10 Railroad Plaza, South Fallsburg, New York, until the
11 aforesaid date of the hearing.
12 Please take further notice that the purpose of this
13 public hearing is to consider the legal sufficiency of the
14 petition and any objections to the legal sufficiency of the
15 petition, and they must be in writing and signed by one or
16 more of the residents of the Town of Thompson or the Town of
17 Fallsburg; and that any group of persons having one or more
18 objections in common may make that designation in writing and
19 be signed by at least one, but not more than three persons,
20 giving full name and addresses of those persons on whom all
21 papers required to be served in connection with the
22 proceeding for incorporation and shall be served. A majority
23 of such designees must reside in the Town of Thompson and/or
24 Town of Fallsburg.
25 The notice is dated July 3rd, 2023, dated, and signed by

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1 - JOINT PUBLIC HEARING / VILLAGE OF ATERAS -
2 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** This is going to be a peaceful
3 process tonight. This is also a constitutional process, and
4 accordingly. I'm going to ask everybody to stand and pledge
5 the flag.
6 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)
7 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Thank you.
8 Okay. So I am Bill Rieber. I'm town supervisor in the
9 Town of Thompson.
10 **SUPERVISOR RAPPAPORT:** Katherine Rappaport, Town
11 Supervisor for Fallsburg.
12 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** I'm going to ask the clerk, either
13 one, to read the public notice.
14 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Legal Notice: Notice of a
15 Joint Public Hearing.
16 **AUDIENCE:** We cannot hear you.
17 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Okay. Can you hear me now?
18 **AUDIENCE:** Perfect.
19 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Legal notice: Notice of a
20 Joint Public Hearing.
21 Please take notice that a petition for incorporation of
22 the Village of Ateres has been received by both the Town of
23 Thompson and the Town of Fallsburg on June 14th, 2023.
24 Please take further notice that the Town of Thompson and
25 the Town of Fallsburg town supervisors will conduct a joint

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1 - JOINT PUBLIC HEARING / VILLAGE OF ATERAS -
2 Supervisor Rieber and Supervisor Rappaport.
3 And I have an original affidavit that it's been
4 published.
5 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Thank you.
6 Okay. So the Town of Thompson and Town of Fallsburg
7 received this petition for the incorporation of the Village
8 of Ateres. Pursuant to Village Law Article 2, Section
9 **2-206(1):** Upon receipt of such petition, the supervisors of
10 both towns shall conduct this joint hearing to hear any
11 objections which may be presented as to the legal sufficiency
12 of the petition for incorporation based on the following
13 grounds.
14 So this is a hearing on the petition, not on I wish this
15 wouldn't happen or I wish this would happen or reasons
16 therefore.
17 These are the reasons that would constitute an objection
18 based on legal sufficiency.
19 That a person signing such petition was not qualified,
20 therefore.
21 If it is alleged that the petition is submitted on the
22 basis of the person signing such petition constitute 20
23 percent of the residents in such territory qualified to vote
24 for officers of a town in which all or part of such territory
25 is located that such allegation is false.

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1 - JOINT PUBLIC HEARING / VILLAGE OF ATERAS -
2 This is a petition with 20 percent of the voters.
3 If such territory is part of a city or a village.
4 It is not so that's irrelevant.
5 You can object that if such territory is less than the
6 entire town, it contains more than five square miles and the
7 limits of such territory are not conterminous with the entire
8 boundaries of one school district, fire, fire protection,
9 fire alarm, town special or town improvement district, and
10 the limits of such territory are not conterminous with parts
11 of the boundaries of more than one school, fire, fire
12 protection, fire alarm, town special or town improvement
13 district, all of which are wholly contained within the limits
14 and within one town.
15 That such territory does not contain a population of at
16 least 500 regular inhabitants;
17 And that the petition, in any other specified respect,
18 does not conform to the requirements of this article.
19 Please be aware that all objection must be in writing
20 and signed by one or more residents qualified to vote for
21 town officers in which part of such territory of the proposed
22 village is located.
23 Testimony may be taken at this hearing and the same
24 shall be reduced to writing and subscribed to by those
25 testifying. All written objections and signed testimony

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1 - RON HIATT / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 shall clearly state the name and address of each objectant.
3 With that, we're going to open this public hearing.
4 Let the record note that we do have a court stenographer
5 here to transcribe the record for transcription of the
6 proceedings.
7 If anybody would like to stand up, please.
8 Ron Hiatt, please step forward.
9 We'll try to do this in an orderly, quiet manner.
10 Please confine your statements to ...
11 The other thing is whoever comes up has got to give
12 their name and full address to Paula, the clerk from the Town
13 of Fallsburg.
14 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Did you want to go in order
15 on who was written on the list?
16 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** I didn't know there was a list.
17 **MR. R. HIATT:** If I could.
18 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** There's a list.
19 **MR. R. HIATT:** If I may, I beg a preference. My
20 daughter's having a birthday party in 15 minutes.
21 **AUDIENCE:** We can't hear you.
22 **MR. HIATT:** My daughter is having a birthday party in 15
23 minutes and I really like her a lot and if you would allow me
24 to just -- I'll try to be as brief as possible.
25 **AUDIENCE:** No, go in order.

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1 - RON HIATT / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Excuse me. There's one person, two
3 people running this room.
4 Ron, you're more than happy to proceed. I did not know
5 we had a list. We need to --
6 **MR. R. HIATT:** I'll be happy to sign in.
7 This is for each of the supervisors.
8 **TOWN CLERK CALHOUN:** There are two copies?
9 **MR. R. HIATT:** Yes, I have two copies.
10 **TOWN CLERK CALHOUN:** Okay.
11 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Supervisor.
12 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Yes.
13 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** There's a list and Mary Adams
14 is the first person on the list.
15 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Okay. We'll get her next.
16 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Okay.
17 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Is that all you want to do, is
18 present the paper?
19 **MR. R. HIATT:** Well, I can do that. Everything is
20 contained within and it directly applies to the quality of
21 the individuals signing, whether or not they're able to.
22 Exhibit A has a list of the individuals and exceptions
23 therefore. I have it well under 60 that are qualified
24 voters, for one thing. And there are other issues that are
25 contained within 202 and 206 and so forth that make the

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1 - RON HIATT / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 petition, on its face, invalid. There are other issues like
3 SEQRA which I talk about in the petition. And because the
4 impact, the impact of the environment is large relative to
5 the two towns, I think that's very important, especially in
6 Fallsburg where they have low water pressure already.
7 I'll leave it at that. Everything is contained within
8 these petitions.
9 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** What's your name, sir.
10 **MR. R. HIATT:** I'm sorry. Ron Hiatt.
11 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Spell your first and last name.
12 **MR. R. HIATT:** R-O-N-A-L-D, H-I-A-T-T.
13 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** All right. Who's next?
14 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Mary Adams.
15 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Mary Adams, please.
16 **MS. M. ADAMS:** Hi. I'm Mary Adams. I'm a full-time
17 resident of the Town of Fallsburg and have been a full-time
18 resident for almost 30 years.
19 I'm speaking today in opposition to the Ateres petition
20 to create a new village. Through research done regarding
21 formation of villages in New York State it was discovered
22 that state government is offering grants to existing villages
23 for the dissolution of village classification, and this is
24 for the purpose of simplifying governance of municipalities
25 and to save taxpayer money. The Ateres petition flies in the

