

**STOCKBRIDGE SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Thursday, September 8, 2022**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**ZOOM MEETING - TOWN OFFICES, 50 MAIN STREET**

**Present:**

Patrick White, Chuck Cardillo, Jamie Minacci and Mike Canales

**Call to Order:**

Patrick called the meeting to order.

Take action on meeting minutes for July 14th and July 28th.

Chuck made a motion that they accept the minutes. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

Take Action on one-day alcohol license for Berkshire Botanical Garden for the Harvest Festival, October 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 5pm

Chuck made a motion that they grant the license. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

Take action on one-day alcohol license for Chesterwood for a wedding on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 4pm – 11pm

Chuck made a motion that they grant the license. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

Take action on a one-day alcohol license for Joseph Miller for the Josh Billings on September 18<sup>th</sup> from 12pm – 4pm

Chuck made a motion that they grant the license. Jamie seconded; all were in favor.

**Charging Stations at Town Hall**

Patrick said that they were discussing adding ten parking places at Town Hall for charging stations. They have a grant of \$50,000 and will begin with four charge stations. Laura Dubester, chair of the Green Communities, along with consultant Patrick Mahoney were present. The sense was that the need will continue to increase and it would be positive for the Town. Mike suggested using ARPA funds. \$88,912 will cover the cost of four charging stations with the infrastructure to have a total of ten. Jamie asked about on-going costs and Patrick Mahoney said that there would be maintenance and software costs. Chuck made a motion to move forward with it using the ARPA funds. Jamie seconded. Patrick did not agree with using the ARPA funds.

John Hart questioned what the cost was per unit. The unit cost was not available at that time. With the motion on the table to use the ARPA funds, vote: Aye Chuck, Aye Jamie, Aye Patrick.

### Senior Center Reopening

Mike thanked the working group, Chris McCarthy, Ron Muir, Nancy O'Brien, Diane Sheridan and Jack Gremling for their hard work re-establishing the Senior Center. Mike also thanked Theresa Zanetti and Andrea Lindsay from Heaton Court for their work. The re-opening will be on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Mike will be there to talk about programs and the Town. A lunch will be provided by Mazzeo's Ristorante and Jack Gremling will provide music. Please RSVP if wishing to attend. They will be setting up monthly luncheons with speakers. The Police Department has offered to speak in October and the Assessors in November. Mike read the list of programming currently being offered.

### Vote to Award \$4 Million in Bonds. Sale end date is September 6.

Mike said that the result was 3.64% from Fidelity Capital Markets.

Jamie read the vote to appropriate:

I, a member of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Stockbridge, Massachusetts (the "Town"), certify that at a meeting of the board held September 8, 2022, of which meeting all members of the board were duly notified and at which a quorum was present, the following votes were unanimously passed, all of which appear upon the official record of the board in my custody:

Voted: that the sale of the \$3,815,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2022 Bonds of the Town dated September 23, 2022 (the "Bonds"), to Fidelity Capital Markets, a Division of National Financial Services LLC, at the price of \$4,064,089.59 and accrued interest, if any, is hereby approved and confirmed. The Bonds shall be payable on August 15 of the years and in the principal amounts and bear interest at the respective rates, as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2023	\$195,000	5.00%	2031	\$190,000	5.00%
2024	195,000	5.00	2032	190,000	5.00
2025	195,000	5.00	2033	190,000	5.00
2026	190,000	5.00	2034	190,000	5.00
2027	190,000	5.00	2035	190,000	5.00
2028	190,000	5.00	2039	760,000	4.00
2029	190,000	5.00	2042	570,000	4.00
2030	190,000	5.00			

Further Voted: that the Bonds maturing on August 15, 2039 and August 15, 2042 (each a "Term Bond") shall be subject to mandatory redemption or mature as follows:

#### Term Bond due August 15, 2039

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2036	\$190,000
2037	\$190,000

2038	\$190,000
2039*	\$190,000

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\*Maturity

Term Bond due August 15, 2042

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2040	\$190,000
2041	\$190,000
2042*	\$190,000

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\*Final Maturity

Further Voted: to approve the sale of a \$145,000 at 3.60 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note of the Town, to be issued through the State House note program, dated September 23, 2022 and payable September 22, 2023, to Easthampton Savings Bank at par and accrued interest, if any.

Further Voted: that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Bonds, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated August 30, 2022, and a final Official Statement dated September 8, 2022 (the “Official Statement”), each in such form as may be approved by the Town Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further Voted: that the Bonds shall be subject to redemption, at the option of the Town, upon such terms and conditions as are set forth in the Official Statement.

