

**Senior Tax Relief Committee Meeting
Minutes for March 5, 2012**

Present: Bill Domeika, Sheila Marmion, Tom McCarthy, Eric Newman, Marc Patten,
Carolyn Richmond, and Carol Way

I. Call to Order:

Tom McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. He proceeded to lead the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Organizing for Doing Business

There was brief discussion about organizing the work of the committee. It was unanimously agreed that officers for the committee would be:

Chairman – Tom McCarthy

Vice Chairman – Marc Patten

Secretary – Carol Way

III. Meeting Dates and Calendar for Completion

The committee members agreed that their work would be completed in time for a presentation to be given at the October 2012 RTM meeting. The committee would discuss possible meeting dates from March through June, and dates chosen would include some meetings publicized for maximum attendance by members of the public and at a time that would be convenient and popular for seniors. When the meeting calendar is established it will be made available for posting on the Town of Fairfield website and available through the Office of the Town Clerk.

IV. Discussion of Possible Mission Statement and Approaches to Understanding the Broad Issue of Senior Tax Relief

Motion: To establish the following as the Mission Statement for the Committee:

“To evaluate the current Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowners’ Program, determine the extent to which the program is meeting the needs of the community and providing meaningful assistance to seniors and disabled homeowners, and ultimately to make a formal presentation with recommendations for any needed changes to the existing Ordinance.”

Passed unanimously.

Carolyn Richmond suggested reviewing census figures for Fairfield and to also review programs from other states, particularly those that freeze taxes. Sheila Marmien offered to check on the Connecticut statistics and senior relief programs, as well as, those of neighboring states. Tom McCarthy will pursue information from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Bill Domeika spoke of the need to educate the public and offered to help with public meetings and other work on statistics.

V. Opportunity for Public Input

Two Fairfield residents, Palma Senatore of Pilgrim Lane and Richard Ross of Federal Street, were allowed to address Committee members. Palma spoke of the sad situation in connection with the Senior Center and other senior services within the town. She talked of a part-time senior center administrator, cutbacks in the lunch program and many other situations. “Their slice of the pie is so small,” she stated.

Richard Ross stated that he was very pleased to have a \$1,000 reduction in his taxes annually and wanted such programs to continue.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Way, Secretary