

RTM Senior and Disabled Tax Relief Committee

February 23, 2022

Organizational Meeting was brought to order at 5:42 pm., 2/23/2022 in the 1st floor Conference Rm. Of Sullivan Independence Hall, Town of Fairfield.

In attendance: Representative Jill Vergara (District 7); Representative Mark McDermott (District 7 and RTM Moderator); Representative Cindy Perham (District 2 and RTM Deputy Democratic Caucus Leader); Representative Hannah Gale (District 6).

Orders of Business

1) A motion was made to nominate Rep. Vergara for Committee Chair by Rep. Perham Motion was seconded by Rep. Gale. No further nominations were forthcoming. A vote was held and Rep. Vergara was elected Chair of the Committee by unanimous consent.

2) A motion was made to nominate Rep. Perham as Vice Chair of the Committee by Rep. McDermott, which was seconded by Rep. Gale. No further nominations were forthcoming.

A vote was held and Rep. Perham was elected Vice Chair by unanimous consent.

3) A motion was made to nominate Rep. Gale as Secretary of the Committee by Rep. Perham, which was seconded by Rep. McDermott. No further nominations were forthcoming.

A vote was held and Rep. Gale was elected Secretary of the Committee by unanimous consent.

4) The Committee Calendar was discussed and the suggestion by the Chair that meetings be held

On the 4th Wednesday of the month @ 6:30, beginning in March 2022. It was agreed upon by all present members unanimously to adopt this as the Committee Calendar.

Discussions:

1) Rep. McDermott reported that he had spoken with the RTM Republican Caucus Leader and she reported that she is asking for volunteers to fill the 5th seat on the Committee moving forward.

2) It was discussed who else in the town government or other concerned parties might be asked to attend meetings

Rep. Vergara stated that she will contact Ross Murray, Fairfield Tax Assessor, whenever the Committee plans to discuss anything that may impact assessment and requires his expertise. It was decided to advise Mr. Murray in advance of the Committee schedule.

Rep. Perham began a discussion on other possible stakeholders that might be asked to attend meetings.

Rep. Vergara recommended considering and informing the following groups of the Committee Calendar and request their attendance if, and when, there are issues directly pertaining to their purviews: Fairfield Senior Advocate; the Fairfield CFO (when appropriate); Human Services Commission ; and the Disability Commission.

3) Rep. McDermott asked when the Committee will receive the program report for the RTM from Mr. Murray and Reps. Vergara and Perham answered that it would not be until the summer, as applications are open right now for this program.

4) Communications was discussed:

Possible social media communication ideas were discussed including an Instagram account to post meetings and discussions for the public.

Rep. Vergara suggested contacting the Chief of Staff, Ms. Bertolone, to see if we need approval for this.

Rep. Gale suggested linking with other town media through Ms. Bertolone.

Meetings will be posted on website.

Rep. Vergara suggested asking The First Selectwoman to post meetings as part of the Weekly Update.

Rep. Perham said there is a group that does taxes for people under a certain income in the Fairfield Library, and she suggested sharing the link with the library.

Rep. McDermott suggested posting in Bigelow Center updates.

5) Rep. Vergara asked for any items to be included for agenda by March 21st for next meeting to be sent to her with a few days leeway.

Rep. Vergara adjourned meeting @5:57 PM.

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41vkBiqaiOA>