

**RTM SENIOR & DISABLED TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
Sullivan Independence Hall  
Tuesday, July 9, 2019

1. Call to Order by Chairman Jill Vergara at 7:35pm  
Roll call by Chairman Jill Vergara  
Jill Vergara, Mark McDermott, and Cindy Perham were present.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Minutes from April 2, 2019 approval – motion made by J. Vergara and seconded by M. McDermott, unanimously passed.
4. Discussion commenced on the update to making changes to the Senior Tax Relief Programs. J. Vergara said she was disappointed that when the BOF committee on Senior Tax Relief met in June, there was not time for public comment. The report made by Ross Murray, Tax Assessor indicated that the amount of Seniors who applied for relief was down year over year, with 1311 participants. The peak was 2011 when 1656 participated in the relief.

When asked, Ross stated that he had 57 that didn't qualify this year because of income requirements and of those, 9 had income of under 90K. He added that the average benefit per person did go up, even though participation was down.

5. The next topic was the Timing and Status of Ordinance revisions. Alex Durrell, of 64 Woodcrest Road added from the public that the town attorney didn't make a recommendation regarding the revisions our committee supplied to BOF. Bill Lenahen, 72 Alma Drive said that members of our committee should ask the BOF for what their next steps will be. Urb Liemkuhler, 83 Spruce Street, indicated the meeting dates the BOF will be meeting to discuss Senior Tax relief. He asked if J. Vergara would add docs to the Senior Tax Relief site for the BOF July meeting. Daun Lyon, 282 N. Pine Creek Road stated that she would like to see the minutes of the BOF meeting regarding Senior Tax Relief, and she was directed to the website, however, there doesn't appear to be any minutes up online at this point.
6. Discussion ensued on administering the senior tax relief program regarding the medical expenses that come up and what percentage of the medical expenses in regards to the resident's AGI.

7. When other revisions were discussed, there was a reference made regarding the Town of Westport giving 5 years to repay deferred taxes. With deferrals there is a written lien issue that needs to be addressed here in Fairfield with the tax collector, Dave K. Helen D'avanzo, of Jennings Road wanted to get more information regarding medical deductions used from Tax returns filed. Deborah Coleman, 26 Cranston Street feels the medical deduction language needs to be cleaned up.
8. Final public comment was from Bernie Lynch, Meadowbrook Place, and he too, would like the ordinance made easy to understand; including the deferral, credit and all of the explanations.
9. Motion to adjourn came at 9:38 pm by C. Perham. M. McDermott seconded. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Perham, Secretary