

**RTM SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 02, 2010**

A meeting of the RTM Senior Tax Relief Committee was held on Wednesday, June 2nd, 2010 at 7:30p.m. in the 1st Fl. Conf. Rm. at Sullivan Independence Hall, Fairfield, Connecticut.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Becker, Chris Brogan, Hank Ference, Alexis Harrison, Kevin Hofkins

MEMBERS ABSENT

None.

ALSO PRESENT

Thomas Browne

ACTION TAKEN

- 1) Approved April meeting minutes.

REQUESTED ITEMS

None.

AGENDA

Chairman Ference called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

The April meeting minutes were voted on and approved 5-0-0.

Tax Assessor Thomas Browne spoke before the committee during most of the meeting. Mr. Browne initially gave a report to the committee in advance of the June report to be given to the full RTM. The report showed the current usage status of the senior tax relief in town. He was then available for questions and a discussion regarding the program and possible changes.

Below is a summary of the main points and information discussed by committee members and Mr. Browne:

- Members felt that there should be a focus on Tom Browne's suggestions for wording changes surrounding the \$500,000 limitation relating to the removal of some State language.
 - This may affect approximately a half dozen people currently on the program.
 - This is for non-primary residences. Liens and Mortgages are not counted against those assets either.
- There was discussion about how to change the timing of the application eligibility for those just turning 65.
 - The item is unlikely to be feasible but members will look into it further with the Tax Assessor.
- Members discussed the deferment option and the possible reasons for it not being largely used.
 - Mr. Browne mentioned that seniors have said they do not like having a lien added to their property.
 - The idea of removing this as an option was briefly discussed with no significant support.
- Mr. Browne reviewed a change he would like to see regarding nursing home income qualifications.
 - The concept is to not use direct to nursing home funds as qualifying income for the spouse still at home.
- Several questions were asked about the program in addition to what has been heard so far.
 - A taxpayer must pay at least 25% of their original amount due. No person is paying \$0 in tax on program.
 - If a taxpayer becomes delinquent, they can be removed from the program but it is not a requirement.

There was discussion about putting a sign up at the Senior Center for the Saturday meeting and making reminder calls/emails to get the word out for the upcoming meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

David M. Becker

David M. Becker
Secretary, RTM Senior Tax Relief Committee