

## **IDA closes Ginsberg's land deal**

**By Katie Kocijanski Columbia-Greene Media | Posted: Thursday, August 27, 2015 12:00 am**

GREENPORT— The Columbia County Industrial Development Agency has finalized the 33-acre land transfer and financing of the proposed Ginsberg's Foods expansion after almost two years. This comes after Columbia County Judge Richard Koweek's May ruling against the Ghent Planning Board's December 2014 decision to deny the company a special use permit for the expansion.

F. Michael Tucker, the current interim Columbia Economic Development Corporation, said the agency will get a \$90,000 application fee for the project.

In October 2013, Ginsberg's applied to build a 302,949-square-foot warehouse, including a warehouse building with retail and office space, a freezer building with loading docks, engine room and office and a maintenance building and parking spaces.

"We have submitted all of our applications to get building permits from the towns of Ghent and Claverack, as soon as we get those, we will be breaking ground," said John Bruise, vice president of operations for Ginsberg's. "We are very excited to finally move forward on this opportunity."

The property is located on Route 66, right on the town borders of both Claverack and Ghent. The new facility wouldn't be too far away from the current location right along the same road.

An Aug. 20 press release from the corporation stated 225 full time jobs will remain in Columbia County and an additional 25 full time jobs will be created with the expansion.

Additional full time construction jobs will be provided when ground is broke on the multi-million dollar facility on the property.

In addition, Ginsberg's will receive a sales tax exemption for purchases of equipment, a mortgage tax exemption, and a Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement (PILOT) as an incentive for job retention and creation pursuant to New York State law.

Any economic benefits are conditioned on the requirement that Ginsberg's remain in the county, with a minimum of 225 full time jobs.

"Phase 1 of the proposed new facility will generate more than \$1 million in taxes over the next 12 years on a parcel of land that has produced \$0 taxes in the past 20 years," stated agency chairman, Chairman Bruce Bohnsack.

Bohnsack added by providing these incentives it will lead to "construction and related jobs in the short term and significantly higher taxes paid in the long term."

Through the state's Empire State Development's Excelsior Jobs program and the State Homes and Community Renewal program, tax credits will be provided.

A credit of \$1 million and a community development block grant of \$500,000 will assist Ginsberg's with their expansion.

Brusie said no construction schedule has been decided on yet.

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