

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

Telephone (203) 563-0100
Fax (203) 563-0299

Email to: lynne.vanderslice@wiltonct.org



Lynne A. Vanderslice
First Selectman

David K. Clune
Second Selectman

Michael P. Kaelin
Selectman

Lori A. Bufano
Selectman

Deborah McFadden
Selectman

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING
Monday October 7 at 8:00 PM
Meeting Room B, Town Hall**

Senior and Disabled Tax Relief Ordinance

PRESENT: First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, David Clune, Lori Bufano, Joshua Cole, Deborah McFadden

OTHERS: Members of the Press and Members of the Public

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vanderslice called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

B. Reading of Legal Notice

Ms. Vanderslice read the attached Legal Notice.

C. Public Comment

Ms. Vanderslice read an email (attached) sent to the BoS from Judy Zucker with comments and questions regarding the proposed ordinance. Ms. Vanderslice and Sarah Scacco, town assessor responded to Ms. Zucker's question. Ms. Vanderslice then opened the floor to the public for additional comments, of which there were none.

D. Adjourn

Ms. Vanderslice asked for a motion to adjourn the hearing. Motion made by Mr. Cole to adjourn the hearing at 8:13 PM. Motion seconded by Ms. McFadden and carried 5-0.

Jacqueline Rochester
Recording Secretary
Taken from Video

LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to Sec. C-24(A) of the Town Charter, The Wilton Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Monday October 7, 2019 at 8:00 pm in Meeting Room B at the Wilton Town Hall to hear public comment on the proposed Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled ordinance changes.

A summary of the proposed ordinance changes is as follows:

1-New language in Section 26A-4, to create an appeal process for applicants who miss the application filing deadline. Appeals would be made to the Board of Selectmen requesting an extension to file and demonstrating "good cause" as to why such extension is necessary.

2-Language added in Section 26A-6D to create a minimum tax credit of \$250.

3-New language in Section 26A-10.2 to allow the Board of Selectmen at their discretion to make adjustments to such tax relief for any excess and unused budgeted funds up until December 1st of the fiscal year.

A copy of this notice and full text of the proposed Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled ordinance is on file in the office of the Wilton Town Clerk and may be inspected between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm on normal business days. A copy is also available online at www.wiltonct.org.

Lynne A. Vanderslice, First Selectman

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN OF WILTON
2019 SEP 25 P 12:29
BY: LK

Memo

To: the Board of Selectmen

From: Judy Zucker

Dated: October 4, 2019

Thank you for beginning your examination of Wilton's local-option senior property tax relief ordinance that has developed over the years in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes section 12-129n.

Here are some observations:

1. The proposed language for the new appeal process (section 26A-4) refers to an extension of the application period "for good cause" without any further explanation or limitation. Although the term "good cause" may be a valid and sufficient reason for a courtroom ruling, I doubt that it provides helpful meaning and/or direction for the applicant to whom it may apply. Perhaps you could add some examples of valid reasons for the failure to meet an application deadline.

Could you please comment as to who might become the board of selectmen's designee in these determinations and why you feel a designee is necessary.

Please note that the statutory history of C.G.S. section 12-129n states that the "Section does not provide an applicant for municipal tax relief an avenue of appeal in the Superior Court."

2. The proposed language for the minimum tax credit (section 26A-6.D) states that there will be a minimum credit of \$250 – without explaining how that minimum credit would be applied. Query: if I am an applicant and pursuant to the credit formula set forth in the ordinance I would be entitled to a credit in the amount of \$10, under the new proposal would I be entitled to zero dollars or \$250? If the credit formula would authorize a credit in the amount of \$200, under the new proposal would I be entitled to zero dollars or \$250?

Further definition of the calculation method is required.

3. The proposed re-adjustment (section 26A-10.2) also requires further definition. The timing and the calculation method should be included within the text of the proposed amendment.

Any such adjustment should take place after the expiration of the appeal period.

The calculation should be based upon either (a) equal shares for all eligible applicants who benefit from the tax credit and/or tax deferral or (b) pro rata shares based upon the dollar amount of the credit and/or deferral amount due each applicant.

I suggest that since the adjustment is ultimately the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen there should be no delegation of that responsibility to a designee.

4. A technical correction relating to section 26A-2.E of the ordinance is appropriate. The final sentence of that section describes a reduction in gross income by "the amount of allowable medical expenses deductible for purposes of federal income tax, i.e. amounts in excess of 7 ½% of adjusted gross income." That percentage figure is no longer accurate. As of the tax year 2019 that percentage has been increased to 10% for purposes of federal income tax.

I suggest that you delete the phrase "i.e. amounts in excess of 7 ½% of adjusted gross income" and insert nothing in its place.

5. What has become of the State of Connecticut's "circuit breaker" senior property tax relief program? Does it still apply to Wilton's seniors? If so, who provides the funding? If this has become a local responsibility, where does it appear in the town's budget? How does it affect the funding available under Wilton's local-option senior property tax relief program?

Thank you for providing the opportunity for public comment in person and via email.