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1 - MARY ADAMS / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 face of that statewide trend.
3 It is apparent that various new petitions for village
4 status currently in the process are being promulgated by
5 groups similar to the Ateres community which previously
6 petitioned for village status in 2005. As documented in an
7 article published by the Sullivan County Democrat in 2005,
8 the leaders of proposed Ateres community admitted that their
9 sole purpose in seeking village designation is to bypass,
10 quote, "the town zoning laws" so as to build at a higher
11 density.
12 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Mary, forgive me for stopping you,
13 but the comments have to be directly on the sufficiency of
14 and adequacy of the petition. We're happy to hear your
15 comments at some other point in time, but that is not the
16 subject of this hearing.
17 **MS. M. ADAMS:** Okay. And the fact that they may not do
18 a legal SEQRA process if they become a village, that's not
19 related to this hearing? I think that's very related. So
20 that's where I'm going, which is that if they become a
21 village and before they actually do their SEQRA environmental
22 process they will not be including the surrounding areas in
23 their environmental assessment. And since their intention is
24 to have higher density, then it seems that we could assume,
25 therefore, that they will not be really environmentally aware

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1 - MARY ADAMS / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 and they won't do a very in depth SEQRA process because if
3 they're a village they have their own regulatory agency, they
4 have their own building inspectors and they have their own
5 boards. So I think this is very applicable, the fact that
6 this petition should not be accepted by the supervisors.
7 I want to thank you.
8 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Do you want to leave that --
9 **MS. M. ADAMS:** Yes.
10 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** -- and if you could sign it with
11 your name and address on it.
12 **MS. M. ADAMS:** I have. Thank you.
13 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** And just check in with Paula.
14 This gentleman is got to come and go.
15 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I'm fine.
16 **MR. Y. MILLER:** Yehuda Miller, 106 Pleasant Valley Road,
17 South Fallsburg, New York, 12779.
18 Dear Board Members, Town Supervisors:
19 Today I stand before you to express support for the
20 incorporation of the proposed Village of Ateres.
21 Now, I know some of you might be surprised to learn that
22 it's mostly Orthodox Jews making up this community. Here's
23 the thing. Diversity is our strength and equal rights are
24 our foundation. Let's support Ateres and show that we truly
25 cherish the values of our great country.

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1 - YEHUDA MILLER / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 Let's be crystal clear. For far too long in our
3 communities we have spent too much time focusing on the
4 proposer rather than on the proposal itself. Today, we must
5 shift our perspective and prioritize the whats, not the who.
6 Just like the other villages in Sullivan County, Ateres
7 deserves the right to govern itself and address its unique
8 needs. It's time to lead them into the beautiful pastry of
9 our vibrant communities and empower them to progress in
10 spirit alongside the neighbors of the villages in
11 Bloomingburg, Jeffersonville, Liberty, Monticello, Woodridge
12 and Wurtsboro.
13 The people of Ateres are dreaming of a brighter future
14 just like all of us. Through village incorporation let's
15 give them the tools they need to better structure essential
16 services and economic opportunities. By doing so we honor
17 the rights and celebrate the diversity --
18 (Inaudible comments from the public.)
19 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Are you done?
20 **MR. Y. MILLER:** I'm finishing in a second.
21 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** No, we're done.
22 (Inaudible comments from the public.)
23 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** If you're not speaking to the
24 voracity of the petition, not --
25 **MR. Y. MILLER:** This isn't a public hearing?

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1 - STACEY GRIFMAN / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Not for that purpose, no. I'm
3 sorry.
4 **MR. Y. MILLER:** All right. No problem.
5 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** If you're here --
6 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Stacey Grifman
7 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** So me repeat again.
8 Leo, Leo, sit. Sit, please.
9 This hearing is specifically only for the objections to
10 the petition. It's not I don't like this, it's not I do
11 like. Only for objections that fit --
12 No, Leo. Somebody else.
13 Who am I calling?
14 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Stacey Grifman.
15 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Stacey Grifman.
16 There's a list up here. We're going to go in order from
17 here on.
18 **MS. S. GRIFMAN:** Stacey Grifman, 183 Brophy Road, No. 1,
19 Hurleyville, New York.
20 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
21 Today I'm speaking in opposition to the Ateres petition
22 to create a new village. On the zoning map that I obtained
23 from the Town Clerk of Thompson the boundaries indicated are
24 unclear, impossible to read even with a magnifying glass.
25 The village -- the validity of the map to signify accurate

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1 - STACEY GRIFMAN / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 boundaries for the petition are in question. I request a
3 thorough review of these boundary lines and a readable map
4 for viewing.
5 Secondly, I wonder and question whether all the owners
6 of the parcels that are included in this petition are aware
7 that they're being proposed as part of the village. Is each
8 resident aware of the implications that come along with a
9 village designation? I am not sure that all of the residents
10 of this area aware of what's happening. Is there a legal
11 responsibility to ensure that all residents are making an
12 informed decision?
13 I respectfully -- I request that both town supervisors
14 reject this petition.
15 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Would you mind leaving that with us
16 and then checking with Paula?
17 **MS. S. GRIFMAN:** Thank you.
18 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Do you want to submit that in
19 writing?
20 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** She did.
21 Supervisor Debra Reeves. Debra Reeves.
22 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Debra Reeves.
23 **SUPERVISOR D. REEVES:** Pass.
24 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Pass?
25 **SUPERVISOR S. REEVES:** Yes.

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1 - SUPERVISOR J. REEVES / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Okay.
3 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** *Supervisor Johnnie Reeves.*
4 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Johnnie Reeves.
5 **SUPERVISOR JOHNNIE REEVES:** *My name is Johnnie Reeves.*
6 I'm a resident of --
7 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Closer.
8 **SUPERVISOR JOHNNIE REEVES:** -- Kiamesha Lake for 29
9 years. My wife and I, Debra Reeves, have been here for 29
10 years. We are here to discuss that we want to reject the
11 petition of the proposal of Ateres on legal grounds.
12 First of all, the petition has no numbered pages as
13 required by documentation. All 21 pages are not numbered.
14 And the signatures are flawed because they do not
15 include the signatures on the sworn affidavit, just full
16 names, no signature. Some of the names also just have last
17 names. They do not have their full name, as required.
18 For these reasons we wish to reject this petition.
19 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** I have him.
20 Supervisor Yakov Mandelovics.
21 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Yakov Mandelovics.
22 You're objecting to your own petition?
23 **SUPERVISOR Y. MANDELOVICS:** My name is Yakov
24 Mandelovics. I am a full year-round resident, Village of
25 Monticello.

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1 - SUPERVISOR Y. MANDELOVICS / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 I would like to express in favor of Village of Ateres.
3 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Do you have an objection to the
4 petition?
5 **SUP. Y. MANPELOVICS:** Not to the petition exactly, but
6 as a village resident I understand the importance of having a
7 village even for a great town like Town of Thompson, even
8 with a great town like of Town of Thompson. The streets are
9 beautiful. We know that.
10 As a village resident I know how personal we can get and
11 our unique needs can be addressed by a village. This is why
12 this, I'm in favor of the village.
13 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Thank you.
14 Again, I'm going to repeat. This is a hearing to hear
15 objections to the petition. It's irrelevant whether you want
16 it or don't want it. You must object to the petition on
17 legal grounds to be considered.
18 Next.
19 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Zev Tarkieltaub.
20 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Zev.
21 **MR. Z. TARKIELTAUB:** I pass.
22 **MS. JOHNSON FIELDS:** Excuse me. I signed and my name
23 wasn't called.
24 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Binyomin --
25 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** We're not done. We'll get to you.

