

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

Minutes of Meeting of July 12, 2018 at 7:00 pm, Town Hall

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

Mrs. McIlvaine called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

1. Exceed maximum income in one year: When we first met, First Selectman Steve Dunn asked us to consider some provision if a qualifying senior's income went over the maximum limit in one year. Under our current ordinance, if a senior's income exceeded the maximum, even by a small amount, that senior would be disqualified from receiving any tax benefit in that year.

Mr. Kass prepared scenarios for us to consider and we believed a fair resolution would be to allow a "one time only" exceeding of the maximum income by no more than 3% in one year. We recommended that that couple or single person still receive a tax break but reduced by 25% in that year only. Currently, the 25% reduction would be approximately from a benefit of \$2,154 to \$1,600.

We decided to recommend percentages rather than fixed amounts to make it easier for calculations in future years.

We clarified that the "one time only benefit" would also apply to a married couple whose income exceeded the maximum and received the tax break. In the future, where one spouse passed away, the surviving spouse would not be eligible to apply again as a single person, as that person had already received the benefit as a married resident.

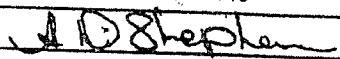
2. We continued our discussion of "freezing taxes" for qualifying residents 75 years and older. Mr. Kass determined that approximately 154 current residents in the program are 75 years and older. If we "froze" their taxes so that what they paid by law each year from age 75 on did not increase, the financial implication to the town would be a loss in revenue of less than \$25,000 per year.

3. Report to Board of Selectmen: Mrs. McIlvaine will prepare a report to be given to the Selectmen, hopefully at the August meeting, and she will convey the consensus of the committee to recommend two changes to the ordinance: (a) a "one time only" provision to exceed the maximum income in one year by 3% or less but still remain in the program and receive a tax relief reduced by 25%, and (b) a "freezing" of taxes paid by qualifying residents 75 years and above.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Minutes provided by Alice Carolan

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JUL 13 2018


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