Further Voted: that the Town Treasurer and the Board of Selectmen be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a continuing disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the Town, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Bonds for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds from time to time.

Further Voted: that we authorize and direct the Town Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures and continuing disclosure procedures in such forms as the Town Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Bonds and to comply with relevant securities laws.

Further Voted: that any certificates or documents relating to the Bonds (collectively, the “Documents”), may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same document; delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page to a Document by electronic mail in a “.pdf” file or by other electronic transmission shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart signature page to such Document; and electronic signatures on any of the Documents shall be deemed original signatures for the

purposes of the Documents and all matters relating thereto, having the same legal effect as original signatures.

Further Voted: that each member of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

I further certify that the votes were taken at a meeting open to the public, that no vote was taken by secret ballot, that a notice stating the place, date, time and agenda for the meeting (which agenda included the adoption of the above votes) was filed with the Town Clerk and a copy thereof posted in a manner conspicuously visible to the public at all hours in or on the municipal building that the office of the Town Clerk is located or, if applicable, in accordance with an alternative method of notice prescribed or approved by the Attorney General as set forth in 940 CMR 29.03(2)(b), at least 48 hours, not including Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the time of the meeting and remained so posted at the time of the meeting, that no deliberations or decision in connection with the sale of the Bonds were taken in executive session.

Dated: September 8, 2022

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Clerk of the Board of Selectmen

Patrick made a motion to name Jamie the clerk. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

Patrick made a motion to approve the bonds as read. Chuck seconded; all were in favor.

Discuss ideas to improve pedestrian connectivity between Pine Woods and Church Street

Nick Nadorff and Marty Sennett were present for the discussion. Marty said the Library was interested in connection with children at Pinewoods having access to the Library. The "walking distance" to town has been on the back burner since Pinewoods was put in. Nick expressed that the road from the Botanical Gardens to Church Street is a dangerous stretch of road. Chuck suggested widening the road itself which would allow for easier winter clean-up. Mike said that they could have a feasibility study and looking at using Complete Streets. He would have conceptual costs for the next meeting and then move forward. Resident Joanna Linsky supported the project and asked for consideration of bicycle and wheel chair access. Jim Balfanz voiced his support.

Tax Affordability: Review existing, adopted and prospective exemptions for the community to consider.

Mike presented the following slides.

# Exemptions

## Property Taxes

### **Surviving Spouse (Widow/Widower), Minor Child of a Deceased Parent & Elderly (Clause 17E)**

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for a Clause - 17D exemption:

- Have owned and occupied the property as of July 1st.
- Have owned and occupied the property for 5 years.
- Total Asset verification - if single, the whole estate both real and personal, minus the value of the domicile, cannot exceed \$73,108. Whole estate includes savings, stocks, bonds, and other real estate but does not include the assessed valuation of your residence, if it is of three dwelling units or less.
- Provide the death certificate for the deceased spouse, which must be dated prior to July 1st (Surviving Spouse).
- Provide a birth and/or death certificate and required financial documentation.
- Have reached the age of 70 and have owned the property for at least 5 years (Elderly).
- Exemption Amount: **\$368**.

#### **Veteran with Service Connected Disability (Clause 22)**

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for a Veteran - Clause 22 exemption:

- Have at least a 10% service connected disability.
- Have owned and occupied the property as of July 1st.
- Have lived in Massachusetts 6 months prior to entering service.
- Have lived in Massachusetts for two consecutive years before filing for clause.
- Must have certificate of proof from the Veterans Administration.
- Exemption Amount Granted: Minimum **\$400** (most exemptions), maximum **full exemption**.

#### **Blind Exemption (Clause 37A)**

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for a Blind - Clause 37A exemption:

- Have been declared legally blind as of July 1st.
- Applicant must be registered with and obtain a certificate from the Massachusetts Division of the Blind as of July 1st or present a letter from their physician stating that the applicant was legally blind as of July 1st.
- Have owned and occupied the property as of July 1st.
- Exemption Amount: **\$500**.