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1 - SANDRA JOHNSON FIELDS / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** *Binyomin Merlmelsten.*
3 I'm sorry. I did go past her. My apologies, ma'am.
4 **MS. JOHNSON FIELDS:** What about this gentleman?
5 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** I apologize.
6 So Raymond was first.
7 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Raymond. Okay.
8 **MS. JOHNSON FIELDS:** My name is Sandra Johnson Fields
9 and thank you for calling me up. To the supervisors,
10 Mr. Rieber and Ms. Rappaport, thank you for allowing us to
11 speak.
12 I'm a resident of the Town of Thompson. I've lived in
13 this town for over 20 years, since 2003, March to be exact.
14 My home is in this proposed village. I am totally objecting
15 and have an objection to it not because my home is in it, but
16 it's personal to me.
17 First, as I looked at the petition, the pages aren't
18 numbered. I only know my home is in the petition because
19 they told me that it was when I went to town hall to get it,
20 otherwise, I couldn't read it.
21 The pages of signatures and the sworn affidavit left out
22 how many signatures there are. The omission makes the
23 petition not believable.
24 The petition says there are 99 signatures of residents
25 who can vote in the Town of Thompson and the Town of

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1 - SANDRA JOHNSON FIELDS / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 Fallsburg. Twenty-eight of those signatures are not
3 registered to vote in either town so this is a falsehood
4 which makes this petition invalid. There are 20 signatures
5 with wrong addresses that do not match Sullivan County voter
6 registration records.
7 Some people printed their names instead of signing their
8 names. Signature is required. Other signatures, of course,
9 there's only a last name and so that could be anybody. It
10 was just a last name. That's not a lawful signature.
11 Based upon these statements, there are probably only 50
12 or 52 valid signatures. This is much, much lower than the 20
13 percent needed by the New York State Village Law to support
14 incorporation of a new town.
15 Considering the significant misinformation, fallacies
16 and inaccuracies contained in this petition the voracity of
17 it is questionable. I urge and request the proposal for the
18 Village of Ateres be denied due to lack of sufficient
19 petition.
20 Thank you.
21 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Sara --
22 Do we have a copy?
23 Do we have a copy of what your presentation was?
24 **MS. S. JOHNSON FIELDS:** Yes. I left two copies, one for
25 each of you.

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1 - RAYMOND ELOZUA / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** The next question. Do you have
3 specificity for these signatures and et cetera?
4 **MS. S. JOHNSON FIELDS:** Yes, I'll send it to you. I
5 have it at home. I don't have it attached. I didn't attach
6 it, but I can.
7 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Okay.
8 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Supervisor, can we go with
9 Raymond?
10 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Yes, Raymond is next.
11 Raymond.
12 **MR. R. ELOZUA:** Thank you, Supervisors Rappaport and
13 Rieber for inviting people to speak.
14 My name is Raymond Elozua. I have lived in
15 Mountdaindale, a hamlet in the Town to Fallsburg, since 2005.
16 Paul Hoefel, a cosigner to this letter, has lived in
17 Fallsburg for 40 years.
18 I'm speaking, today, in opposition to the Ateres
19 petition to create a new village. In these difficult
20 economic times local governments cannot further subdivide and
21 fracture. Indeed, the opposite is true. More local towns
22 and governments should consolidate to save taxpayer money by
23 avoiding duplicate services and jobs. Indeed, the New York
24 State legislatures have approved a bill awaiting the
25 governor's signature requesting that 2,000 signatures be the

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1 - RAYMOND ELOZUA / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 minimum for a valid petition to create a new village.
3 I reviewed the citizen signatures of those who signed
4 the Ateres petition.
5 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (Inaudible.)
6 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Yes, he is.
7 **MR. R. ELOZUA:** I'm talking about the petition right
8 now.
9 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Everybody, please.
10 **MR. R. ELOZUA:** I'll start again.
11 I reviewed the citizen signatures of those who signed
12 the Ateres petition. I used the voter registration book that
13 was dated April 27, 2023. This petition collected 94
14 signatures specifically on March 30th, two on May 26th and
15 three on June 13th for a total of 99 signatures. I printed
16 all pages of the petition from petition page No. 42 through
17 62, a total of 99 signatures. I searched for the last name
18 on voter roles. If I did not find a match then I searched by
19 first name. As a last resort, I searched by address.
20 Twenty-three signatures did not appear on the Board of
21 Election list. I also found 14 that had written different
22 addresses on the petition sheet other than what appeared on
23 the voter list. I also found two that were so ineligible as
24 to be unreadable, thus, unsearchable. Thirteen signatures
25 were also illegible and questionable and would need to be

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1 - RAYMOND ELOZUA / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 compared to the official Board of Election signature list.
3 I am submitting copies of my results with this letter,
4 which both town clerks have received. There are, at a
5 minimum, 52 invalid and problematic signatures. Only 47
6 signatures remain. It is extremely likely that other
7 signatures can be declared invalid.
8 Moreover, the technical standards of this petition are
9 not in accordance with official New York State requirement,
10 another legal hurdle. It is clear that the Ateres petition
11 definitely does not have enough valid signatures to
12 constitute a legally sufficient petition. I ask that both
13 town supervisors reject this flawed and deficient petition.
14 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Do we have copies of the petition?
15 **MR. R. ELOZUA:** Yes, I gave her that, and a copy of each
16 page with the ones marked that are not, you know, correct.
17 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Very nice. Thank you.
18 **MR. R. ELOZUA:** Okay.
19 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** That's the kind of testimony we
20 need.
21 Okay, who's next?
22 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Binyomin Mermelsten.
23 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Binyomin Mermelsten.
24 **MR. B. MERMELSTEN:** Pass.
25 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Pass?

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1 - ANN FINNERAN / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 **MR. B. MERMELSTEN:** Pass.
3 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Ann Finneran.
4 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Ann Finneran.
5 **MS. A. FINNERAN:** Hi. I'm Ann Finneran. I live at 239
6 Main Street in Hurleyville in the Town of Fallsburg. I
7 bought the house in 2000 and moved in in 2001.
8 I just want to call attention, as others have, to the
9 illegibility of the map. You cannot tell where this is.
10 It's a very -- I actually blew it. The lady at the Town of
11 Thompson graciously blew it up for me and I highlighted
12 around the area so people can see. So I kind of got an idea.
13 I see that Annawana Lake Road is fully included in that. I
14 don't know how other people are going to think about that,
15 but just the fact that the map is totally illegible. As a
16 real estate agent I was able to cobble it together and figure
17 out some idea of where things were.
18 Also, there's a little -- I don't know if this is
19 necessary for the petition, but this little, chart here, I
20 see, Supervisor Rieber, he's squinting at it. They're
21 supposed to be the sections, block and lots and they're not
22 legible at all. It would be nice to have them rewrite their
23 maps. Maybe even use this map and draw little street names
24 on it so people have some idea where this is, and put in the
25 section, blocks and lots. So that's ...

