

CITY OF SHELTON

SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
October 24, 2005

Roll Call

Chairman Ron Pavlucik - present
Vice-Chairman Ann Walsh - present
Gary DeFilippo - present
Steve Morse - present
Carol Savignano - present

Also present: Deborah Onderko, Tax Collector
Gloria Kovac, Tax Assessor

The first meeting of the re-appointed Committee (fifth overall) was called to order at 5:35 pm in the City Hall Auditorium.

The minutes from the September 15, 2005 meeting were reviewed, but not approved, since the Senior Tax Relief Committee's original 60-day appointment period had expired. The Committee thus agreed to retain the information in the minutes "for reference only".

The Committee recently received re-appointment letters from the Mayor, and each member had received the oath by the City Clerk with a new 60-day appointment term which expires on 12/14/2005.

The Goals, Objectives, and Plans document was reviewed. Item 15 was revised to show that the final Committee report, along with minority comments, are now due to the Mayor by 12/14/05.

Gloria Kovac, Tax Assessor provided copies of the Qualifying Income chart for the State's Tax Relief Program for Year 2005 for the Elderly and Totally Disabled. (It has been the practice in Shelton to have the income limits for the local tax credit program follow in step with the State's revised limits.)

The Committee commenced work on drafting a new "City of Shelton Local Tax Credit Program". Listed below are the specific elements and parameters that were discussed and tentatively agreed upon during this session:

Applications: Must file for State Homeowners Elderly/Disabled Tax Relief Program concurrently with The City of Shelton Senior Elderly/Disabled Program with the City's Tax Assessor.

Age/Disability: 65 or over and or Totally Disabled

Spouse: Survivor eligibility continues regardless of age of the surviving spouse

Qualifying Max Income: Married: \$1000 above the State's Maximum Income---YR2005 \$34,900
Single: \$1000 above the State's Maximum Income---YR2005 \$28,700
Note: Qualifying Income is defined in State Statute Section 12-170aa(b)

Tax Credit: \$250 per household, for either a Married couple or Single individual (currently \$150)

Maximum Assets Test: Excluding the value of the City of Shelton legal residential property, the Applicant's remaining assets may not exceed \$300,000 as attested to in the signed application for tax relief. (new requirement)

Legal Residence: To qualify for Local Tax Relief the property must be the legal residence of the applicant.

Residency: The applicant must have lived in Shelton for at least the last 5 years. (new requirement)

Occupancy: The applicant must have resided on the property for at least 9 months of the previous year. (new requirement)

Past Due Taxes or Assessments: No delinquent real estate, personal property, motor vehicle taxes, or sewer or water assessments, or sewer usage fees, allowed, to receive the Local Tax Credit. (currently just no delinquent real estate taxes).

Children: The applicant shall be disqualified if any children under the age 18 and are attending City of Shelton schools reside on applicant's property. The applicant shall attest to this in the application. (new requirement)

Tax Relief Program Applications: Bi-Annual basis unless the applicant's qualifying income dramatically changes.

Costs: Current Program, for 2005/2006: 563 participants -----\$81,300/Yr "cost" (lost tax revenue)
Proposed Program, for 2006/2007: estimated 600 participants-----\$150,000/Yr "cost"

The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2005 at 5:30 pm at City Hall. The main item on the agenda will be to review the proposed Local Tax Credit Program elements and parameters listed above, and to adjust if necessary, and then finalize. Then the Tax Relief ordinance sketched out by Steve several weeks ago should be modified to include the new Local Tax Credit Program.

Finally, we can consider one more time other possible tax relief programs such as tax freeze and tax deferral, before starting work on our final report to the Mayor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm

These minutes were prepared by Steve Morse
Modified / approved version November 10, 2005
TaxRelief027.doc