



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Business Development Committee **Special Meeting** **Minutes**

Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 8:00am
Main Meeting Room, Town Hall

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:03am. Members Nicholas Boulter (ex-officio), Eric Wellman, Derek Peterson, Bill Ethier, and Dave Ryan were present. Staff members in attendance included Tom Fitzgerald, Acting Deputy Town Manager; George McGregor, Director of Planning and Community Development; Amy Meriwether, Finance Director; and Francine Beland, Assessor. Gus Jasminski of Ensign-Bickford Aerospace and Defense was also present.

1) Minutes of April 25, 2022

Mr. Ethier made a motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2022 as presented. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

2) Business Development Assistance Application, Ensign-Bickford Aerospace & Defense

Mr. Jasminski gave background information to the group on the project at 100 Grist Mill Road. MR. Jasminski said the project will create 200 new jobs in the higher skilled manufacturing field and hired within 2 years.

Mr. Ethier made the motion to approve the abatement request as presented. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion.

Discussion occurred. Mr. Ethier said he made the motion because he believes it meets the mission of the policy and the group. Mr. Peterson stated he believed there would be a question on how to optically sell this to the community after they are seeing a tax increase this year. Mr. Jasminski said the abatement would just be on new growth and that they are still paying taxes. This would bring new, young professionals to Town to use local businesses and they have seen that their employees hired recently have decided to stay in Simsbury and plant their roots here after having worked here. Ms. Beland clarified that this is for real estate only and not personal property. Mr. Wellman asked staff to clarify that this request and abatement schedule was consistent with past requests. It was confirmed to be consistent.

Mr. Wellman, Mr. Ryan, and Mr. Either voted yes, Mr. Peterson voted no. The motion passed 3 to 1.

Adjournment

Mr. Ryan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27am. Mr. Ethier seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Fitzgerald
Acting Deputy Town Manager