

**Senior and Disabled Tax Relief Committee Meeting
Minutes for February 11, 2014**

Present: Tom McCarthy, Ruth Smey, and Carol Way

I. Call to Order:

Tom McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The committee began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Election of Officers:

In order to begin a new structure was formed by a unanimous vote for officers. Thomas McCarthy was elected Chairman, Ruth Smey as Vice Chairman, and Carol Way as Secretary.

III. 2014 Mission:

Committee members expressed their opinions as to what needed to be accomplished in 2014. It was generally agreed that since the impact of the changes to the tax code effecting senior and disabled home owners which were implemented during the 2012-2013 term had not as yet been full felt, the committee's focus ought to be directed to assessing the impact of those changes, especially the more recently instituted deferral program. Furthermore, as part of that assessment, the committee agreed that they would need to review process with the Town Tax Assessor and Tax Collector to understand the degree to which the program changes had been integrated with software, identify potential unintended exposures, and understand how program eligibility is being communicated to seniors and the disabled.

IV. Next Steps to Be Taken by Committee

It was agreed that Tom McCarthy would check with Don Ross, Town Assessor, as to how things were progressing with the current application process for tax relief or deferral. Ruth Smey would contact Teresa Giengengack, Director of Senior and Social Services, about informational meetings taking place at the Senior Center, and Carol Way would contact Cinda Buchter, Tax Collector, to determine how seniors and disabled are notified about the tax relief and deferral program. There was additional discussion about holding a public meeting on a weekend in order to reach those individuals who are still in the workforce and unable to attend an informational meeting during Monday through Friday normal Senior Center daytime hours. There was discussion also about the possible need for press releases if Town departments had not distributed information for publication.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol J. Way, Secretary