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1 - ANN FINNERAN / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Your objection is to the
3 illegibility of the map.
4 **MS. A. FINNERAN:** My objection is to the maps, yes. I
5 didn't look into the signatures or anything with the
6 petition. I got the map and I went, This is ridiculous.
7 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Thank you, Ann.
8 **MS. A. FINNERAN:** That's it. Thank you.
9 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** The last person on the list
10 is --
11 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Did you hand that, in writing, to
12 Paula?
13 **MS. A. FINNERAN:** Did I write it? I did not. If you
14 want me to, you can have that.
15 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** So the last person on the
16 list is Ira Rudick.
17 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Ira Rudick.
18 **MR. I. RUDICK:** Pass.
19 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Pass?
20 **MR. I. RUDICK:** Yes.
21 **DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN:** Then that would be it,
22 unless ...
23 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Okay. So Leo, you would like to
24 speak; correct?
25 We're done with our list now. I'm going to try to take

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1 - LEO GLASS / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 everybody orderly.
3 **MR. L. GLASS:** (Inaudible.)
4 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Leo, I can't hear a word you're
5 saying. Leo, if you don't mind, could you just speak to
6 Paula quick? You have to sign in, give your name and
7 address.
8 Everybody be very quiet. Leo is talking low.
9 **MR. L. GLASS:** My name is Leo Glass. I'm a resident of
10 the Village of Monticello.
11 My main objection is to specify a little more why the
12 map is totally incomprehensible. It's in two separate parts.
13 Any survey map you ever looked at has a north, south, east,
14 west compass direction, it shows roads. This map shows
15 nothing except a bunch of squiggly lines in two separate
16 parts and you can't tell which matches up, left or right.
17 It's totally invalid. I would like to request you deny the
18 petition.
19 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Who else would like to speak?
20 Before you do, just check in with Paula.
21 Excuse me. Who put this computer up on our table?
22 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I did.
23 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Oh. Because somebody is talking to
24 us. What's going on here?
25 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Making a comment.

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1 - KEITH McIVER / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 **COMPUTER ATTENDEE:** I can't hear anything.
3 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Close to the speaker. I'll put
4 you in the back.
5 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Okay. State your name, please.
6 **MR. K. McIVER:** My name is Keith McIver. I live in the
7 Town of Fallsburg at 6 Decker Street.
8 I want to point out that first of all, the attachment
9 for Exhibit A which lists the metes and bounds of the
10 proposed village, in one place, actually, two places, does
11 not line up with the tax parcel boundaries that they claim to
12 be included. The metes and bounds include three parcels
13 which the list of tax parcels -- there are three tax parcels
14 that are included in the metes and bounds description of
15 Exhibit A which are not included in the tax parcels also in
16 Exhibit A.
17 And finally, the map, which was commented on, the map
18 includes these three tax parcels in the village, however,
19 they're, again, not on the SBL list.
20 So I request that this be, what I would say, I call it,
21 sent, back for revision as these three tax parcels right now,
22 it is not clear are they going to be in the village or they
23 are not going to be in the village.
24 That's all I have to say.
25 **SUPERVISOR RIEBER:** Can you just get that to us --

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1 - KEITH McIVER / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 MR. K. McIVER: Yes.
3 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: -- with specificity?
4 MR. K. McIVER: Yes. I can give you a list of these.
5 These are the SBLs.
6 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: With your name and address on the
7 top.
8 MR. K. McIVER: How do I get that to you?
9 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Paula will give you the contact.
10 MR. K. McIVER: Okay. Thank you.
11 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: You're welcome.
12 Would somebody else like to speak? Our list is done.
13 Steve Rivela.
14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Would it be possible to turn this
15 down, the air conditioning?
16 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Okay, Steve.
17 MR. S. RIVELA: My name is Steven Rivela. I'm here with
18 my wife, Lorraine Rivela. We're seniors who live on Gibber
19 Road. We've been living there for about 20 years and been
20 residing in the Town of Thompson for about 25 years.
21 We respectfully submit this letter to inform you that we
22 object to the petition, regretfully, for the proposed Village
23 of Ateres within the Town of Thompson, which we were made
24 aware of by an article in the Democrat newspaper dated July
25 25th of this year. This challenge is based upon any and all

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1 - STEVEN M. RIVELA / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 information that we received by way of social media, no other
3 way.
4 The improprieties of certain and/or proposed village
5 representatives in this case demonstrates to us a seemingly
6 behavioral pattern of engaging in fraudulent activity
7 characterized by misleading signature errors on voting
8 submissions, errors in individual signatures and on a sworn
9 affidavit and/or the questioning of sworn statements. These
10 manipulations document deficiencies and what we understand to
11 be a 50 to 52 qualified voters ratio in this proposal would
12 render it far below a 20 percent threshold required for the
13 proposal to incorporate.
14 We further understand that based on these figures, those
15 figures, sorry, they are too small a number to create a new
16 municipal to have jurisdictions over neighboring parcels,
17 including our home, that would be absorbed by this village
18 and drastically change our lives for worse. As such, we feel
19 the petition in question with regard to the Village of Ateres
20 be denied as all of the proposed representatives have forfeit
21 the right to file said petition based upon what appears to be
22 attempts of fraud and deception and ultimately mocking town
23 officials, citizens and regulations we live by. There
24 appears to be an epidemic of promoting ill-bred behaviors
25 brave and/or patterns and it should be stopped.

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1 - STEVEN M. RIVELA / PUBLIC COMMENT -
2 Thank you.
3 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: With specificity, as to the 52
4 signatures do you object?
5 MR. S. RIVELA: The only thing that I've ascertained was
6 this, that we got from the Internet.
7 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Okay. If you want to submit it to
8 Paula.
9 MR. S. RIVELA: That's fine.
10 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: I have it.
11 MR. K. McIVER: Thank you. Thank you all. I will
12 submit it.
13 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Anybody else?
14 (No verbal response.)
15 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Okay. Would anybody else like the
16 opportunity to object to the petition?
17 (No verbal response.)
18 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Okay. This has been a confusing
19 process for a lot of people. This is not your typical public
20 hearing. As such, we're going to adjourn this public hearing
21 and keep the hearing open through and including August 22nd,
22 2023, at five p.m. where we intend to reconvene at this
23 location to close the hearing. During that intervening
24 period, anybody, any taxpayer who has got a right to object
25 to this petition, may do so in writing to either supervisor

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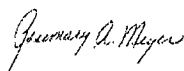
1 - JOINT PUBLIC HEARING / VILLAGE OF ATERES -
2 or either town clerk. And it must be as in the form that is
3 required by the statute, which does require, just in general
4 terms, full name and address and a signature and specific
5 objection to the petition.
6 With that, the meeting tonight is adjourned and we will
7 reconvene on August 22nd at five p.m. at this location.
8 (Time noted: 5:47 p.m.)
9 *****
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

I, ROSEMARY A. MEYER, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing transcript is an accurate record of the testimony of the said witness, to the best of my knowledge and belief, having been stenographically recorded by me and transcribed under my supervision.

I further certify that I am in no way related to any of the parties to this action and that I have no personal interest whatsoever in the outcome thereof.



ROSEMARY A. MEYER

Date Transcribed: August 27, 2023

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STATE OF NEW YORK : COUNTY OF SULLIVAN
TOWN OF THOMPSON and TOWN OF FALLSBURG

ORIGINAL

Petition for:

DAY 1 of 2

Incorporation of Village of Ateres

Pages 1 - 30

Joint Public Hearing

-----X
169 Barnes Boulevard
Kiamesha Lake, New York
August 3, 2023
5:00 P.M.

TOWN OF THOMPSON

WILLIAM RIEBER, JR., Supervisor

MICHAEL MEDNICK, ESQ., Town Attorney

MARILEE CALHOUN, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FALLSBURG

KATHERINE RAPPAPORT, Supervisor

J. BENJAMIN GAILEY, ESQ., Town Attorney

PAULA GROGAN, Deputy Town Clerk

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Reported By: Rosemary A. Meyer

1 - JOINT PUBLIC HEARING / VILLAGE OF ATERAS -

2 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: This is going to be a peaceful
3 process tonight. This is also a constitutional process, and
4 accordingly. I'm going to ask everybody to stand and pledge
5 the flag.

