

TOWN OF GREENWICH
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
BUDGET COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES

Hayton Meeting Room
Monday, November 17, 2008

Committee:

Present: Michael S. Mason, Chairman; Laurence B. Simon, Robert S. Stone
Absent: Edward T. Krumeich, Jr.

Board: Art Norton, Nancy Barton, Leslie Tarkington,
First Selectman: Peter Tesei

Staff: Peter Mynarski, Roland Gieger, Ted Gwartney, Eugene
McLaughlin

Attendees: Sam Diebler, Catherine Brennan

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 P.M.

Review language changes from the Law dept. on the Senior Tax Credit

Mr. Mason opened up the meeting by informing those in attendance that the Committee was in receipt of the changes to the Senior Tax Credit ordinance by the Law Department and a reworked handout was distributed.

Mr. McLaughlin went through the changes to the legislation known as “Sec. 12-6-1, Property tax relief for senior and citizens with disabilities (the elderly)”, for the Committee as follows:

- Section 1, subsection (4) changes as noted on the handout. This change dealt with eligibility for benefits for those currently receiving Social Security benefits.
- Section 4, changes as noted on the handout. These changes dealt with the setting of parameters that limit the amount of the abatement.
- Section 11, subsection (c) changes as noted on the handout. This change dealt with the Consumer Price Index known as “CPI-U NY-NJ-CT-PA” and the rounding down to the nearest \$500 for “Qualifying Total Annual Income”.

There was a discussion about Mr. Simon’s proposed change to Section 1, subsection (4) regarding eligibility for disability benefits under Social Security. The discussion centered on who would be included as disabled for eligibility purposes. Mr. Simon’s change, as proposed, was to limit the language to the following; “(4) who is under age sixty-five and receiving permanent total disability benefits under Social Security”.

Mr. Tesei offered comments about the current financial conditions in the economy and that this legislation adds at least \$430,000 more relief to the seniors. Mr. Tesei also reminded all in attendance that his ad hoc committee will remain as a standing committee to address any issues that may arise in implementing this ordinance. In addition, he stated that the committee will revisit the tax deferral program in the future, which has been deferred due to current financial conditions that are placing budgetary constraints on the Town of Greenwich.

In a response from Mr. Mason, Mr. Stone answered that he thought the language in section 1, subsection (4) should reflect the more expansive current existing language used by the State of Connecticut, referencing Catherine Brennan's statement that virtually all other communities offering such tax relief programs allow participation by the disabled in that manner. There was an extended discussion on trying to quantify the number of disabled citizens that would qualify for the credits granted under the proposed legislation.

Mr. Mason said that he would like to send the reworked legislation to the BET for a first reading.

The Committee unanimously agreed to the following changes:

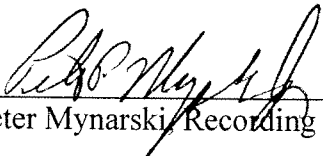
- 1) Omit from section 1, the entire subsection (4) language;
- 2) Change the language in section 4 to make the 0.5% of the property tax levy be based upon the actual amount for the current year rather than an estimate of the previous year; and
- 3) Change the Consumer Price Index designation in section 11, subsection (c) from "CPI-U" to "CPI-W".

Review any other proposed changes to the Senior Tax Credit

There were no further changes to the Senior Tax Credit other than those detailed in the above minutes.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Peter Mynarski, Recording Secretary


Michael S. Mason, Chairman