

**Ridgefield Senior Tax Committee
July 17, 2025 4:00 pm**

Town Hall – Large Conference Room

Minutes

Location: Town Hall Building Ridgefield CT—Large Conference Room

Members Present:

- Leonard Comberiate - Secretary
- Joseph Adams, Jr
- Gary Roman - Chair
- Linda Massie – Vice Chair
- Carl Forcheski
- James Bertoluzzi
- Andrew Okrongly

The twelfth Senior Tax Committee (STC) meeting was called to order by Chair Gary Roman and commenced at 4:05 pm. Linda Massie made a motion to accept the Minutes from June 26, 2025, meeting, and the motion was seconded by Joseph Adams. The Minutes were ratified with no changes.

Public Comment Period:

No public attendees were present.

Review of Discussion with First Selectman and Present Comments for Discussions and Modification to Draft Presentation for the Implementation of Changes to the Existing Senior Tax Credit Program and Tax Deferral Program for Seniors

Chairman Roman and Andrew Okrongly met with First Selectman Rudy Marconi on Tuesday July 1, 2025, to present and discuss the draft presentation that was the culmination of the work and analysis of the STC consistent with the charge of the STC.

In general, the First Selectman responded favorably to the presentation, while also noting the budgetary considerations associated with the \$1 million revenue impact of the proposed changes to the existing program. It was further noted that

the cost of the proposed senior tax credit programs would be in addition to other possible capital projects in the same time frame and which would require increases to the overall debt service to the Town of Ridgefield. The First Selectperson questioned the estimated number of residents (275) that would qualify for the recommended supplemental means tested program based on an AGI of \$65k. Selectperson Marconi suggested a joint meeting with the BoS and BoF to review the increases to the costs of the proposals by the Senior Tax Committee.

Chairman Roman noted that the \$65k threshold included in the eligibility for the program is close to the 60% of the CT median income level for a two-person family that is used as a benchmark for several CT programs targeted to needs assisted programs.

Furthermore the increase in the existing Town property tax deferral program of \$65k level to \$85k would benefit several Ridgefield residents and be consistent with the charge of the STC committee.

Presentation of Modifications to facilitate Discussions with the Board of Selectpersons (BoS) and the Board of Finance (BoF)

Chairman Gary Roman presented the revised presentation to the STC which included several edits, comments and suggested changes that were made by all the members of the STC since the last meeting. A robust discussion followed, and several additional edits and changes were made to the twenty-seven-page presentation including rearranging the slide order and simplifying some of the text to a bullet point format. In addition, some of the material was moved to the Appendix section of the presentation to have the reviewers focus on the four key recommendations prepared by STC.

Chairman Roman agreed to make the suggested changes and send a revised presentation out to the STC members prior to the next meeting.

Confirm Schedules of Presentations Dates to Board of Select Persons and Board of Finance

As of the date of the meeting, the presentation dates are August 13, 2025, for the Board of Selectpersons and September 16, 2025, for the Board of Finance.

Additional Topics:

No other open topics were introduced by the Committee members in attendance.

Next Meeting:

The next committee meeting will be held as follows:

- July 31, 2025, at 5 pm at the Town Hall Large Conference Room.

There being no other business for the Committee, a motion was made and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting of the tax committee at 5:12 pm.

Submitted.

Leonard Comberiate

Secretary

