

Community Cultural Center Room 105 / MICROSOFT "TEAMS"

TAX POLICY COMMITTEE

January 10, 2023

PRESENT Angie Parkinson, Chair, Councillors Don Bell and Travis Simpson

ABSENT

ALSO Mayor Mike Walsh
PRESENT Richard Kehoe, Town Council Chair
Councillor Awet Tsegai
Melissa McCaw, Finance Director
Eileen Buckheit, Development Director
Jay Margnelli, CT River Valley Chamber of Commerce

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parkinson called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 5, 2022

MOTION By Travis Simpson
seconded by Angie Parkinson

to **table the approval of** minutes from the October 5, 2022 meeting.

Motion carried 2/0 (abstain: Bell)

OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO SPEAK

No one came forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Tax Incentive Program for National Development Project

Committee Chair Parkinson provided a brief background of the redevelopment project at Rentschler Field acknowledging mutual benefits to both the organization and the Town. National Development has currently contributed \$4 million in impact fees and roughly \$3 million in building permit fees associated with the project.

As the project is located in an Enterprise Zone, the development is awarded an automatic 80% tax abatement of real estate taxes for five years after a Certificate of Occupancy is granted.

National Development is requesting the project is not subject to a partial reassessment on the October 2023 Grand List and that town provide 100% abatement from property taxes through FY2024-25 as they will likely not have any revenue from the site until late 2024. The Town Council had previously voted to expand the Town's enterprise zone to accommodate the project so that National Development would automatically receive the initial automatic 80% abatement as provided.

The Committee discussed the ramifications of the proposed abatement and estimated cost of the accommodation and asked for further data that demonstrates the necessity of the requested further tax relief to preserve the viability of the project.

Review of ARPA Small Business Assistance Program

The Committee reviewed a rubric provided by the Administration used to evaluate applications to the ARPA Small Business Assistance Program. Category definitions include priority for Minority, Women and/or Veteran owned businesses, whether proposals address needs created by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, visual impact, sustainability, and other factors.

The Committee discussed the merits and challenges of using the results provided by the rubric as a ranking system of applications. The Committee further discussed the language and definitions of the various criteria used to assure the program is fair in its evaluation of applications.

Director Buckheit stated that a list of scores based on the results of application evaluations will be provided to the committee for review in the coming weeks.

MOTION By Travis Simpson
 seconded by Don Bell

to **adjourn** at 7:51 pm

Motion carried 3/0

cc: Town Council
 Mayor Walsh