

*****MEETING MINUTES*****

BOARD OF FINANCE SENIOR and DISABLED TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE (hereinafter "BOF S&DTRC")

June 11, 2019

The Public Meeting of the BOF S&DTRC was held in Lower Level conference room in Independence. Hall,
725 Old Post Road, Wednesday, June 11, 2019, at 7:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Christopher DeWitt, Chairman, Sheila Marmion, Vice Chairman and James F. Walsh.

Meeting started at 7:40 pm.

1. Call to Order – Christopher DeWitt called the meeting to Order at 7:40 pm.
2. Review and conversation on Committee tasks and authority with the Town Attorney.

Town Attorney Stanton Lesser appeared and discussion ensued. Attorney Lesser states that the role of the Board of Finance in the Senior and Disabled Tax Relief ordinance is to make a recommendation to the RTM, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 12-129n. If the Board of Finance does not give a recommendation, the RTM cannot proceed with revising the Senior and Disabled Tax Relief ordinance. Attorney Lesser provided committee member James F. Walsh with a copy of CGS 12-129n. Attorney Lesser left at 7:52 pm.

3. Review and conversation of any S&DTR Tax related questions with the Town Tax Assessor.
Town Assessor Ross Murray appeared and discussion ensued. He spoke about the QTAV. He stated that since taxpayers applying for the program have had to complete an affidavit stating that their representation of assets was first instituted in the last year, he is of the opinion that the QTAV is working and should continue. He also stated that he believes that whatever tax revenue the Town is willing to forego in support of this program is best spent on the lower end of the income brackets, because it is probably having more of an impact on keeping those senior and disabled taxpayers in Fairfield. He does not believe that the upper income brackets are staying in Fairfield because of the S&DTR program. Members of the Public were allowed to give Public Comment pursuant to the Chairman. The following Members of the Public spoke:
Bud Morten: he stated that this Committee should have 2 objectives: 1. How to make the S&DTR program (the "Engine") work better; and, 2. Design a new S&DTR program (the "Engine").
John Wynne: though this Committee should work with the RTM S&DTR Committee in order to develop consensus.
Debra Coleman: stated that she was disabled and thought too much emphasis was being put on the senior part of the program changes and not enough changes to benefit the disabled taxpayer. She was affected by the changes in the recent interpretation of definition of medical expenses. She wanted the Committee to look 30% of medical expenses definition and hopefully lower it to be in line with IRS 7.5% definition.
4. Review of documentation provided since last meeting.
Discussion ensued.

5. Further discussion of committee charter.

Discussion ensued. Chairman DeWitt discussed the process we were working under in general terms. Vice Chairman Marmion discussed her desire to have a working document of different ideas and changes we were coming up with.

6. To Hear, Consider and Approve Minutes of: May 29, 2019

Secretary Walsh distributed draft minutes for the May 29, 2019 meeting. The Committee decided to discuss this at a future meeting because of the lateness of the hour.

7. To Hear, Consider and Act Upon Any Communications.

There were no Communications to consider.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman DeWitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Marmion seconded the motion which carried unanimously, 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:52 pm.