6 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

7 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Thank you.

8 Okay. So I am Bill Rieber. I'm town supervisor in the
9 Town of Thompson.

10 SUPERVISOR RAPPAPORT: Katherine Rappaport, Town
11 Supervisor for Fallsburg.

12 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: I'm going to ask the clerk, either
13 one, to read the public notice.

14 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Legal Notice: Notice of a
15 Joint Public Hearing.

16 AUDIENCE: We cannot hear you.

17 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Okay. Can you hear me now?

18 AUDIENCE: Perfect.

19 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Legal notice: Notice of a
20 Joint Public Hearing.

21 Please take notice that a petition for incorporation of
22 the Village of Ateres has been received by both the Town of
23 Thompson and the Town of Fallsburg on June 14th, 2023.

24 Please take further notice that the Town of Thompson and
25 the Town of Fallsburg town supervisors will conduct a joint

1 - JOINT PUBLIC HEARING / VILLAGE OF ATERAS -

2 public hearing upon such petition held on Thursday, August
3 3rd, 2023, at five p.m., located at 169 Barnes Boulevard,
4 Kiamesha Lake, New York, 12751.

5 The petition for the incorporation of the Village of
6 Ateres will be available for public inspection in the office
7 of the Town Clerk of the Town of Thompson located at 4052
8 State Route 42, Monticello, New York, as well as the office
9 of the Town Clerk of the Town of Fallsburg located at 19
10 Railroad Plaza, South Fallsburg, New York, until the
11 aforesaid date of the hearing.

12 Please take further notice that the purpose of this
13 public hearing is to consider the legal sufficiency of the
14 petition and any objections to the legal sufficiency of the
15 petition, and they must be in writing and signed by one or
16 more of the residents of the Town of Thompson or the Town of
17 Fallsburg; and that any group of persons having one or more
18 objections in common may make that designation in writing and
19 be signed by at least one, but not more than three persons,
20 giving full name and addresses of those persons on whom all
21 papers required to be served in connection with the
22 proceeding for incorporation and shall be served. A majority
23 of such designees must reside in the Town of Thompson and/or
24 Town of Fallsburg.

25 The notice is dated July 3rd, 2023, dated, and signed by

1 - JOINT PUBLIC HEARING / VILLAGE OF ATERAS -
2 Supervisor Rieber and Supervisor Rappaport.

3 And I have an original affidavit that it's been
4 published.

5 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Thank you.

6 Okay. So the Town of Thompson and Town of Fallsburg
7 received this petition for the incorporation of the Village
8 of Ateres. Pursuant to Village Law Article 2, Section
9 2-206(1): Upon receipt of such petition, the supervisors of
10 both towns shall conduct this joint hearing to hear any
11 objections which may be presented as to the legal sufficiency
12 of the petition for incorporation based on the following
13 grounds.

14 So this is a hearing on the petition, not on I wish this
15 wouldn't happen or I wish this would happen or reasons
16 therefore.

17 These are the reasons that would constitute an objection
18 based on legal sufficiency.

19 That a person signing such petition was not qualified,
20 therefore.

21 If it is alleged that the petition is submitted on the
22 basis of the person signing such petition constitute 20
23 percent of the residents in such territory qualified to vote
24 for officers of a town in which all or part of such territory
25 is located that such allegation is false.

1 - JOINT PUBLIC HEARING / VILLAGE OF ATERAS -

2 This is a petition with 20 percent of the voters.

3 If such territory is part of a city or a village.

4 It is not so that's irrelevant.

5 You can object that if such territory is less than the
6 entire town, it contains more than five square miles and the
7 limits of such territory are not conterminous with the entire
8 boundaries of one school district, fire, fire protection,
9 fire alarm, town special or town improvement district, and
10 the limits of such territory are not conterminous with parts
11 of the boundaries of more than one school, fire, fire
12 protection, fire alarm, town special or town improvement
13 district, all of which are wholly contained within the limits
14 and within one town.

15 That such territory does not contain a population of at
16 least 500 regular inhabitants;

17 And that the petition, in any other specified respect,
18 does not conform to the requirements of this article.

19 Please be aware that all objection must be in writing
20 and signed by one or more residents qualified to vote for
21 town officers in which part of such territory of the proposed
22 village is located.

23 Testimony may be taken at this hearing and the same
24 shall be reduced to writing and subscribed to by those
25 testifying. All written objections and signed testimony

1 - RON HIATT / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 shall clearly state the name and address of each objectant.

3 With that, we're going to open this public hearing.

4 Let the record note that we do have a court stenographer
5 here to transcribe the record for transcription of the
6 proceedings.

7 If anybody would like to stand up, please.

8 Ron Hiatt, please step forward.

9 We'll try to do this in an orderly, quiet manner.

10 Please confine your statements to ...

11 The other thing is whoever comes up has got to give
12 their name and full address to Paula, the clerk from the Town
13 of Fallsburg.

14 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Did you want to go in order
15 on who was written on the list?

16 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: I didn't know there was a list.

17 MR. R. HIATT: If I could.

18 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: There's a list.

19 MR. R. HIATT: If I may, I beg a preference. My
20 daughter's having a birthday party in 15 minutes.

21 AUDIENCE: We can't hear you.

22 MR. HIATT: My daughter is having a birthday party in 15
23 minutes and I really like her a lot and if you would allow me
24 to just -- I'll try to be as brief as possible.

25 AUDIENCE: No, go in order.

1 - RON HIATT / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Excuse me. There's one person, two
3 people running this room.

4 Ron, you're more than happy to proceed. I did not know
5 we had a list. We need to --

6 MR. R. HIATT: I'll be happy to sign in.

7 This is for each of the supervisors.

8 TOWN CLERK CALHOUN: There are two copies?

9 MR. R. HIATT: Yes, I have two copies.

10 TOWN CLERK CALHOUN: Okay.

11 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Supervisor.

12 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Yes.

13 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: There's a list and Mary Adams
14 is the first person on the list.

15 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Okay. We'll get her next.

16 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Okay.

17 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Is that all you want to do, is
18 present the paper?

19 MR. R. HIATT: Well, I can do that. Everything is
20 contained within and it directly applies to the quality of
21 the individuals signing, whether or not they're able to.

22 Exhibit A has a list of the individuals and exceptions
23 therefore. I have it well under 60 that are qualified
24 voters, for one thing. And there are other issues that are
25 contained within 202 and 206 and so forth that make the

1 - RON HIATT / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 petition, on its face, invalid. There are other issues like
3 SEQRA which I talk about in the petition. And because the
4 impact, the impact of the environment is large relative to
5 the two towns, I think that's very important, especially in
6 Fallsburg where they have low water pressure already.

7 I'll leave it at that. Everything is contained within
8 these petitions.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What's your name, sir.

10 MR. R. HIATT: I'm sorry. Ron Hiatt.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Spell your first and last name.

12 MR. R. HIATT: R-O-N-A-L-D, H-I-A-T-T.

13 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: All right. Who's next?

14 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Mary Adams.

15 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Mary Adams, please.

16 MS. M. ADAMS: Hi. I'm Mary Adams. I'm a full-time
17 resident of the Town of Fallsburg and have been a full-time
18 resident for almost 30 years.

