

**COMMITTEE OF THE CHAIRS**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**October 2, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.**  
**Town Hall – Finance Department Conference Room**

**Present:** Christopher Palmieri, Brian Goralski, John Leary (via teleconference), Michael DeSanto, Timothy Connellan, and Mark Sciota

Also present:

Call to Order
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Chairman Palmieri called the meeting to order at 4:30.

Approval of Meeting Minutes
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A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Communications
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Chairman Palmieri thanked the committee; we have accomplished a lot over the last few years.

Chairman Goralski is grateful for these meetings and would encourage them moving forward.

Chairman Palmieri stated that the referendum presentations are going well. He informed everyone he spoke with Shane Lockwood regarding the mosquitos. DEEP and DEPH feel that the mosquito population are rapidly declining and we are on the tail end of misquote activity. There will not be any issues with the Apple Harvest Festival.

Chairman Leary wanted to make it clear that revaluation is nothing more than taking the assets on our grand list and marking them to market. Giving them a new value based upon changes that occur in the general market for those particular assets. Regardless of what happens to the value of assets when they are marked to market it is never the intent that the taxes get raised as a result of revaluation. It is the same amount of taxes that gets collected. The net result is an adjustment in the mill rate. The grand list alone should never change and it won't change the amount of taxes that are garnished. There is an appeal process if residents feel the value is unfair.

Items for Discussion
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**A. Tax Abatement for Elderly/Disabled Residents**

Chairman Palmieri stated that Jim Bowes, Chairman of the Property Tax Relief committee, came to the council meeting to give a presentation. A public hearing is set for Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. We are prepared to act on it after we hear from the residents.

TM Sciota stated the changes consist of; lowering the age group from 70 to 65, freeze taxes when you reach a certain age and to give a tax credit of \$250 per household if you meet the criteria. Southington is giving the max for our Veterans and we do meet state statute.

**B. Tax Abatements for Volunteer Firemen**

Chairman Palmieri stated we continued to have trouble recruiting/maintaining new volunteer firefighters. The Town needs to merge career and volunteer firefighters' forces. We are trying to be proactive.

TM Sciota stated if you are a volunteer firefighter and are able to meet criteria that the Fire Department sets on a number of calls you are able to receive the full amount of the reimbursement and a portion currently is \$1,000 for 500 hours. The legislators are allowing us to raise \$1500 and \$750. The Board of Fire commission will recommend to the council. The Town Attorney will report to the Town Council meeting on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The council can then set up a Public Hearing. This reimbursement would be towards the tax dollars that they pay. Currently, the volunteer fireman do not have a base where people are allowed to leave.

Chairman Palmieri stated that a few Town employees are able to leave their job for a house call or fire during the day. Hopefully businesses in Town allow their employees to leave when there is a fire to assist.

Chairman Goralski stated it's a complicated thing; certain people cannot leave their work. Certain careers are unable to.

**C. Budget Workshops**

Chairman Leary stated they would like to come full force first and lay out an expectation for the Town. I will start arranging these meetings. There are many unknowns but we would like to start preparing. Also, looking at the head counting, expanding different services. Rotating on urgency and importance. It comes down to what we are paying for that works and what are we paying for that does not work.

TM Sciota stated at the last Department Heads meeting he asked for an analysis of new personnel needed. Based upon need and how it will improve the services for the citizens.

Public Communications

None

Old Business

TM Sciota stated we will not have a meeting next month.

New Business

None

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn at 5:00p.m.