

Tax Relief Committee
Weekly Meeting
New Town Hall Conference Room
February 24, 2023
Minutes

2023 MAR -2 A 10: 53

Meeting called to order 4:03 PM.

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion made to accept minutes by Connie; seconded by Betty. Vote: 5-yea; 0-nay

Agenda for February 27, 2023 meeting and Draft 2 of the committee's proposed report were passed out by Louis.

Reports: John presented data on assessments and lots to be used in his report on fee-based services.

Louis reported on newly acquired information from town officials that impacts the work of the committee; namely, that the circuit breaker program is an unfunded mandate by the State. North Stonington has not received reimbursement from the State since 2016. Both mandated and optional programs are fully funded by the town. He reported that the assessor was not aware of the lack of State reimbursement. This was, however, was verified by the town financial officer. For 2022, the uncollected amount for mandated and optional property assessments was \$27,600.

Question posed by Chair: Since we now know that existing tax relief is solely the responsibility of the town, can we reasonably request even more a burden on the town by offering more optional relief?

Specifically, we were considering a proposal that gave relief to households with income substantially less than the town's median income; the cost of this relief would equal ½ of 1% of the town's budget (excluding education) or \$73,250.

A motion was made by Connie to have Louis meet with First Selectman and Finance Board liaison Sarah Nelson to apprise them of the lack of State reimbursement and seek guidance as to how committee should proceed in light of this development. Motion seconded by Betty. Vote: 5- yea; 0 nay.

Motion made to adjourn by Connie; seconded by Louis. Vote: 5- yea; 0-nay. Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Betty Ann Russ