19 I'm speaking today in opposition to the Ateres petition
20 to create a new village. Through research done regarding
21 formation of villages in New York State it was discovered
22 that state government is offering grants to existing villages
23 for the dissolution of village classification, and this is
24 for the purpose of simplifying governance of municipalities
25 and to save taxpayer money. The Ateres petition flies in the

1 - MARY ADAMS / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 face of that statewide trend.

3 It is apparent that various new petitions for village
4 status currently in the process are being promulgated by
5 groups similar to the Ateres community which previously
6 petitioned for village status in 2005. As documented in an
7 article published by the Sullivan County Democrat in 2005,
8 the leaders of proposed Ateres community admitted that their
9 sole purpose in seeking village designation is to bypass,
10 quote, "the town zoning laws" so as to build at a higher
11 density.

12 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Mary, forgive me for stopping you,
13 but the comments have to be directly on the sufficiency of
14 and adequacy of the petition. We're happy to hear your
15 comments at some other point in time, but that is not the
16 subject of this hearing.

17 MS. M. ADAMS: Okay. And the fact that they may not do
18 a legal SEQRA process if they become a village, that's not
19 related to this hearing? I think that's very related. So
20 that's where I'm going, which is that if they become a
21 village and before they actually do their SEQRA environmental
22 process they will not be including the surrounding areas in
23 their environmental assessment. And since their intention is
24 to have higher density, then it seems that we could assume,
25 therefore, that they will not be really environmentally aware

1 - MARY ADAMS / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 and they won't do a very in depth SEQRA process because if
3 they're a village they have their own regulatory agency, they
4 have their own building inspectors and they have their own
5 boards. So I think this is very applicable, the fact that
6 this petition should not be accepted by the supervisors.

7 I want to thank you.

8 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Do you want to leave that --

9 MS. M. ADAMS: Yes.

10 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: -- and if you could sign it with
11 your name and address on it.

12 MS. M. ADAMS: I have. Thank you.

13 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: And just check in with Paula.

14 This gentleman is got to come and go.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm fine.

16 MR. Y. MILLER: Yehuda Miller, 106 Pleasant Valley Road,
17 South Fallsburg, New York, 12779.

18 Dear Board Members, Town Supervisors:

19 Today I stand before you to express support for the
20 incorporation of the proposed Village of Ateres.

21 Now, I know some of you might be surprised to learn that
22 it's mostly Orthodox Jews making up this community. Here's
23 the thing. Diversity is our strength and equal rights are
24 our foundation. Let's support Ateres and show that we truly
25 cherish the values of our great country.

1 - YEHUDA MILLER / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 Let's be crystal clear. For far too long in our
3 communities we have spent too much time focusing on the
4 proposer rather than on the proposal itself. Today, we must
5 shift our perspective and prioritize the whats, not the who.
6 Just like the other villages in Sullivan County, Ateres
7 deserves the right to govern itself and address its unique
8 needs. It's time to lead them into the beautiful pastry of
9 our vibrant communities and empower them to progress in
10 spirit alongside the neighbors of the villages in
11 Bloomingburg, Jeffersonville, Liberty, Monticello, Woodridge
12 and Wurtsboro.

13 The people of Ateres are dreaming of a brighter future
14 just like all of us. Through village incorporation let's
15 give them the tools they need to better structure essential
16 services and economic opportunities. By doing so we honor
17 the rights and celebrate the diversity --

18 (Inaudible comments from the public.)

19 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Are you done?

20 MR. Y. MILLER: I'm finishing in a second.

21 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: No, we're done.

22 (Inaudible comments from the public.)

23 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: If you're not speaking to the
24 voracity of the petition, not --

25 MR. Y. MILLER: This isn't a public hearing?

1 - STACEY GRIFMAN / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Not for that purpose, no. I'm
3 sorry.

4 MR. Y. MILLER: All right. No problem.

5 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: If you're here --

6 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Stacey Grifman

7 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: So me repeat again.

8 Leo, Leo, sit. Sit, please.

9 This hearing is specifically only for the objections to
10 the petition. It's not I don't like this, it's not I do
11 like. Only for objections that fit --

12 No, Leo. Somebody else.

13 Who am I calling?

14 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Stacey Grifman.

15 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Stacey Grifman.

16 There's a list up here. We're going to go in order from
17 here on.

18 MS. S. GRIFMAN: Stacey Grifman, 183 Brophy Road, No. 1,
19 Hurleyville, New York.

20 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

21 Today I'm speaking in opposition to the Ateres petition
22 to create a new village. On the zoning map that I obtained
23 from the Town Clerk of Thompson the boundaries indicated are
24 unclear, impossible to read even with a magnifying glass.
25 The village -- the validity of the map to signify accurate

1 - STACEY GRIFMAN / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 boundaries for the petition are in question. I request a
3 thorough review of these boundary lines and a readable map
4 for viewing.

5 Secondly, I wonder and question whether all the owners
6 of the parcels that are included in this petition are aware
7 that they're being proposed as part of the village. Is each
8 resident aware of the implications that come along with a
9 village designation? I am not sure that all of the residents
10 of this area aware of what's happening. Is there a legal
11 responsibility to ensure that all residents are making an
12 informed decision?

13 I respectfully -- I request that both town supervisors
14 reject this petition.

15 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Would you mind leaving that with us
16 and then checking with Paula?

17 MS. S. GRIFMAN: Thank you.

18 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Do you want to submit that in
19 writing?

20 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: She did.

21 Supervisor Debra Reeves. Debra Reeves.

22 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Debra Reeves.

23 SUPERVISOR D. REEVES: Pass.

24 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Pass?

25 SUPERVISOR S. REEVES: Yes.

1 - SUPERVISOR J. REEVES / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Okay.

3 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Supervisor Johnnie Reeves.

4 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Johnnie Reeves.

5 SUPERVISOR JOHNNIE REEVES: My name is Johnnie Reeves.

6 I'm a resident of --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Closer.

8 SUPERVISOR JOHNNIE REEVES: -- Kiamesha Lake for 29
9 years. My wife and I, Debra Reeves, have been here for 29
10 years. We are here to discuss that we want to reject the
11 petition of the proposal of Ateres on legal grounds.

12 First of all, the petition has no numbered pages as
13 required by documentation. All 21 pages are not numbered.

14 And the signatures are flawed because they do not
15 include the signatures on the sworn affidavit, just full
16 names, no signature. Some of the names also just have last
17 names. They do not have their full name, as required.

18 For these reasons we wish to reject this petition.

19 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: I have him.

20 Supervisor Yakov Mandelovics.

21 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Yakov Mandelovics.

22 You're objecting to your own petition?

23 SUPERVISOR Y. MANDELOVICS: My name is Yakov
24 Mandelovics. I am a full year-round resident, Village of
25 Monticello.

1 - SUPERVISOR Y. MANDELOVICS / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 I would like to express in favor of Village of Ateres.

3 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Do you have an objection to the
4 petition?

5 SUP. Y. MANPELOVICS: Not to the petition exactly, but
6 as a village resident I understand the importance of having a
7 village even for a great town like Town of Thompson, even
8 with a great town like of Town of Thompson. The streets are
9 beautiful. We know that.

10 As a village resident I know how personal we can get and
11 our unique needs can be addressed by a village. This is why
12 this, I'm in favor of the village.

13 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Thank you.

14 Again, I'm going to repeat. This is a hearing to hear
15 objections to the petition. It's irrelevant whether you want
16 it or don't want it. You must object to the petition on
17 legal grounds to be considered.

