

TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

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LEGISLATION & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
AGENDA
APRIL 27, 2015

Suzanne Testani, Chairman
50 Cranbury Drive
Trumbull, CT 06611

Enrico Constantini, Vice Chairman
5 Barry Place
Trumbull, CT 06611

Joseph Pifko
158 Plymouth Avenue
Trumbull, CT 06611

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Ken Martin, Sr., Alternate
1676 Huntington Turnpike
Trumbull, CT 06611

Mary Beth Thornton, Alternate
24 Cherry Gate Lane
Trumbull, CT 06611

NOTICE is hereby given that the Legislation & Administration Committee of the Trumbull Town Council will hold a regular meeting Monday, April 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Trumbull Town Hall, for the following purpose(s):

1. RESOLUTION TC25-174: To consider and act upon a resolution which authorize First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst to sign an agreement entitled "Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects".
2. RESOLUTION TC25-172: To consider and act upon a resolution which would amend Chapter 18 Taxation of the Trumbull Municipal Code to include Article VI, Senior and Disabled Volunteer Tax Abatement.

RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTION TC25-174: BE IT RESOLVED, That First Selectman Timothy M. Herbst is hereby authorized to sign an agreement entitled “Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects”.
2. RESOLUTION TC25-172: BE IT RESOLVED and ORDAINED, That Chapter 18 Taxation of the Trumbull Municipal Code is hereby amended to include Article VI, Senior and Disabled Volunteer Tax Abatement. (*Public Hearing*) (Full Ordinance Attached)

Sec. _____. Senior and Disabled Persons Volunteer Tax Relief.

(a) *Purpose.* In order to promote community development through service to the Town of Trumbull by drawing on the skills, knowledge and experience of its senior and disabled citizens, the town hereby establishes a program of tax relief for qualifying seniors and disabled persons who choose to give their time, talent and energy by volunteering to provide services to the Town.

(b) *Qualifications and benefits.* Beginning with the Grand List of 2015, qualifying taxpayers who volunteer fifty (50) hours of service to the Town of Trumbull shall be eligible for a tax credit not to exceed three hundred (\$300.00) upon his or her real property taxes in accordance with the provisions of hereof. The service period shall be July 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

For this Grand List, the aggregate total of participants shall not exceed 50 and the aggregate total of credits shall not exceed \$15,000.00.

Beginning with the grand list of 2016, qualifying taxpayers who volunteer to provide one hundred (100) hours of service to the Town of Trumbull, shall be eligible for a tax credit upon his or her real estate taxes in accordance with the provisions hereof. The service period shall be the calendar year of 2016, et seq.

For the Grand List of 2016, et seq, the aggregate total of participants shall not exceed 50 and the aggregate total of credits shall not exceed \$30,000.00.

In order to qualify for the benefits of this volunteer tax relief program, residents

(i) at the close of the preceding calendar year must be sixty-five years of age and over, or whose spouses, living with them, are sixty-five years of age or over, or sixty years of age or over and the surviving spouse of a taxpayer qualified in this municipality under this section at the time of his or her death or with respect to real property on which such residents or their spouses are liable for taxes under section 12-48 of the Connecticut General Statutes, or at the close of the preceding calendar year have not attained sixty-five years of age but are eligible in accordance with applicable federal regulations to receive permanent total disability benefits under Social Security, or have not engaged in employment covered by Social Security and accordingly have not qualified for benefits thereunder, but who has become qualified for permanent total disability benefits under any federal, state or local government retirement or disability plan, including the Railroad Retirement Act and any government-related teacher's retirement plan, in which requirements with respect qualifications for such permanent total disability benefits are comparable to such requirements under Social Security, and

(ii) must volunteer the requisite hours of service as set forth in this subsection (b), and

(iii) own or be held in trust for their benefit and occupy as their principal residence, real property in the Town of Trumbull or be liable for the payment of taxes thereon pursuant to Section 12-48 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and

(iv) must not be delinquent on the payment of any taxes or assessments due the Town of Trumbull or the Trumbull Water Pollution Control Authority

Qualifying taxpayers who participate in this program for the Grand List years of 2016 and thereafter and shall have reached the minimum requirement of one hundred (100) hours of service as set forth herein shall be entitled to a tax credit of a fixed amount of not more than six hundred dollars (\$600.00), provided that said taxpayer satisfies the conditions of subsections (b) and (c). No more than two qualifying taxpayers who participate in this program and reside in the same principal residence may be entitled to a tax credit under this program, provided both taxpayers satisfy the conditions of subsections (b) and (c). Qualifying taxpayers must reach the specific number of hours as set forth herein to be eligible for the respective tax credits. In no event may the amount of tax credits per household exceed the amount of real property tax levied against the residence.

(c) *Program implementation.* The Tax Assessor, or its designee, shall be responsible for administration of the Senior and Disabled Persons Volunteer Tax Relief Program.

For Grand List year 2015, the Assessor shall prepare a list of approved Town related activities and services, excluding the Board of Education, for which qualifying taxpayers may choose to volunteer. Eligible taxpayers shall submit a completed application form and authorize a background check. Placements shall be based upon the skills, interests and applicant's ability to perform all duties and responsibilities of the placement.

For Grand List year 2016, et seq, the Assessor shall create an approved list of qualifying scientific, educational, literary, historical, governmental, charitable and non-profit entities located in the Town of Trumbull for which qualifying taxpayers may choose to volunteer in addition to Town-related activities and services. Such entities shall meet the spirit and intent of the ordinance, and provide direct benefit and support to the Trumbull Community. The Tax Assessor shall prepare application forms to be completed by taxpayers qualifying for benefits hereunder who wish to participate in the senior volunteer tax relief program.

Volunteer hours are to be completed in one calendar year. They shall be certified by the department or entity for which the services are rendered and submitted to the Tax Assessor by January 31st following the calendar year of service. Accumulated volunteer hours not reaching the minimum number to earn the tax credit may not be carried over to the following year. The Tax Assessor shall coordinate the application of the credit to the taxpayer's bill with the Tax Collector.

The tax credit earned shall be applied to the tax bill issued for payment in July of the year following the calendar year of service.

(d) *Disqualification.* Any such property tax relief granted to any such resident shall not

disqualify such resident with respect to any benefits for which such resident shall be eligible under the provisions of C.G.S. 12-129b to 12-129d, inclusive, and 12-170aa, and any such property tax relief provided under this section shall be in addition to any such benefits for which such resident shall be eligible under said sections. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a resident is ineligible to apply for this program

(i) if at the time of such application, the resident is delinquent in any taxes owed to the Town of Trumbull or the Water Pollution Control Authority, and (ii) for any grand list year that such resident is also receiving benefits pursuant to the Town's Senior Tax Deferral Relief Program. For the purposes of this program, the hours spent by a resident as an elected or appointed town or government official, volunteer firefighter or emergency service personnel, or employee, shall not be included in the determination of total number of requisite hours volunteered by the resident.

(e) *Termination/Amendment.* This program may be terminated or amended by the Town Council at any time with or without cause in the event it is deemed by the Town to be in its best interest to do so.