

TOWN CLERK STAMP:

NOTICE OF MEETING
MEETING MINUTES

BOARD/COMMITTEE NAME: Taxation Aid Committee

DATE OF MEETING: Thursday, November 18

TIME OF MEETING: 6:00 pm

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual Meeting via Zoom:

By computer or tablet:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84868000762?pwd=eFhlUUlFellVamgyZnVnaE0wcFJGQT09>

Meeting ID: 848 6800 0762

Passcode: 405666

By phone:

(646) 558-8656 Meeting ID: 848 6800 0762 Passcode: 405666

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,84868000762#,,, *405666#

AGENDA

1. Call to order: *Alejna called meeting to order 6:06pm EST online; Alejna, Joyce, Kathleen, Kevin present; Jody joined a few minutes late.*
2. Clerk's report (approve minutes): *Joyce took minutes last meeting and read minutes aloud (August 20th was last meeting): Kevin moved to approve minutes and Kathleen seconded; minutes unanimously approved.*
3. Treasurer's Report: *Available balance in the Taxation Aid Relief Fund as of 11/1/2021: **\$4,045.50***
 - a. *Question for Jody: State Aid Taxation amount received monthly – abatement (veteran's exemption \$ is not part of Tax Aid, so not included in balance)*
4. Review anonymized applications and decide on awards
 - a. *Kevin shared that if dire cases are raised to Board of Assessors: assessors could make a decision to exempt tax altogether, but that has not been the norm in Mendon, but other towns do that – something to consider for future.*

- b. Kevin also noted there may be sticker shock with December tax bill – rising home values– sticker shock will not only impact our 3 applicants we review but all residents.
- c. Jody shared spreadsheet and some objective measures: tax liability, how long applicant lived in town; and how much Tax Aid committee wants to spend down balance: group landed on ~2/3 spend = to ~20% award for each candidate:
 - i. **Applicant 1: \$1,000**
 - ii. **Applicant 2: \$1,400**
 - iii. **Applicant 3: \$750**
 - iv. **Tax Aid Committee Balance after awards = \$895.50**

Joyce made motion to vote to approve: Joyce, Jody, Kevin, Kathleen, Alejna (unanimously) approved the above applicant tax aid relief awards.

5. Review/update decision notification letters: YES Letter – Jody will tweak letter from 2019; Alejna emailed Jody old draft to finalize letters.
 - a. Jody requested meeting minutes as documentation for reallocation of funds – will work with Town Accountant on internal memo of sorts and have the \$ move from Tax Aid Committee; Jean B. to do the tax abatement for three candidates.
6. Updates on proposed means-tested property tax exemption (METER) for senior citizens: Joint Committee on Revenue – hearing took place – Brian Murray testified and Kevin and Alejna submitted letter submitted letters of support – end of Feb/early March – decision will likely move favorably; next step after committee – eventually voted on late Spring; if approved, METER program in Mendo will be on track for FY2023 (7 people would qualify currently according to Kevin from Board of Assessors)
7. Review contents of Annual Report draft: Alejna shared screen of past report; Alejna will update report and send out to Committee for comment
8. Plans and next steps
 - a. Board reorganization: Kevin motioned to have Alejna be Chair for another year; Kathleen seconded; Alejna accepted!
 - b. Outreach and publicity:
 - i. Kevin suggested opportunities to advertise at local establishments – “leave your change” campaign

- ii. *Fiscal 2023 – Jody’s office needs to know by May if we want to put an insert in with taxes*
 - iii. *Jody will share an early estimate in spring how much a mailer insert would cost*
 - c. *Future meetings – tentative date: early February remote; **Wednesday 2/9/2022 – 7pm EST***
9. *Adjourn: Motion to adjourn – Kathleen 7:34pm EST; Kevin seconded.*