



**Meeting of the Tax Partnership Screening Committee
Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 7:00 pm
Helen Plumb Building**

AGENDA

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. Review of Draft Proposal on Tax Incentive Program**
- 3. Motion to recommend the proposed Tax Incentive Program for Town Council Approval**
- 4. Conclusion**

The meeting was commenced at 7:15 pm.

In attendance were:

- Carl Massaro Town Council**
- Debra Lamberti Town Council**
- Michael Rappa Town Council**
- Jim Abraham Economic Development Commission**
- Ralph Sather Economic Development Commission**
- Mark Devestern Tax Assessor (Ex-Officio Member)**
- Dan Nelson Chief of Staff (Advisor)**
- Deborah Cox Director, Economic Development (Advisor)**

- Mr. Tony D'Aquila Observer**

Absent:

- Maria Pires Director of Finance (Ex-Officio Member)**
- Timothy Herbst First Selectman (Ex-Officio Member)**

- 1. Jim Abraham invited each attendee to introduce themselves. He and Ralph Sather then gave a brief overview of the proposed Tax Incentive program. Various questions and suggestions were raised regarding the strategy, flexibility, and discretionary latitude provided in the document.**
- 2. The following suggestions were made by the members:**

- a. **Clearly define the targeted geographic areas and industries in a separate document or grid. These targets may change over time, and therefore it may not be appropriate to publish them as part of the “ordinance.”**
 - b. **Use “Plan A: as the base line incentive in a published document to give prospects a general idea of the level of incentive that may be considered.**
 - c. **Obtain a legal opinion from the Town Attorney on the initial proposal, as well as the latitude allowed to designate industries and geographic zones. It is expected that Dan Nelson, Jim Abraham, and Deborah Cox will meet with Attorney Mario Coppolla before the end of December.**
 - d. **Add wording to the proposal similar to Monroe’s program such as: “This table lists the minimum value of an improvement that qualifies a project for abatement, the maximum abatement amount and the maximum abatement period. The Town Council shall determine the specific abatement for each project based upon the benefits to the Town.”**
 - e. **Use the matrix as a “working document” for the screening committee, rather than published as part of the abatement program itself.**
 - f. **Create an Application Form for prospects to apply for consideration for incentive.**
- 3. Next Steps:**
A subgroup will meet with the Town’s Land Use Attorney in December. Depending on the timing of the receipt of the attorney’s opinion, it is anticipated that the committee will meet again in mid-January to finalize a proposal to be recommended to a subcommittee of the Town Council.
- 4. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by:

**Deborah Evans Cox
Director, Economic & Community Development**