

Concord Tax Fairness Committee
September 6, 2019
Minutes

The Tax Fairness Committee met on Friday, September 6, 2019, in the Select Board Room at 8:00 AM. Present were members James Phelps, Walter Birge, David Karr, Nancy Cronin, Bill Kemeza and Reinier Beeuwkes. Also present were Michael Lawson, Select Board liaison, and John Hickling, Finance Committee liaison. Member Jonathan Keyes was connected by phone.

The committee reviewed the proposed home rule petition for the means-tested senior tax exemption provided by David Karr. David said that in the first paragraph the words “nor shall this exemption cause more than 90 per cent of the total tax to be exempted when combined with other exemptions” was suggested by the Town Assessor. Walter Birge moved that the proposed exemption be approved. Bill Kemeza seconded it, and it was voted unanimously. The proposed exemption is attached.

Next the committee reviewed the draft letter to the Select Board provided by David Karr. Nancy Cronin suggested that the letter start with the first year’s experience with the exemption and delete the last paragraph, but include the Town Assessor’s letter.

It was suggested that the committee find out whether it is best to file a new exemption or simply file amendments to the current Act. Mike Lawson will talk with Tami Gouveia and Mike Barrett about this. If it is an amendment, perhaps it may not need to go to the voters. Mike Lawson will check on this.

Chairman Karr will present the proposed exemption to the Select Board at their meeting on September 23. He will notify the Town Assessor about this meeting.

John Hickling will give the Finance Committee a summary of the revised exemption.

Nancy Cronin suggested that the letter to Select Board should indicate the percentage of the residential tax levy that was used by the exemption in 2019.

Mike Lawson will send the proposed home rule petition to Town Counsel, Mike Barrett, Tami Gouveia, and the chair of the legislative Committee on Revenue.

The next meeting will be held on October 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Cronin, Clerk