

CITY OF ROCHESTER, NH
Granite State Business Park
Tax Increment Finance District (RSA 162K)
Fiscal Year 2020 Report –Final Draft

Tax Increment Financing: Overview

Cutbacks in federal and state infrastructure aid over the last two decades have minimized the amount of financing available to municipalities for infrastructure, increasing the use of tax increment financing (TIF), an economic development tool that has been around since the 1950's. The creation of TIF districts are crucial to New England towns and cities that compete with the financial incentives offered in other regions of the United States.

The underlying concept of a TIF District is that an area with development potential that is blighted or otherwise in need of economic improvement, becomes designated by a municipality as a tax increment-financing district. The improvements made to the infrastructure stimulate development or redevelopment, which in turn generates incremental tax revenues. These revenues are then directed to the infrastructure debt service incurred by the municipality for the improvements.

The taxable valuation of the district is tabulated at the time of its creation, referred to as the original taxable value (OTV) or simply "base." Tax revenues from the base value continue to go to the general fund tax base. As the TIF district matures and private sector development and redevelopment occurs due to improvements, the City retains the incremental tax revenues generated above the base. The annual "tax increment" is used to pay the public expenditures on improvements in the district. The duration of a TIF district is typically limited by the time required to amortize bonded debt and the recovery of other municipal costs incurred in creating the TIF district and provide public infrastructure.

Public infrastructure investments typically include water supply, sewer expansion and repair, storm water drainage, street and sidewalk construction, street lighting, park improvements, and parking structures. These improvements are intended to make the area more attractive for development and reduce infrastructure costs to private developers.

Granite State Business Park TIF District- (RSA 162K)

District Activity for FY 2020:

The Granite State Business Park (GSBP) is located in the southeastern portion of Rochester adjacent to the Skyhaven Airport.

Albany Engineered Composites located at 216 Airport Drive pulled permits and estimated \$59,000 in FY20 including the installation of two electric vehicle charging stations and updates to their sprinkler system.

The only other permits during FY20 where pulled by Next Phase Medical located at 88 Airport Drive. Permits amounted to just over \$,355,000 and included the installation of air handler, condenser and humidifier, installation of a modular clean room inside the warehouse as well as roofing, electrical, plumbing and sprinkler upgrades.

The TIF District was expanded by 47 acres on February 7, 2017. The land was acquired by the City of Rochester in FY2017. The land was divided into three lots, one which was purchased by Prep Partners, a second is under agreement with an undisclosed party and the third is being held by the City for a potential future project.

The 55 acre parcel which Safran released their option to buy in 2017 was under agreement however, that deal fell apart. The business cited the large cost of infilling part of the property as their reason for backing out of the deal.

The City of Rochester purchased 145 Airport Drive, a vacant lot that was owned by HM Machine. The City then entered into a public/private partnership with the BFA and LDI Solutions to construct a new facility for LDI in Rochester.

The finance committee supported the appropriation of the water loop at the October 9, 2018 meeting and recommended for approval to the full City Council. The City Council approved a \$1.6 million dollar appropriation and construction was completed the beginning of 2020.

Advisory Committee Recommendations:

1. Continue with surveying of 47 city owned acres plus any additional lands purchased by the city to encourage new development.- completed
2. Continue working with the undisclosed business to develop the 55 acre parcel near the bridge and any new potential new developers looking to build in the park.
3. Work with Coast to continue conversation on extending the bus route into the GSBP and not just stopping on Rochester Hill Road.
4. Safety: Look into continuing sidewalks from Airport Drive to Rochester Hill Road, or extend shoulders. Add additional lights on Innovation Drive. Lights were added to the park but only on Airport Drive.

Notes for 2020: Discuss traffic study and light. Three new businesses are being adding and Planning would like to see a traffic study

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