

**RTM SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 15, 2010**

A meeting of the RTM Senior Tax Relief Committee was held on Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7:30p.m. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Fl. Conf. Rm. at Sullivan Independence Hall, Fairfield, Connecticut.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Becker, Chris Brogan, Hank Ference

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Alexis Harrison, Kevin Hofkins

**ALSO PRESENT**

None.

**ACTION TAKEN**

- 1) Approved May meeting minutes.

**REQUESTED ITEMS**

- 1) Final recommended wording for changes from Assistant Town Attorney Kennelly.
- 2) Veteran tax relief program details for Federal, State, and Town.

**AGENDA**

Chairman Ference called the meeting to order at 7:45pm.

The May meeting minutes were voted on and approved 3-0-0.

Below is a summary of the main points and information discussed by committee members. The focus of this meeting was to go through items previously discussed to prepare for the next meeting where the committee will vote. There was also discussion about the timeline at the full RTM level to get these ordinances passed. Presentations will need to be made to the committees and by certain meeting dates in order to get this approved for next year. Vice Chairman brogan prepared a list of items that had previously been discussed. Below is an outline of the review that then took place at the meeting.

- New qualification dates for those just turning age 65. There is a gap from year end to the filing date. The members agreed that if it was a simple change for the Tax Assessor it was worth adding. However, if not simple to implement, it should be left out. Rep. Becker said he would talk to Tom Browne in advance of the next meeting.
- If adding in the new levels as last suggested by the Tax Assessor, the total impact to the budget would be approximately \$123,100. These calculations were done by Rep Brogan based on the latest sheet received.
- Members felt that the income levels should likely remain in place without changes at this time.
- Members felt that the qualifying asset level should likely remain in place without change at this time.
- There was discussion about the possibility of limiting the value of a house that would be accepted on the program.
  - Members generally wanted to leave the current process in place.
  - There was also concern about what a fair number would be if this was added.
- Members brought up the option of counting the income of others living in the home but nobody supported this.
  - There was concern of caregivers moving in to help and then finding a penalty.
- Saturday meeting suggestions received were discussed but didn't seem feasible at this time.
  - Longevity credits for long time residents was one option.
- Veteran programs were discussed. The committee would like to know more about what the town offers.
  - Senior veterans and young veterans are of concern. Possibly offer something with no income guideline.

It was discussed that the next meeting would be a voting meeting. The changes would then go to the RTM. Date set for Wednesday, August 4, 2010 with invites to Tax Assessor Browne and Assistant Town Attorney Kennelly.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*David M. Becker*

David M. Becker  
Secretary, RTM Senior Tax Relief Committee