

**Ridgefield Senior Tax Committee
April 24, 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 seventh 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 April 10, 2025, and the motion was seconded by Linda Massie. The Minutes were ratified with no changes.

Public Comment Period:

Gina Ryan, a resident of Ridgefield, addressed the STC to explain that her property taxes over the past 4 or 5 years have increased over \$2,000, She was concerned about the annual increases and asked if the STC was looking into the issue of increasing property taxes and asked if any recommendation and tax relief would be effective for the July 1, 2025 or July 1, 2026 fiscal year. Gary Roman confirmed that any recommendations, if approved, would be effective for July 1, 2026, fiscal year. The STC thanked Ms. Ryan for attending the STC meeting.

STC Materials for April 26, 2025, EXPO:

The STC reviewed and discussed several materials that were prepared by committee members for the April 26, 2026, Senior EXPO. The materials included a summary of the charge of the STC, banners, charts, surveys and laminated fact sheets. The STC

edited some of the prepared communication materials and it was agreed to have the survey materials copied in sufficient copies to be distributed at the EXPO.

Attendance by the STC Committee members for April 26, 2025, Senior EXPO:

It was agreed that several of the STC committee members would be available at the STC table to answer questions to increase the awareness of the senior citizens of Ridgefield between noon and 4 pm.

Town Senior Tax Surveys:

The Committee next reviewed updated summary information of the senior tax programs within the town of Redding and Wilton. It was noted that Redding CT did not have a tax deferral program but did provide a senior tax credit based on the median value of homes in the town. It was the objective of the STC to complete the information for all seven surrounding towns by the next STC meeting scheduled for May 8, 2025.

Status of response of Legal Counsel and Board of Selectmen:

Chairman Roman confirmed that no updated information was received by the external legal counsel at this time. No further action was taken with respect to the Board of Selectmen at this time.

Review of Responses of STC committee members as to proposed changes and additions to existing Ridgefield Senior Tax Programs

Carl Forcheski prepared a detailed summary of the proposals from all STC committee members and discussed in detail the essence of each submitted proposal. The proposals included:

- Updated property tax credit to reflect the CPI adjustments since the \$1,048 was last increased in 2008 and indexing the amount on an annual basis thereafter.

- Increase the income limit for the Ridgefield tax deferral program from the current \$65,000 to a higher income limit.
- Propose a new income based Senior tax Relief program to address the number of senior citizens living below the poverty level.
- Adopt a freeze on property tax increase for seniors with an AGI of \$65,000 or less.
- Additional senior tax credit based on longevity of residency in the town of Ridgefield.

Further, the STC noted that several of the proposals would need to be discussed with the assessor's office to determine the amount of effort and expense to administer the proposed senior tax credit. Further the estimated impact of any innovative programs aiding senior citizens would need to be costed by the town of Ridgefield finance committee. Further discussion will be undertaken by the STC at their next meeting.

Review of the CT automobile tax as modified to Ridgefield renters

A robust discussion took place about tax relief for senior citizens who rent and are therefore not eligible to participate in the current tax credit for Ridgefield property homeowners. It was noted that the state of CT offers a state renters program for seniors aged 65 or older with income limits of up to \$45,200 for single taxpayers and \$53,100 for married taxpayers, All residents of CT are required to pay tax on the value of their automobile based on CT statutes and regulations. Several proposals were discussed among the STC committee members. Carl Forcheski will meet with the assessor to discuss the logistics of the various proposals that would modify the Senior tax credits for homeowners and renters. The STC provided a list of questions to be discussed with the assessor Garzi. Additional discussion will take place during the next STC meeting

Additional Topics:

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

Next Meetings

The next committee meetings will be held as follows:

- 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 5:30 pm.

Submitted.

Leonard Comberiate

Secretary