



Town of Walpole
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of Community & Economic Development

JAMES A. JOHNSON
Town Administrator

Patrick Deschenes
*Community & Economic
Development Director*

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REMOTE MEETING
11/14/23

Members in Attendance: Marc Romeo (Chair), Donnell Murphy, Brian Connor, Kevin Spendley, John Shalbey, Patrick Deschenes (Community and Economic Development)

Members Absent: Beth Pelick and Harry Brousaides

Meeting called to order at 5:01 PM.

Discussion and vote on recommendation of proposed FY24 Tax Rate Classification

Mr. Deschenes explained the tax shift was similar every year. The shift was 1.275%. For Residential properties, this would result in an average increase of \$531. For Commercial properties, this would result in an average decrease of \$85 and an average increase of \$11 for Industrial properties.

Mr. Spendley noted that while the shift remained the same, appraisal prices were increased and felt the proposed shift made sense.

Mr. Romeo asked if this included the override. Mr. Deschenes confirmed the override was included.

Mr. Romeo asked why the shift was the same percent each year. He ask what was the basis for that percentage. Mr. Deschenes suggested it was a median number that was agreeable for all property types. He noted that would be a question for the Board of Assessors to answer.

Mr. Romeo asked if there was opposition during the Select Board meeting, would the rate be reconsidered. Mr. Deschenes said it was up to the Select Board if they felt they needed more information from the Board of Assessors.

Mr. Murphy had attended previous Select Board meetings regarding tax rates. He said the rate should remain the same. Other Towns had a stronger commercial presence and high tax shifts could deter businesses for considering Walpole. He said that a 1.275% tax shift would help to entice businesses to come to Walpole.

Mr. Spendley agreed with Mr. Murphy's statement.

Motion by Mr. Spendley to support the proposed FY24 Tax Rate Classification, seconded by Mr. Shalbey. Motion pass 5-0-0 (Romeo – aye, Shalbey – aye; Murphy – aye; Connors – aye; Spendley – aye)

Update on Spring Business Forum

Mr. Deschenes announced to the Board that the original March 7, 2024 date was unavailable for the Walpole County Club. A new date of March 28, 2023 had been confirmed.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Shalbey to adjourn at 5:18 PM, seconded by Mr. Connors. Motion carried 5-0 (Romeo – aye; Shalbey – aye; Murphy – aye; Spendley – aye; Connors – aye).