#### **Elderly Exemption (Clause 41D)**

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for an Elderly - Clause 41D exemption:

- Have reached their 70th birthday prior to July 1st or if the property is jointly owned with a spouse, either spouse has reached his/her 70th birthday prior to July 1st.
- Have owned and occupied the property as a primary domicile as of July 1st.
- Have been domiciled in the Commonwealth for the preceding ten years.
- Owned and occupied said property or other real property in the Commonwealth for five years.
- Provide a birth certificate and required financial documentation.
- Income verification - if single, gross income cannot exceed \$23,756 (\$28,957 with social security deduction). If married, gross income cannot exceed \$27,413 (\$36,759 with social security deduction).
- Total Asset verification - if single, the whole estate both real and personal, minus the value of the domicile, cannot exceed \$51,172. If married, the combined whole estate cannot exceed \$54,826. Whole estate includes savings, stocks, bonds, and other real estate but does not include the assessed valuation of your residence, if it is of three dwelling units or less.
- Exemption Amount: **\$500**.

#### **Senior Citizen Work-Off Abatement Program**

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for Senior Citizen Work-Off Abatement Program

- The applicant must be 60 years of age or older.
- There are no restrictions on income.
- There are no restrictions on assets.
- The applicant can earn an abatement of \$600 (40 hours worked at \$15 per hour)
- Participant schedule begins on a fiscal year for volunteering their services to the Town.
- Varied volunteer jobs will be available.



#### **Clause 41A—Tax Deferral**

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for an Elderly - Clause 41A—Tax Deferral:

- The applicant must be 65 years of age or older.
- Income maximum is \$20,000
- There are no restrictions on assets.
- All or a portion of the real estate taxes can be deferred each year at 8% interest.
- This is considered a lien on the property and must be paid to the town, upon the sale of the property or death of the taxpayer.
- An applicant may qualify for other exemption programs listed herein in addition to the tax deferral program.

#### **Aid for the Elderly & Disabled Program**

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for Aid for the Elderly & Disabled Program

- The applicant must be 60 years of age or older.
- Income limits are \$24,980 for one, \$33,820 for two, and \$42,600 for three.
- Asset Limit \$48,000 - Excluding value of domicile
- Applicants must be the owner and reside full-time in their Stockbridge residence.
- The first half property taxes must be paid in full to be eligible for aid.
- Exemption Amount: **up to \$1,000.**



### **Clause 18A—Temporary Financial Hardship Property Tax Deferral**

This temporary hardship deferral operates similarly to the Clause 41A deferral except that the taxpayer may be of any age. The financial hardship may be due to any number of reasons including a change to active military status. Clause 18A deferral can be granted for a maximum period of three consecutive years. At the end of that period, the deferred taxes must be paid.

### **Clause 18—Hardship**

Any taxpayer who cannot meet his or her real estate tax obligation due to AGE, INFIRMITY AND POVERTY may apply for this exemption. To qualify, the applicant must present evidence to the Board of Assessors that corroborates their inability to pay the assessed tax as well as documentation on their infirmity and age. This exemption is granted at the Board of Assessors discretion and cannot be appealed.

PROGRAM NAME	BLIND EXEMPTION M.G.L. Ch 59 § 5	VETERANS EXEMPTION M.G.L. Ch 59 § 5 Various Clauses	ELDERLY EXEMPTION M.G.L. Ch 59 § 5 cl 41D	ELDERLY/ SURVIVING SPOUSE/ MINORS M.G.L. Ch. 59 § 5 cl 17E	ABATEMENT SENIOR WORK-OFF M.G.L. Ch. 59 § 5K	SENIOR DEFERRAL M.G.L. Ch 59 § 5 cl 41A	AID FOR THE ELDERLY & DISABLED
Assistance Type	Reduces local property tax liability	Reduces local property tax liability for veterans with a service related disability and /or certain medals. Also for the widows of eligible veterans.	Reduces local property tax liability of senior	Reduces local property tax liability of Senior, Surviving Spouses and Minors	Reduces local property tax liability of senior in exchange for volunteer service to municipality.	Defers payment of local property tax owed by senior until house is sold or until settlement of estate.	The town offers a direct reduction in mal estate taxes owed by Seniors & Disabled.
Eligible Age as of July 1st	N/A	N/A	70	70 Senior - No age limit on Surviving Spouse	60	65	60
Income Limit	N/A	N/A	Income limit for single person is \$23,756. Income limit for married persons is \$27,413. Income limit for single person, social security, \$28,957. Income limit for married person, social security, \$36,759.	N/A	N/A	Currently \$20,000 Maximum	\$24,980 for one, \$33,820 for two, \$42,600 for three.
Asset Limit	N/A	N/A	Equity limit for single person is \$51,172. Equity limit for married persons is \$54,826. Excluding value of domicile	Asset Limit \$73,103 Excluding value of domicile	N/A	N/A	Asset Limit \$48,000 Excluding value of domicile
Assistance Amount	\$500 exemption	\$400 up to entire tax amount * Must provide letter from Veterans' Administration showing service connected percent	\$500 exemption	\$368.00 exemption	\$600 based on \$15 per hour ~ max 40 hrs	Any amount up to maximum deferral	\$1000 exemption
Other Qualifications	* Must provide Certificate of Blindness from Massachusetts Commission for the Blind as of July 1st *Residency, ownership requirements also apply for the Blind *New - If property is in a Trust you must have Beneficial Interest, but do not need to be a Trustee.	* Must Own & Occupy prop for any 5 yrs * Have been MA resident for 10 consecutive yrs before application date	* Must Own & Occupy prop for any 5 yrs * Surviving spouse only own & occupy as of July 1st	* Senior Must Own and Occupy property as domicile for any 5 yrs. * Resident	* Must be Owner or current spouse * Must occupy property for which taxes are paid for 5 years * Resident	* The interest rate is 8.00% * Own & occupy prop for 5 years * MA resident 10yrs	Applicants must be the owner and reside full-time in their Stockbridge residence. The first half property taxes must be paid in full.
Application Procedure	File annual application with local assessors	File annual application with local assessors	File annual application with local assessors	File annual application with local assessors.	Applications will be available in Town Manager's Office on October 1, 2021	File annual application with local assessors	File annual application with local assessors

