



Public Comment Statement from **JAMIE DEINES** **at 10/16 Town Board Meeting**

Good evening, Supervisor Blackman and Members of the Town Board.

My name is Jamie Deines, and I'm running for the two-year Town Council seat.

I'm here tonight because our Town keeps repeating costly mistakes that stem from poor process and conflicts of interest. We need to act now to prevent another misstep like Kent Hollow, which left a \$7 million federal lawsuit hanging over the Town and fellow taxpayers. We would have been the ones footing that bill.

Even after the current Board settled the case, there's now a new lawsuit challenging that settlement, putting us right back at risk. That situation arose from conflicts of interest involving Supervisor Blackman and former Councilwoman Vicki Doyle, both of whom were forced to recuse themselves.

Now, with Ms. Doyle running for office again, she would, from day one, be unable to fully represent taxpayers because that same conflict still exists. Not to mention, both she and her husband sit on the Conservation Advisory Committee together with Mr. Peek, further blurring ethical lines and deepening concerns about bias in Town decision-making.

Process is what protects this Town. When people join boards or committees but ignore or selectively apply the rules, that's when we get into legal trouble. It doesn't matter whether the project is a resort, a recycling center, or an auto garage — everyone deserves to be treated fairly and equally under the same process. If that had happened consistently, we wouldn't face these repeated lawsuits.

Abuse of power and selective enforcement cannot continue. That's why I'm calling for an ethics review of Planning Board Vice Chair Nina Peek and her husband, Michael Peek, Chair of the CAC. The Ethics Committee already found that Ms. Peek has a conflict, yet she has been deeply involved in the Stoneleaf Depot Hill project — putting the Town at risk of more litigation. Both Nina and Michael Peek own property adjacent to Stoneleaf and have publicly opposed the project. Their overlapping roles — on the Planning Board, the CAC, and the Comprehensive Plan Committee — undermine public confidence and fairness.

If I'm elected, this will change. I will work for the taxpayers — not against them. Thank you.