

SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE
August 17, 2021

Attending: Steve Colella, Linwood Bradford, Joan Bradford, Markey Burke, Pauline DiCesare, Anne Gilbert, Joel Rosenhaus, and Julie Secord (COA Director).

The meeting was called to order by Markey Burke at 10:00 AM. The new member of the committee, Joel Rosenhaus, was introduced and told us of his background and his interest in our committee.

The minutes of the June 15, 2021 meeting of the committee were approved as written. We also reviewed, discussed, and approved the draft Annual Report for FY 2021 that had been included in the meeting packet.

Julie told us that the Tax Work-Off program is back in operation after the hiatus of the program during Covid. It has been completely restructured this year. There are now 25 people assigned to projects. More applicants will be placed as positions become available in the town departments. Per state guidelines, participant earnings are calculated using the state minimum wage and are applied to the Tax Work-Off participant's tax bill. The total amount earned is paid out of the overlay. The abatement applied is the net amount earned after deductions.

With the passage of Article 13 at Spring Town Meeting, Mass. General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5K, an approved representative for a qualified resident in the Tax Work-Off Program may now serve as proxy for the work assigned to the participant. The net amount earned by the proxy is applied to the participant's tax bill.

Rob Leroux, the new Director of Assessing, came by to be introduced to our committee. He told us a little bit of how the tax rate is calculated and what the overlay is which funds many of the tax relief and exemption programs offered by the town.

The next meeting of the STR committee will be Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Markey adjourned our meeting at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Gilbert (Clerk)