18 Next.

19 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Zev Tarkieltaub.

20 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Zev.

21 MR. Z. TARKIELTAUB: I pass.

22 MS. JOHNSON FIELDS: Excuse me. I signed and my name
23 wasn't called.

24 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Binyomin --

25 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: We're not done. We'll get to you.

1 - SANDRA JOHNSON FIELDS / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Binyomin Merlmelsten.

3 I'm sorry. I did go past her. My apologies, ma'am.

4 MS. JOHNSON FIELDS: What about this gentleman?

5 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: I apologize.

6 So Raymond was first.

7 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Raymond. Okay.

8 MS. JOHNSON FIELDS: My name is Sandra Johnson Fields
9 and thank you for calling me up. To the supervisors,
10 Mr. Rieber and Ms. Rappaport, thank you for allowing us to
11 speak.

12 I'm a resident of the Town of Thompson. I've lived in
13 this town for over 20 years, since 2003, March to be exact.
14 My home is in this proposed village. I am totally objecting
15 and have an objection to it not because my home is in it, but
16 it's personal to me.

17 First, as I looked at the petition, the pages aren't
18 numbered. I only know my home is in the petition because
19 they told me that it was when I went to town hall to get it,
20 otherwise, I couldn't read it.

21 The pages of signatures and the sworn affidavit left out
22 how many signatures there are. The omission makes the
23 petition not believable.

24 The petition says there are 99 signatures of residents
25 who can vote in the Town of Thompson and the Town of

1 - SANDRA JOHNSON FIELDS / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 Fallsburg. Twenty-eight of those signatures are not
3 registered to vote in either town so this is a falsehood
4 which makes this petition invalid. There are 20 signatures
5 with wrong addresses that do not match Sullivan County voter
6 registration records.

7 Some people printed their names instead of signing their
8 names. Signature is required. Other signatures, of course,
9 there's only a last name and so that could be anybody. It
10 was just a last name. That's not a lawful signature.

11 Based upon these statements, there are probably only 50
12 or 52 valid signatures. This is much, much lower than the 20
13 percent needed by the New York State Village Law to support
14 incorporation of a new town.

15 Considering the significant misinformation, fallacies
16 and inaccuracies contained in this petition the voracity of
17 it is questionable. I urge and request the proposal for the
18 Village of Ateres be denied due to lack of sufficient
19 petition.

20 Thank you.

21 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Sara --

22 Do we have a copy?

23 Do we have a copy of what your presentation was?

24 MS. S. JOHNSON FIELDS: Yes. I left two copies, one for
25 each of you.

1 - RAYMOND ELOZUA / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: The next question. Do you have
3 specificity for these signatures and et cetera?

4 MS. S. JOHNSON FIELDS: Yes, I'll send it to you. I
5 have it at home. I don't have it attached. I didn't attach
6 it, but I can.

7 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Okay.

8 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Supervisor, can we go with
9 Raymond?

10 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Yes, Raymond is next.

11 Raymond.

12 MR. R. ELOZUA: Thank you, Supervisors Rappaport and
13 Rieber for inviting people to speak.

14 My name is Raymond Elozua. I have lived in
15 Mountdaindale, a hamlet in the Town to Fallsburg, since 2005.
16 Paul Hoeffel, a cosigner to this letter, has lived in
17 Fallsburg for 40 years.

18 I'm speaking, today, in opposition to the Ateres
19 petition to create a new village. In these difficult
20 economic times local governments cannot further subdivide and
21 fracture. Indeed, the opposite is true. More local towns
22 and governments should consolidate to save taxpayer money by
23 avoiding duplicate services and jobs. Indeed, the New York
24 State legislatures have approved a bill awaiting the
25 governor's signature requesting that 2,000 signatures be the

1 - RAYMOND ELOZUA / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 minimum for a valid petition to create a new village.

3 I reviewed the citizen signatures of those who signed
4 the Ateres petition.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

6 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Yes, he is.

7 MR. R. ELOZUA: I'm talking about the petition right
8 now.

9 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Everybody, please.

10 MR. R. ELOZUA: I'll start again.

11 I reviewed the citizen signatures of those who signed
12 the Ateres petition. I used the voter registration book that
13 was dated April 27, 2023. This petition collected 94
14 signatures specifically on March 30th, two on May 26th and
15 three on June 13th for a total of 99 signatures. I printed
16 all pages of the petition from petition page No. 42 through
17 62, a total of 99 signatures. I searched for the last name
18 on voter roles. If I did not find a match then I searched by
19 first name. As a last resort, I searched by address.

20 Twenty-three signatures did not appear on the Board of
21 Election list. I also found 14 that had written different
22 addresses on the petition sheet other than what appeared on
23 the voter list. I also found two that were so ineligible as
24 to be unreadable, thus, unsearchable. Thirteen signatures
25 were also illegible and questionable and would need to be

1 - RAYMOND ELOZUA / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 compared to the official Board of Election signature list.

3 I am submitting copies of my results with this letter,
4 which both town clerks have received. There are, at a
5 minimum, 52 invalid and problematic signatures. Only 47
6 signatures remain. It is extremely likely that other
7 signatures can be declared invalid.

8 Moreover, the technical standards of this petition are
9 not in accordance with official New York State requirement,
10 another legal hurdle. It is clear that the Ateres petition
11 definitely does not have enough valid signatures to
12 constitute a legally sufficient petition. I ask that both
13 town supervisors reject this flawed and deficient petition.

14 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Do we have copies of the petition?

15 MR. R. ELOZUA: Yes, I gave her that, and a copy of each
16 page with the ones marked that are not, you know, correct.

17 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Very nice. Thank you.

18 MR. R. ELOZUA: Okay.

19 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: That's the kind of testimony we
20 need.

21 Okay, who's next?

22 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Binyomin Mermelsten.

23 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Binyomin Mermelsten.

24 MR. B. MERMELSTEN: Pass.

25 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Pass?

1 - ANN FINNERAN / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 MR. B. MERMELSTEN: Pass.

3 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Ann Finneran.

4 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Ann Finneran.

5 MS. A. FINNERAN: Hi. I'm Ann Finneran. I live at 239
6 Main Street in Hurleyville in the Town of Fallsburg. I
7 bought the house in 2000 and moved in in 2001.

8 I just want to call attention, as others have, to the
9 illegibility of the map. You cannot tell where this is.
10 It's a very -- I actually blew it. The lady at the Town of
11 Thompson graciously blew it up for me and I highlighted
12 around the area so people can see. So I kind of got an idea.
13 I see that Annawana Lake Road is fully included in that. I
14 don't know how other people are going to think about that,
15 but just the fact that the map is totally illegible. As a
16 real estate agent I was able to cobble it together and figure
17 out some idea of where things were.

18 Also, there's a little -- I don't know if this is
19 necessary for the petition, but this little, chart here, I
20 see, Supervisor Rieber, he's squinting at it. They're
21 supposed to be the sections, block and lots and they're not
22 legible at all. It would be nice to have them rewrite their
23 maps. Maybe even use this map and draw little street names
24 on it so people have some idea where this is, and put in the
25 section, blocks and lots. So that's ...

1 - ANN FINNERAN / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Your objection is to the
3 illegibility of the map.

4 MS. A. FINNERAN: My objection is to the maps, yes. I
5 didn't look into the signatures or anything with the
6 petition. I got the map and I went, This is ridiculous.

7 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Thank you, Ann.