#### Exemptions Granted - Stockbridge, MA

	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
Clause 17E - Surviving Sponse & Elderly	14	12	10
Clause 22(s) - Veterans	7	8	9
Clause 37 - Blind	3	3	2
Clause 41D - Elderly	5	5	4

Possible Changes for Current Exemption

### Elderly Exemption (Clause 41D)

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for an Elderly - Clause 41D exemption:

- Have reached their 70th birthday prior to July 1st or if the property is jointly owned with a spouse, either spouse has reached his/her 70th birthday prior to July 1st.
- Have owned and occupied the property as a primary domicile as of July 1st.
- Have been domiciled in the Commonwealth for the preceding ten years.
- Owned and occupied said property or other real property in the Commonwealth for five years.
- Provide a birth certificate and required financial documentation.
- Income verification - if single, gross income cannot exceed \$23,756 (\$28,957 with social security deduction). If married, gross income cannot exceed \$27,413 (\$36,759 with social security deduction).
- Total Asset verification - if single, the whole estate both real and personal, minus the value of the domicile, cannot exceed \$51,172. If married, the combined whole estate cannot exceed \$54,826. Whole estate includes savings, stocks, bonds, and other real estate but does not include the assessed valuation of your residence, if it is of three dwelling units or less.
- Exemption Amount: **\$500**.

### Elderly Exemption (Clause 41D)

Current Exemption – Options



### **Clause 41A—Tax Deferral**

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for an Elderly - Clause 41A—Tax Deferral:


- The applicant must be 65 years of age or older.
- Income maximum is \$20,000
- There are no restrictions on assets.
- All or a portion of the real estate taxes can be deferred each year at 8% interest.
- This is considered a lien on the property and must be paid to the town, upon the sale of the property or death of the taxpayer.
- An applicant may qualify for other exemption programs listed herein in addition to the tax deferral program.

### **Clause 41A—Tax Deferral**

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be eligible for an Elderly - Clause 41A—Tax Deferral:







Other Options



Residential Exemption

### What is the Residential Exemption?

Enacted 1979, the residential exemption is an option under property tax classification [MGL c. 59, sec. 5C](#) that shifts the tax burden within the residential class from owners of moderately valued residential properties to the owners of vacation homes, higher valued homes and residential properties not occupied by the owner, including apartments and vacant lands.

### How It Works

Communities may authorize a residential exemption to all [Class One, Residential](#) properties that are principal residences of taxpayers. The exemptions cannot exceed 35% of the average assessed value of all Class One, Residential properties. Adopting a residential exemption increases the residential tax rate. This higher rate creates a shift within the class that reduces the taxes paid by homeowners with moderately valued properties. Those taxes are then paid by owners of rental properties, vacation homes and higher valued homes.

