

Tax Relief Committee  
Weekly Meeting  
New Town Hall Conference Room  
February 13, 2023  
Minutes

RECEIVED  
2023 FEB 23 P 12: 32  
TOWN OF NORTH STONINGTON

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm

**Attendance:** Louis Gingerella, Betty Russ, Connie Berardi, John Olsen, Brian Rathbun, Anne Nelson

Bob Carlson, First Selectmen was present for a portion of the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** Connie made a motion to accept minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John. Approval was unanimous.

February 20 is a holiday and meeting day and time was re-scheduled for Friday, February 24 at 4:00 pm

Public Comment: None.

**Reports**

John spoke about the amount of lots in NS from 2018 and updated the numbers. 3,444 taxable lots = \$6,283 pe lot per year or \$524.00/month.

Grand List with current mill rate suggests that taxpayers pay between \$4,000-7,000 in taxes in 2018. Who is negatively impacted?

There are currently 61 people in North Stonington on the circuit breaker program.

3,444 taxable lots with 127 commercial properties, 2, 582 residential and 281 vacant.

John also spoke to Teresa Pensis at the Senior Center who said that at least 30 people fit into this category. She also stated that local people have already volunteered to help people in need pay their taxes so they can stay in their homes.

Teresa stated that many of the Seniors have privacy concerns in applying.

John will see what is the spread for negative/positive parcel fee for services in residential and commercial in regards to fee for services.

Brian spoke of the CHFA (Partnership for Strong Communities) 2020-2040.

Projection is that NS will lose people from 5,205 to 4,249 with 956 less residents.

He also talked about the freeze of taxes that continues for the spouse at age 62.

Lou said this is where the call for economic development is needed.

Lou talked about presentation in regards to:

1. Review of Recommendations (draft) Age base at 65.
2. No age for disability
3. Under proposed state and town, how much would state give? How much would the town give?
4. Outlined income guidelines in spreadsheet that were increased in town proposal.
5. Breakdown of how we want to give money
6. Criteria besides income
  - A. Residence (primary/life-use)
  - B. Income (total household income)
  - C. Tax exempt income in calculating total household income.

A motion made by Brian to require a 5-year residency, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John. Vote, 4 opposed, 2 for. Betty suggested using state residency requirement of 1 year. The state program is the minimal, Darryl will calculate. No impact on what we give but to expand the number of people we give money to.

The census data illustrates that 36% of households in NS under \$50,000, 6.3% are below the poverty level, 10% who are children and 0% of Senior Citizens are under the poverty level.

Medium income for NS is \$85,266. USE 75% of the medium income to determine the baseline for edibility in local program.

In regards to the Fire Department proposal presented to us we agree to endorse this program unanimously.

Motion was made to adjourn by Connie, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Betty. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm. Next meeting to be held on Friday, February 24 at 4:00 pm at New Town Hall Conference Room.

Submitted by: Anne Nelson, Secretary