

**Ridgefield Senior Tax Committee
April 10, 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 sixth Senior Tax Committee (STC) meeting was called to order by Chair, Gary Roman, and commenced at 4:03 pm. Mr. Roman made a motion to accept the Minutes from March 20, 2025, and the motion was seconded by Linda Massie. The Minutes were ratified with no changes.

Public Comment Period:

No public comments were submitted to the Committee.

Senior Survey for April 26, 2025, EXPO:

Jim Bertoluzzi reviewed a draft of the survey following up on the initial survey drafted by Kenn Devane of Mine Tech at the last meeting. The draft survey was discussed by the committee members and several comments and suggested changes were implemented. It was agreed that point of contact for seniors at the Senior Expo seeking additional information will to be directed to the Ridgefield Tax Assessor. It was confirmed that the purpose of the survey to be distributed at the Senior Expo was to raise awareness of the large number of programs included in the Ridgefield's Tax Assessor's one page summary of credits and programs available to Ridgefield taxpayers. It was agreed that Jim Bertoluzzi would make the suggested

edits to the survey and distribute to the STC members to review prior to the next meeting.

Materials and Attendance for the April 26, 2025, Senior EXPO:

Gary Roman distributed to the committee members a draft of materials that were to be displayed at the STC table during April 26, 2025, Senior Expo. The materials prepared generated a robust discussion among the committee members and along with several suggested edits. The objective of the communication was to foster a sense of awareness among the senior citizens as to the number of programs available by the town of Ridgefield and state of Connecticut. Chairman Roman agreed to modify the communication materials and provide edited versions to the committee members to ensure a timely delivery for the April 26, 2025, Senior Expo. It was discussed that any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the committee members were to be reimbursed by the town after submission of paid invoices. It was further discussed that several of the STC members would be available at the STC table between the hours of noon to 4 pm

Town Senior Tax Surveys:

The Committee received an updated summary of the senior tax programs within the town of New Canaan prepared by Carl Forcheski and noted that the town did not offer a “property tax freeze” and that the program was last updated six years ago. Joe Adam’s Jr, was tasked with updating tax information for the town of Redding CT. It was anticipated that all of the information for the surrounding towns would be completed and discussed by the next STC meeting. Andrew Okrongly agreed to update the missing tax relief data from Wilton and Bethel.

Legal Counsel:

The next item discussed was a summary of the external counsel’s verbal response to Chairman Roman to the letter sent by the committee to provide legal expertise pertaining to the various senior programs within the committee’s charge. Chairman Roman noted that the recently passed CT Disabled Veteran’s Tax Credit was still

unclear and the any queries for information under that program was to be forwarded to the Town Assessor's office, It was confirmed that an income limit was not mandated by the CT for the current \$1,048 senior tax credit, which is considered a local option, The attorneys indicated that the senior tax deferral income limit of \$65,000 was not subject to and statutory constraints. Offering a senior tax credit for the CT automobile tax was not addressed by the CT statute and it may be possible for the committee to consider later. It was also noted that other programs mentioned in the letter were considered "out of scope" and should not be pursued by the committee. Mr. Roman indicated that the legal options were preliminary and the attorneys would confirm their findings in writing to the Town and the Senior Tax Committee, likely in two to three weeks.

Additional Topics:

It was discussed by Jim Bertoluzzi and Carl Forcheski that a draft summary of proposed recommendations be prepared to provide some insight as to the committee's thinking based on the STC discussions to date. Carl Forcheski was tasked with preparing the draft summary and distributing the summary to the other STC members prior to next STC meeting on April 24, 2025.

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

Next Meetings

The next committee meetings will be held as follows:

- April 24, 2025, at 4 pm
- May 8, 2025, at 3 pm
- May 29, 2025, at 4 pm
- June 12, 2025, at 4 pm

There being no other business for the Committee, a motion was made and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting of the tax committee at 5:50 pm.

Submitted.

Leonard Comberiate

Secretary