Residential Exemption - Annual Total					
Assessment	FY22 Taxes	Resident	Change	Non-Resident	Change
\$ 300,000.00	\$ 2,814.00	\$ 948.60	\$ (1,865.40)	\$ 3,162.00	\$ 348.00
\$ 500,000.00	\$ 4,690.00	\$ 3,056.60	\$ (1,633.40)	\$ 5,270.00	\$ 580.00
\$ 700,000.00	\$ 6,566.00	\$ 5,164.60	\$ (1,401.40)	\$ 7,378.00	\$ 812.00
\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 9,380.00	\$ 8,326.60	\$ (1,053.40)	\$ 10,540.00	\$ 1,160.00
\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 14,070.00	\$ 13,596.60	\$ (473.40)	\$ 15,810.00	\$ 1,740.00
\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 18,760.00	\$ 18,866.60	\$ 106.60	\$ 21,080.00	\$ 2,320.00

Based on a single family residential home valued at \$600,000

35% shift



# Senior Means-Tested Residential Exemption

"Senior Means-Tested Tax Exemption" for seniors who meet certain income and asset criteria. The goal of the new tax exemption is to provide targeted property tax relief to older homeowners and help them continue to be able to afford to live in Stockbridge.

## Eligibility Requirements

- **Age:** Must be 65 or older (co-owner must be 60 or older).
- **Residency:** Must have owned and occupied a residence in for at least 10 consecutive years
- **Income:** Annual income cannot exceed "Circuit Breaker" which is currently \$62,000 for Single Individuals, \$78,000 for Head of Household, or \$93,000 for Married Couples filing a joint return
- **Assessed value:** Annual Homeowner's Principal Residence "Circuit Breaker". Currently can not exceed \$884,000
- **Assets:** Applicant must not have excessive assets as determined by Board of Assessors
- **State Tax Return:** Must have claimed the MA State Circuit Breaker Tax Credit.
- **Exemption Amount:** Varies.

### Massachusetts Model Means-Tested Exemption Laws

	Sudbury	Concord	Reading	Hopkinton	Wayland "Circuit Breaker Matching"
Income Limit	Per Circuit Breaker	Per Circuit Breaker	Per Circuit Breaker	Per Circuit Breaker	Per Circuit Breaker
Asset Limit	"Excessive"	"Excessive"	"Excessive"	"Excessive"	No test
Age	Per Circuit Breaker	Per Circuit Breaker	Per Circuit Breaker	Single 65+, joint 60+ allowed	Per Circuit Breaker
House Value	Average Single Family Home (SFH) +10%	< Median SFH	Per Circuit Breaker	Per Circuit Breaker	Per Circuit Breaker
Residency	10 year consecutive	10 year consecutive	10 year consecutive	10 year consecutive	10 year consecutive
Benefit	Exemption of the amount that property tax exceeds 10% of income, less the amount that the homeowner qualified for under the Circuit Breaker income limits.	Exemption of the amount that property tax exceeds 10% of income, less the amount that the homeowner qualified for under the Circuit Breaker income limits.	50% to 200% of the amount that the homeowner qualified for under the Circuit Breaker	Set annually by Selectmen- benefit is 50% to 200% of State Circuit Breaker	Up to 100% match of the Circuit Breaker
Benefit Cost Cap	Maximum total of benefits is .5 to 1 % of levy, pre rate-setting per Selectmen	Maximum total of benefits is .5 to 1 % of levy, pre rate-setting per Selectmen			none
Who funds?	Residential reallocation	Residential reallocation	Residential reallocation	Residential reallocation	Municipal Budget not reallocated

## 41C 1/2 Elderly Exemption

## Change Current Exemption 41D to 41C ½



<b>ELIGIBLE AGE</b>	70 as of July 1 (Same as Clauses 41, 41B and 41C)  <u>Allowable Adjustment:</u> 65 (Same as allowed under Clause 41C)
<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	Own the property on July 1 (Same as Clauses 41, 41B and 41C)  Owned and occupied the property, or any other MA property, as domicile for any 5 years (Same as Clauses 41B and 41C)
<b>DOMICILE</b>	Occupy the property as domicile on July 1 (Same as Clauses 41, 41B and 41C)  Domiciled in MA for 10 consecutive years before application date (Same as Clauses 41B and 41C)  <u>Allowable Adjustment:</u> Domiciled in MA for 5 consecutive years before application date
<b>GROSS RECEIPTS LIMIT</b>	Same as the income limit that applies for a single person who is not the head of a household to qualify for the "circuit breaker" state income tax credit for the prior calendar year (Different from Clauses 41, 41B and 41C)  No social security deduction from gross receipts (Different from Clauses 41, 41B and 41C)  <u>Allowable Adjustment:</u> Adjust income limits to apply to combined household income: (1) in household with applicant and spouse, to limit for married couple, and (2) in household with applicant and person other than spouse, to limit for head of household, under the state circuit breaker income tax credit
<b>WHOLE ESTATE LIMIT</b>	None (Different from Clauses 41, 41B than 41C)
<b>EXEMPTION AMOUNT</b>	5% of average assessed residential valuation (Different from Clauses 41, 41B than 41C)  <u>Allowable Adjustment:</u> Up to 20% of average assessed residential valuation

### EXEMPTION AMOUNT

The exemption amount is five percent (can be adjusted up to 20%) of the average assessed value of residential parcels in the city or town. Average assessed value is determined by dividing the total valuation of all Class 1, Residential property by the total number of Class 1 parcels.

