

**BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

**JOINT MEETING**

**LAND USE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

**&**

**FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE**

There was a SPECIAL joint meeting of the above referenced subcommittees held on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Deputy Mayor Gamble, Mayor Schulman, Councilors Hypolite, Neuwirth, Washington, DeLorenzo and Rivers

Also present were: Philip K. Schenk, Jr., Thom Hooper, Director of Planning, William Hogan, Director of Finance and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Discussion regarding the Tax Incentive Policy for the Town of Bloomfield**

Mr. Philip K. Schenk, Town Manager explained the purpose and background of review for the Tax Incentive Policy. There was an issue of concern regarding the discretionary authority of the Town Manager's Office in negotiating contracts prior to formal presentation to Town Council.

Councilor Neuwirth requested detailed information about the current tax incentive policy as well as the historical background regarding past abatement agreements with businesses.

Mr. Schenk, Jr. stated that this policy will address incentives for business recruitment and retention. It only applies to commercial real estate properties, no residential.

Mr. Thom Hooper, Director of Planning stated that this policy can be used as leverage in negotiating with business. He also inquired about tax incentives for residential due to the 2013 Grand List – Top 25 Taxpayers, 5 are residential developments.

Councilor Hypolite reviewed the policy with committee members to address discretion of the Town Manager to authorize tax incentives during negotiations and specific to Economic Development projects.

He also addressed the potential abatement issues of concern categorized as an “automatic handout” or be used as a constructive tool to attract and retain businesses.

The Town Council will maintain the final review and approval prior to signature of tax incentive contracts.

Councilor Neuwirth asked for clarification regarding the role of the Council and approvals for incentives.

Councilor DeLorenzo inquired about the role of the Economic Development Consultant and their opinion regarding tax incentives for businesses.

Mayor Schulman expressed concerns regarding the upcoming Re-Evaluation and the impact of new developments and proposals for businesses.

Mr. William Hogan, Director of Finance stated that most of the funds are submitted up front, which is categorized as delayed revenue.

Mr. Schenck, Jr. stated that these funds can be used to structure taxes when other revenue streams are unavailable.

Deputy Mayor Gamble stated that Town Administration will review each incentive on a case by case basis. There were no changes made to the current policy.

### **Adjournment**

It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded Councilor Rivers and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m.