

Senior Tax Abatement Ad Hoc Committee
Town Hall
Brookfield, CT 06804

Minutes of Meeting of October 5, 2017
7:00 pm, Room 209, Town Hall

Present: Committee members Jen Barczak, Alice Carolan, Loretta Donovan, Mark Ferry, Jeff Kass, Betsy McIlvaine, Dan Walker. Absent: Maura Mangan.

1. Mrs. McIlvaine opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and asked for public comment. There was none.
2. Approval of minutes of September 29, 2015: motion to approve made by Mr. Kass, seconded by Mrs. Donovan, approved unanimously.
3. Members introduced themselves and indicated their interest in serving on committee. Mrs. McIlvaine is chair of the Commission on Aging and she reported that residents have voiced complaints to the commission regarding taxes.
4. Tax Programs in Area towns: Mr. Kass presented information on tax abatement programs in Danbury and gave each member a summary sheet.

Mrs. Carolan prepared a simple checklist that members might use in reporting on area town tax abatement and deferral programs so that we could compare programs. She offered to provide a comparison list if members would give her information on their towns.

5. Tammie Fiske, town tax assessor, will be at our next meeting to explain our current tax abatement and tax deferral programs for senior citizens. Mrs. McIlvaine asked what kind of information members would like to hear. We wanted information over a three year period, 2014 to present, or as much trending information as possible. We are particularly interested in the following, assuming the information is easily available:

TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM 2014 TO PRESENT

- a. How many people applied for tax abatement in each year.
- b. How many were accepted into the tax abatement program?
If people were not accepted, what were the reasons?
- c. What income documentation must people provide in their tax abatement application?
- d. What was the total amount of taxes reduced for those years?
- e. Have any residents been in the tax abatement program and then become ineligible in a given year because they were over the income limit? If so, how many were in this situation?
- f. Is there any documentation on people who are in the tax abatement program and the current assessed value of their homes in general categories, such as homes at or below the median assessed value and homes above that figure? Or is there more specific information such as:

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BOOKFIELD, CT
10:11 AM. OCT 6 2017
Mary Ellen Romero
TOWN CLERK

Home assessed below \$100,000 _____ in program
Home assessed between \$100,000 and \$250,000 _____ in program
Home assessed between \$250,001 and \$400,000 _____ in program
and so on up to homes assessed for \$900,000 plus? _____ in program

g. How do we determine the amount of money available in a given year in the tax abatement program? If the number of applicants exceeds the amount of money available, what happens?

TAX DEFERRAL PROGRAM 2014 TO PRESENT

- a. How many participated in the tax deferral program over the past three years?
- b. What was the total amount of taxes deferred during each of those three years?

GENERAL STATISTICS 2014 TO PRESENT

- a. How many individual residences were in Brookfield in each year 2014 to present?
- b. What was the median assessed value for individual residences in each year?
- c. During the years 2014 to the present, how many residents in Brookfield were in the following general age categories, or in any age categories available:
 - under 21;
 - 21 to 64;
 - above 65?

6. Assignments: Mrs. McIlvaine asked Mrs. Barczak to investigate New Jersey's plan concerning tax relief credit by shopping locally, and she asked Mr. Ferry to research any other tax relief programs we might investigate.

Our next meeting is October 12, 2017 at 2:00 pm. We will discuss the current tax relief programs with the tax assessor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.
Minutes provided by Alice Carolan