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

**Minutes of Meeting of February 16, 2018
2:00 pm, Room 135, Town Hall**

Present: Chair Betsy McIlvaine, Alice Carolan, Loretta Donovan, Jeff Kass (on phone). Absent: Jen Barczak, Mark Ferry, Maura Mangan, Dan Walker.

Mrs. McIlvaine called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

1. Public Comment: none.
2. No minutes to approve. Meetings not called to order for January 9, 2018 (only Mrs. McIlvaine and Dr. Carolan in attendance) or February 2, 2018 (only Mrs. McIlvaine, Dr. Carolan and Mrs. Donovan in attendance) for lack of quorums.
3. We discussed various assumptions and considerations:
Assumptions:
 - a. The senior population is growing and more people may be eligible for tax abatement.
 - b. The town's grand list is growing.
 - c. The State may eliminate its current subsidy to senior taxes.Considerations:
 - a. If more people apply for abatement and funds remain constant, participants may receive less money than currently. By ordinance, we receive 1% of Grand List real estate billed for tax collection. Betsy talked with Mr. Dunn, and he anticipates Grand List to increase approximately 1.5 - 2%, excluding increase from new Town Center.
 - b. We are considering effect of offsetting income by cost of medical expenses, as Newtown does, but will need far more discussion on this.
 - c. We are considering ways to allow current participants to remain in program if they incur a slight one-time increase in income, by having a sliding scale that reduces abatement for them in that one year.
 - d. Hartford may eliminate funding subsidy to senior tax relief and we discussed ways for Brookfield to "absorb" that cost, while staying within the funds allotted by the Town.
4. Public Input: None.
5. Next Meeting: We would like to hold in late March in afternoon at Senior Center to hear concerns and recommendations from seniors and other members of public. Mrs. McIlvaine will coordinate availability with Senior Center and let us know of next meeting date and time.

Meeting adjourned at 2:32pm.
Minutes provided by Alice Carolan