

OFFICE OF THE
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**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2010
WILTON TOWN HALL, ROOM B**

PRESENT: First Selectman William Brennan, Second Selectman Susan Bruschi, Selectman Richard Creeth, Selectman Harold Clark, Selectman Ted Hoffstatter

GUESTS: CFO Sandy Dennies, Judy Zucker, Jerry Holdridge, Joseph Equale, Jan Andras, approximately 8 members of the public

OTHERS: Joan Lounds (Bulletin), Kara O'Connor (Villager), Christian Camarota (Patch.com)

First Selectman Brennan opened the hearing at 7:00 p.m. advising that a public hearing is required by Charter before amending an ordinance. The Board of Selectmen are here to receive public comment on the proposed amended Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief Ordinance.

Mr. Jerry Holdridge (EDTR Committee member) stated that he agreed with changing "pro-rated" to "adjusted" in regards to the limit being set on the cap. Mr. Brennan advised that any adjustment would occur during the budget process, in consultation with the Board of Finance.

Mr. Ken Dartley, 87 Olmstead Hill Road - the original recommendation was to have an income cap up to \$100,000 to be eligible for a deferral. Why set the income limit at only \$75,000 and then possibly change in the future when economic conditions may change. Ms. Zucker advised that the committee was trying to develop a more attractive program in order to encourage deferrals, and \$100,000 is a very generous cap. She agrees that the lower cap is justified by today's economy. It will better benefit those in the lower bracket. Mr. Dartley would like to see a committee begin work now for next year.

Mr. Holdridge suggested that § 26-A-7 read "not more than 5%" as the interest rate placed on deferrals, giving the Board of Selectmen the discretion of setting a lower rate if they feel it is justified.

Ms. Paula Byrde, 26 Serendipity Lane, is disappointed that all proposals of the committee were not accepted. A higher income threshold for deferrals would have helped a great deal. She would like to see interest rates set lower than 5%. When the town is having a tough year financially, the seniors are as well. She wants to see a plan start earlier next year and look at why seniors are leaving town.

Hearing no further comments, the public hearing was closed at 7:25 p.m.

Jan Andras
Recording Secretary