

TOWN COUNCIL
Town of Trumbull
CONNECTICUT
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TOWN HALL
Trumbull

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LEGISLATION & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MAY 26, 2015

Vice-Chairman Enrico Costantini called the Legislation & Administration Committee to order at 7:04 p.m. All present joined in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

Present: Enrico Costantini, Vice Chairman, Joseph Pifko Alternate, Edna Colucci and Scott Wich and Daniel Marconi.

Absent: Chairman Suzanne Testani, Mary Beth Thornton, and Ken Martin, Sr., Alternate.

Also Present: Town Council Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr., Chief of Staff Lynn Arnow, Director of Economic and Community Development Jamie Brätt and Town Council members, Cynthia Penkoff and Vicki Tesoro

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1. RESOLUTION TC25-176: Moved by Mr. Pifko, seconded by Mr. Marconi.
BE IT RESOLVED, That the following programs are hereby approved as eligible under the Neighborhood Assistance Act; Trumbull Nature & Arts Center "Educational Exhibits" - \$6,000; Southwestern Area Health Education Center, Inc. "Community Health Workers: Helping our neediest to manage their Asthma" - \$24,000; will require post project review if full amount of request is obtained.

Ms. Brätt distributed the attached summary to the committee and explained the Neighborhood Assistant Act Tax Program allows for eligible 501c3's to apply to the State for certain projects.

The Vice Chairman OPENED the Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m.
There was no one present from the public to speak.
The Vice Chairman CLOSED the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Per State statute this has always gone through the municipalities, a public hearing is required. There is no cost to the Town.

The Committee discussed the fact that the Southwestern Area Health Education Center, Inc. has moved to Shelton but were located in Trumbull for a portion of this year. They will apply next year with Shelton. The Committee requested that it be confirmed that they are not applying through Shelton as well and noted their concern if their participation through Trumbull would dilute and/or disqualify other Trumbull applications. Ms. Brätt explained a third application was found in the former Economic & Community Development Director's in-box. It was the Connecticut Radio Information System" - \$25,000. They work with the blind and print challenged. The deadline for the applications is the end of June.

Moved by Mr. Marconi, seconded by Mr. Pifko to amend by adding "Connecticut Radio Information System" - \$25,000 as the third project of the resolution.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

VOTE: As amended CARRIED unanimously.

2. RESOLUTION TC25-175: Moved by Mr. Pifko, seconded by Ms. Colucci to HOLD IN COMMITTEE.

Chairman Massaro stated the lease is not ready.

VOTE: Motion CARRIED unanimously.

3. RESOLUTION TC25-172: Moved by Mr. Marconi, seconded by Mr. Pifko.
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.

Ms. Arnow indicated there are 4 other municipalities that have this program: Danbury, Bristol, Manchester and Hamden. Hamden's program is not limited to just seniors therefore they have been removed from this list. The number of anticipated eligible participants was 4,500 but has since been narrowed to 3,710 - 4,400. This was done by using the Town's ESRI system. The tax credit remains the same. It will have a cap of \$15,000 (50 volunteers at \$300 each). The purpose of the First Selectman's proposed program was to get more seniors involved in the community. If there was an income limit that would limit the number of eligible participants who could volunteer. Without an income limit the program allows for all eligible citizens to be able to give back to their Town. The program's cap of \$15,000 allows for the Town to know what the program will cost.

The Vice Chairman OPENED the Public Hearing at 7:24 p.m.

There was one person present to speak. (Public Comment Attached)

The Chair CLOSED the Public Hearing at 7:28 p.m.

Ms. Tesoro noted there was no annual reassessment. Chairman Massaro explained the committee did look at the annual assessment initially but decided this would be a pilot program for 6 months instead. Ms. Tesoro noted the Senior Volunteer Tax Relief Committee's May 8th meeting minutes are not on-line and suggested they be posted prior to the June Town Council meeting. Ms. Tesoro suggested the L&A Committee discuss the fact that some seniors are always in arrears with their tax payments as brought up during last month's public hearing. These seniors are always in arrears because they only have one source of income that is paid once a year.

Moved by Mr. Constantini, seconded by Ms. Colucci to amend section (i) of the ordinance as follows:

- (i) if at the time of such application, the resident is delinquent in any taxes, user fees, or assessments owed to the Town of Trumbull or the Water Pollution Control Authority

The Committee discussed whether the tax credit could be denied once the service hours had been put in. It was noted the department heads track the number of volunteer hours but would have no authority to approve the tax credit. Per the ordinance the Tax Assessor would be the authority. The Committee discussed that the Town attorney should look at the ordinance with regard to denying the tax credit after the service hours have been completed to make sure that there would be no legal issues.

VOTE: Motion to amend CARRIED unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Constantini, seconded by Mr. Marconi to amend section (ii) of the ordinance as follows:

- and (ii) for any grand list year that such resident is also receiving benefits pursuant to the Town's Senior Tax Deferral Relief Program or Credit program.

VOTE: Motion to amend CARRIED 4-1 (AGAINST: Wich)

VOTE: As Amended CARRIED 4-1 (AGAINST: Wich)

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Mr. Pifko, seconded by Ms. Colucci the Legislation & Administration Committee adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret D. Mastroni, Town Council Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

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.

1. Cindy Katske of 129 Meadow View Drive was present and questioned why there was no income cap. She is in favor of Senior Tax Relief but believes it should be for those who need it and not being on the backs of those who can not afford the cost of the program. Ms. Katske questioned why so few people have participated in the other towns' programs. It is a lot of work for little benefit. The ordinance does not include a provision for an annual assessment.

The Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program:

The NAA Tax Credit Program provides a tax credit to business firms that make cash investments in qualifying community programs conducted by tax exempt or municipal agencies. Such tax credit may be applied against the taxes due under the provisions of chapter 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, or 212. The community programs must be approved by both the municipality in which the programs are conducted and by the Department of Revenue Services (DRS).

Statutory Authority: Conn. Gen. Stat. §12-630aa et. seq.

Obtaining Approval for the NAA Tax Credit Program:

Tax-exempt entities and municipal agencies desiring to obtain benefits under the NAA must complete **Form NAA-01, Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposal**, Parts I, II, and III and submit the form to the municipal agency overseeing the implementation of the proposal. The overseeing municipal agency then completes Part IV of Form NAA-01 and submits the form to DRS on or before July 1 of each year. Prior to submitting Form NAA-01 to DRS, each municipality must hold a public hearing on all program applications. The governing body of the municipality must vote to approve the programs. Copies of the public hearing notice and minutes of the meeting approving the programs must be submitted by the municipality to DRS with the approved program proposals.

2015 Proposed NAA Programs

- Trumbull Nature and Arts Center: \$6,000

- Southwestern Area Health Education Center: \$24,000

- Connecticut Radio Information System: \$25,000