

MONROE TOWN COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, EDUCATION, HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY

Monroe, Connecticut

June 1, 2016 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

APPROVED
6/16/16

Monroe Town Hall – Location: Conference Room 204

I. Call to order/Attendance

Meeting called to order by Chairman Lipeles at 3:02pm

Present:

Councilmember Enid Lipeles (EL)

Councilmember Ken Kellogg (KK)

Assessor Rich Lasky (RL)

Absent:

Councilmember Kansky (PK) was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

II. Approval of Minutes KK/EL

Motion by KK, Seconded by EL, to approve the minutes of the 5/19/2016 meeting. Motion carried 2-0.

III. Public Participation – None

IV. Liaison Reports

a. Board of Ed - No report

b. Finance – EL reported no meeting since last Town Council Meeting

c. Health – KK reported no meeting since last Town Council Meeting

d. Public Safety –

i. Fire – no report

ii. Police – no report

iii. EMS – KK reports that during last EMS Commission meeting items discussed included putting the daytime staffing contract out to RFP, as well as ongoing review of their collections policy.

e. Commission on the Aging – no report

V. Senior Tax Relief Amendment – EL reported that she reviewed and determined that the last update to the relevant town ordinance was finalized and approved at the 9-22-2008 Town Council meeting.

VI. Discussion on Senior Tax Abatement

- a. RL revised the spreadsheets based upon the input from the last FEHPS meeting and briefly discussed how they are now structured.
- b. There was general agreement that the current Income level brackets seem reasonable, especially when compared to other towns.
- c. RL presented the three scenarios to increase the abatement percentages (a 1, 2, and 3 percentage point increase), which were discussed further, along with the corresponding projected increase to the total tax abatement costs townwide.
- d. EL noted that the overall impact was relatively small.
- e. KK also stated that he reviewed the data provided and there appears to be very few individuals reaching the “cap” thresholds, and a small increase to each cap may be reasonable as well.
- f. KK stated that he met with BOF Chairman and discussed the conceptual issues regarding deferrals and impacts to cash flow. It appears that the BOF would be able to find a mechanism to minimize cash flow impacts. KK would like to maintain a more conservative abatement program while pursuing a new deferral program that is more practical than that which currently exists. EL discussed the pros and cons of a higher abatement percentage.
- g. KK provided a research document that was obtained from CCM in regards to senior tax relief.
- h. EL stated that we should research deferral program more, as well as the sample ordinance language provided by CCM. KK will to do more research for next meeting. EL will set the next meeting date after checking with PK.

VII. Other as required - None

VIII. Adjournment -- Motion to adjourn by KK, seconded by EL, who adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm