

SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE

Date: August 8, 2018, 8pm

ATTENDING: Linwood Bradford, Joan Bradford, Steve Colella Pauline Dicesare, Rob Weiland

Absent: Anne Gilbert

Also attending: Julie Secord, Council On Aging Director

Public: Nancy Schonberg, Snake Brook Road

Cherry Karlson, Selectperson

Linwood Bradford called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

The minutes of the June 2018 meeting were reviewed. Additional clarification to the Sudbury Initiative overview was suggested. A motion was made to amend the wording regarding Valor Act as administered by the Board of Assessors. The Valor Act program and applicant procedures is being reviewed. There is not sufficient information at this time to complete a STRC information card on this program. Of the three people who applied for the Valor Act last year, only two individuals were assigned to Town departments.

Julie Secord reported that the Council On Aging's Senior Tax Work Off program had 40 seniors assigned to Town Departments - 2600 hours of service to Town Departments. The increase in the minimum wage has been a challenge. As Town Meeting appropriates the funding for the COA administered program, COA's ability to absorb the \$1.00/hour increase for participants need to be funded by fewer positions being available or a commitment to fewer hours by participants. On Jan 1, 2019, the minimum wage with increase again to \$12/hour. As only one check is issued to each participant who completes the hours, the hourly rate paid is determined by the current MA minimum wage on the first day of the fiscal years (July 1). State guidelines mandate that Towns must pay no less than Federal minimum wage and no more than the State minimum wage.

Julie also reported on the proposed Circuit Breaker Article. An article to amend the wording of the 2008 CB article at Town Meeting would provide clarity that Wayland's Town Match would parallel the State COLA adjusted CB amount from year to year. Julie also provided an overview of her June 25th meeting with Nan Balmer, Town Administrator, Bruce Morgan, Director of Assessing and Jeffrey Blake, Attorney with K-P Law. At that meeting, K-P Law's recommendation was to clarify that wording in the 2008 article so it accurately reflected the intention of the article once and for all. Jeffrey Blake indicated that he could prepare an article for Special Town Meeting in the Fall and correct the MGL references that were not correct. He also indicated that although the 2008 wording was flawed, the intent of the article was clear to all at Town Meeting. He noted that the Town had been administering the Circuit Breaker Match for 10 years recognizing the intent with which the article was approved. Although Atty Blake's comment to Bruce Morgan stated that an article sponsored by the Board of Assessors in the Fall with that clarified wording might carry even greater weight with the voter, the BOA voted not to do anything further with clarifying the wording in the 2008 article. Cherry Karlson indicated that the Council On Aging may wish to consider taking that initiative at their next meeting.

For the October 10th meeting, Pauline DiCesare and Rob Weiland both agreed to research different aspects of the Sudbury initiative and report back to the committee.

Next meeting date/time: Oct. 10, 2018 at 7pm

Minutes prepared by Julie Secord, COA Director