FY 2022

Class 1 Value	Class 1 Homes	Average Assessed Value
\$ 883,535,320.00	1695	\$521,259.78

### STATE REIMBURSEMENT

Subject to appropriation, cities and towns that accept Clause 41C% will be reimbursed at the rate of the actual exemption amount or \$500, whichever is less, for each exemption granted up to the Clause 41 cap of 19 for the Town of Stockbridge.

Percent	Reduction	Tax Rate	Exemption
5%	\$ 26,062.99	\$ 9.38	\$ 244.47
6%	\$ 31,275.59	\$ 9.38	\$ 293.37
7%	\$ 36,488.18	\$ 9.38	\$ 342.26
8%	\$ 41,700.78	\$ 9.38	\$ 391.15
9%	\$ 46,913.38	\$ 9.38	\$ 440.05
10%	\$ 52,125.98	\$ 9.38	\$ 488.94
11%	\$ 57,338.58	\$ 9.38	\$ 537.84
12%	\$ 62,551.17	\$ 9.38	\$ 586.73
13%	\$ 67,763.77	\$ 9.38	\$ 635.62
14%	\$ 72,976.37	\$ 9.38	\$ 684.52
15%	\$ 78,188.97	\$ 9.38	\$ 733.41
16%	\$ 83,401.56	\$ 9.38	\$ 782.31
17%	\$ 88,614.16	\$ 9.38	\$ 831.20
18%	\$ 93,826.76	\$ 9.38	\$ 880.10
19%	\$ 99,039.36	\$ 9.38	\$ 928.99
20%	\$ 104,251.96	\$ 9.38	\$ 977.88

Seniors can apply for as many of these that apply.

Roxanne McCaffrey was interested in the thoughts of the whole Board. Patrick asked to hear feedback first before the Board gives their thoughts.

Jay Bikofsky, speaking as a resident, stated that the entire Select Board needs to understand all of the options available. With the ten options, what is the principal objective of the Board relative to the Town; what are we trying to accomplish and for whom. This is not something that can be dealt with superficially nor quickly.

Steve Shatz, speaking as a resident, stated that at the Finance Committee meeting, there was no vote taken of any kind related to the residential tax exemption. He was appreciative that all of the options were brought forward but some doesn't represent good housing policy; much of it is "the cart before the horse". He felt that a planned to be done, identifying the problem and developing the strategies. Patrick stated his ideas on the need of an RTE.

Chuck did not agree to scaring people into believing that we cannot afford things. An RTE does not raise any money, only shifts it. John Hart said that they are not just talking about RTEs but about assessments that are increasing and some people in town need help. Peter Strauss agreed with shifting tax burdens but said there are other ways of doing it other than the RTE. Chuck noted that there are serious side effects, not being talked about, to the RTE. He added that there are options and he would take the tax deferral, put it to 1%, to 63,000. Chuck said that as a Selectman, they represent everybody in Town and their decision needs to be made on the whole Town. He treats everyone equally in how he makes his decisions and he stated that he is not in favor of the RTE for many reasons and they have other options and other

ways to help residents. He added that this is not a way to get young people in Town. Jamie said that she agreed with Chuck and felt the RTE is divisive, crippling and is not for it. She does not want to make value judgements on who can afford it and who can't. More staff would be an added burden. Patrick liked the idea of expanding the scope of the senior work-off and would like more information on it. Of the 41C½ and the tax deferral he felt the 41C½ was better. Chuck added that they can do all of the other options. Hilary Freedman asked questions on additional data for all of the options. Patrick said that people who have applied in the past have been approved. Freedman did not agree with the RTE. Patrick said that the RTE is off the table for this year. Dick Jaffe said that everyone loves the Town. They are all neighbors and willing to support each other. Jane Karlin expressed her thanks to the Board.

**Adjournment:**

With no further business, adjourned the meeting.

Please see <https://ctsbtv.org/government-channel-1303/> to view the full meeting.