8 MS. A. FINNERAN: That's it. Thank you.

9 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: The last person on the list
10 is --

11 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Did you hand that, in writing, to
12 Paula?

13 MS. A. FINNERAN: Did I write it? I did not. If you
14 want me to, you can have that.

15 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: So the last person on the
16 list is Ira Rudick.

17 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Ira Rudick.

18 MR. I. RUDICK: Pass.

19 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Pass?

20 MR. I. RUDICK: Yes.

21 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: Then that would be it,
22 unless ...

23 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Okay. So Leo, you would like to
24 speak; correct?

25 We're done with our list now. I'm going to try to take

1 - LEO GLASS / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 everybody orderly.

3 MR. L. GLASS: (Inaudible.)

4 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Leo, I can't hear a word you're
5 saying. Leo, if you don't mind, could you just speak to
6 Paula quick? You have to sign in, give your name and
7 address.

8 Everybody be very quiet. Leo is talking low.

9 MR. L. GLASS: My name is Leo Glass. I'm a resident of
10 the Village of Monticello.

11 My main objection is to specify a little more why the
12 map is totally incomprehensible. It's in two separate parts.
13 Any survey map you ever looked at has a north, south, east,
14 west compass direction, it shows roads. This map shows
15 nothing except a bunch of squiggly lines in two separate
16 parts and you can't tell which matches up, left or right.
17 It's totally invalid. I would like to request you deny the
18 petition.

19 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Who else would like to speak?

20 Before you do, just check in with Paula.

21 Excuse me. Who put this computer up on our table?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I did.

23 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Oh. Because somebody is talking to
24 us. What's going on here?

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Making a comment.

1 - KEITH McIVER / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 COMPUTER ATTENDEE: I can't hear anything.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Close to the speaker. I'll put
4 you in the back.

5 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Okay. State your name, please.

6 MR. K. McIVER: My name is Keith McIver. I live in the
7 Town of Fallsburg at 6 Decker Street.

8 I want to point out that first of all, the attachment
9 for Exhibit A which lists the metes and bounds of the
10 proposed village, in one place, actually, two places, does
11 not line up with the tax parcel boundaries that they claim to
12 be included. The metes and bounds include three parcels
13 which the list of tax parcels -- there are three tax parcels
14 that are included in the metes and bounds description of
15 Exhibit A which are not included in the tax parcels also in
16 Exhibit A.

17 And finally, the map, which was commented on, the map
18 includes these three tax parcels in the village, however,
19 they're, again, not on the SBL list.

20 So I request that this be, what I would say, I call it,
21 sent, back for revision as these three tax parcels right now,
22 it is not clear are they going to be in the village or they
23 are not going to be in the village.

24 That's all I have to say.

25 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Can you just get that to us --

1 - KEITH McIVER / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 MR. K. McIVER: Yes.

3 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: -- with specificity?

4 MR. K. McIVER: Yes. I can give you a list of these.
5 These are the SBLs.

6 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: With your name and address on the
7 top.

8 MR. K. McIVER: How do I get that to you?

9 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Paula will give you the contact.

10 MR. K. McIVER: Okay. Thank you.

11 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: You're welcome.

12 Would somebody else like to speak? Our list is done.
13 Steve Rivela.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Would it be possible to turn this
15 down, the air conditioning?

16 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Okay, Steve.

17 MR. S. RIVELA: My name is Steven Rivela. I'm here with
18 my wife, Lorraine Rivela. We're seniors who live on Gibber
19 Road. We've been living there for about 20 years and been
20 residing in the Town of Thompson for about 25 years.

21 We respectfully submit this letter to inform you that we
22 object to the petition, regretfully, for the proposed Village
23 of Ateres within the Town of Thompson, which we were made
24 aware of by an article in the Democrat newspaper dated July
25 25th of this year. This challenge is based upon any and all

1 - STEVEN M. RIVELA / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 information that we received by way of social media, no other
3 way.

4 The improprieties of certain and/or proposed village
5 representatives in this case demonstrates to us a seemingly
6 behavioral pattern of engaging in fraudulent activity
7 characterized by misleading signature errors on voting
8 submissions, errors in individual signatures and on a sworn
9 affidavit and/or the questioning of sworn statements. These
10 manipulations document deficiencies and what we understand to
11 be a 50 to 52 qualified voters ratio in this proposal would
12 render it far below a 20 percent threshold required for the
13 proposal to incorporate.

14 We further understand that based on these figures, those
15 figures, sorry, they are too small a number to create a new
16 municipal to have jurisdictions over neighboring parcels,
17 including our home, that would be absorbed by this village
18 and drastically change our lives for worse. As such, we feel
19 the petition in question with regard to the Village of Ateres
20 be denied as all of the proposed representatives have forfeit
21 the right to file said petition based upon what appears to be
22 attempts of fraud and deception and ultimately mocking town
23 officials, citizens and regulations we live by. There
24 appears to be an epidemic of promoting ill-bred behaviors
25 brave and/or patterns and it should be stopped.

1 - STEVEN M. RIVELA / PUBLIC COMMENT -

2 Thank you.

3 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: With specificity, as to the 52
4 signatures do you object?

5 MR. S. RIVELA: The only thing that I've ascertained was
6 this, that we got from the Internet.

7 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Okay. If you want to submit it to
8 Paula.

9 MR. S. RIVELA: That's fine.

10 DEPUTY TOWN CLERK GROGAN: I have it.

11 MR. K. McIVER: Thank you. Thank you all. I will
12 submit it.

13 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Anybody else?

14 (No verbal response.)

15 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Okay. Would anybody else like the
16 opportunity to object to the petition?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 SUPERVISOR RIEBER: Okay. This has been a confusing
19 process for a lot of people. This is not your typical public
20 hearing. As such, we're going to adjourn this public hearing
21 and keep the hearing open through and including August 22nd,
22 2023, at five p.m. where we intend to reconvene at this
23 location to close the hearing. During that intervening
24 period, anybody, any taxpayer who has got a right to object
25 to this petition, may do so in writing to either supervisor

1 - JOINT PUBLIC HEARING / VILLAGE OF ATERES -

2 or either town clerk. And it must be as in the form that is
3 required by the statute, which does require, just in general
4 terms, full name and address and a signature and specific
5 objection to the petition.

6 With that, the meeting tonight is adjourned and we will
7 reconvene on August 22nd at five p.m. at this location.

8 (Time noted: 5:47 p.m.)

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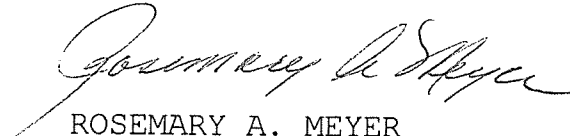
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

I, ROSEMARY A. MEYER, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of New York, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing transcript is an accurate record of the testimony of the said witness, to the best of my knowledge and belief, having been stenographically recorded by me and transcribed under my supervision.

I further certify that I am in no way related to any of the parties to this action and that I have no personal interest whatsoever in the outcome thereof.


ROSEMARY A. MEYER

Date Transcribed: August 27, 2023

K E Y W O R D I N D E X

PUBLIC COMMENT

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Stacey Grifman.....	12	15
Supervisor Debra Reeves.....	13	21
Zev Tarkieltaub.....	15	19
Raymond Elozua.....	18	14
Binyomin Mermelsten.....	0	22
Ann Finneran.....	21	3
Keith McIver.....	24	6
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Leo Glass.....	23	9

* * * * *

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