Article 20

Annual Spring Town Meeting 2013

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL REAL ESTATE EXEMPTIONS FOR DISABLED VETERANS, THE BLIND, SURVIVING SPOUSE & ELDERLY

Article: 20

"To see if the Town will vote in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988, amending Section 4 of Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986; for those who qualified under Chapter 59, Section 5; additional real estate tax exemption of 50% of exemptions for which said taxpayer qualify under the provisions as set forth therein for FY 2014 or take any other action relative thereto. (Petition of the Board of Assessors)

Report from the Board of Assessors:

The optional additional exemption requires annual approval by the local appropriating authority. Town Meeting has adopted the Optional Additional Real Estate Exemption since FY 2001. The exemption is currently at 50%, the Board proposes to maintain the 50% level for FY 2014.

The Board of Assessors receives many inquires regarding property tax relief from taxpayers, that are disabled, on a limited income, or who are coping with rising household expenses and property taxes. Fortunately, there are programs to help those who qualify to meet their tax obligations. These programs which provide property tax exemptions are set forth in Section 5 of Chapter 59, of M.G.L.

Exemption Description		Current Exemption	Plus 50%	Proposed FY 2014
Widows CL. 17D		$175.00	$87.50	$262.50
Disabled Veteran CL. 22	(Greater than 10%)	$400.00	$200.00	$600.00
Disabled Veteran CL. 22A	(Loss of Limb or Eye)	$750.00	$375.00	$1,125.00
Disabled Veteran CL. 22E	(100% Disabled)	$1,000.00	$500.00	$1,500.00
Disabled Veteran CL. 22C	(Adapted Housing)	$1,500.00	$750.00	$2,250.00
Blind CL. 37		$437.50	$218.75	$656.25
Elderly 41C		$1,000.00	$500.00	$1,500.00

Projected Cost to the Town (Based on FY 2012 Exemptions)

Exemption Description	# of FY 2012	Plus 50%		Cost
Widows CL. 17D	16	$87.50		$1,400.00
Disabled Veteran CL. 22	139	$200.00		$27,800.00
Disabled Veteran CL. 22A	2	$375.00		$750.00
Disabled Veteran CL. 22E	41	$500.00		$20,500.00
Disabled Veteran CL. 22C	1	$500.00		$500.00
Blind CL. 37	18	$218.75		$3,937.50
Elderly 41C	45	$500.00		$22,500.00
Total	262		**Total**	**$77,388 ***

*** Funding from existing Abatements & Exemption Account (Overlay)**

OVER Additional Information

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS & DEFERRAL

FOR DISABLE VETERANS, OLDER CITIZENS, SURVIVING SPOUSES AND MINORS

The Walpole Board of Assessors is offering advice for taxpayers regarding property tax exemptions and deferrals of property taxes.

The Assessors Office receives many inquires regarding property tax exemptions from taxpayers on limited income who are coping with rising household expenses and property taxes. Fortunately, there are programs to help you meet your tax obligations. These programs, which provide either property tax exemptions or a deferral of taxes, are set forth in different clauses of Section 5 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws of Massachusetts. Those specifically geared for you are Clause 17D, Clause 41C or Clause 41A - Tax Deferral.

The Assessors have briefly outlined the following regulations pertaining to these exemptions:

Clause 41C - Elderly Exemption ($1,000 up to $1,500 Tax Exemption)

Must be 70 years of age by July 1st.
For a Single person: Assets not to exceed $40,000 & Income less than $20,000 per year.
For a Married person: Assets not to exceed $55,000 & Income less than $30,000 per year.
Assets - excluding assessed value of domicile as of July 1, household items and motor vehicles.
Income includes all gross receipts. Owned & Occupied real estate in MA for 5 years, plus have to have lived in MA, the last ten years. Surviving Spouse must have occupied the property five years.

Clause 17D - For Older citizens, Surviving Spouses and Minors ($175 up to $262.50 Tax Exemption)

Must be 70 years of age by July 1st.
Total worth may not exceed $40,000, excluding the assessed value of the domicile as of July 1.
Income not considered when applying for Clause 17D.

If you are a surving spouse of any age or a qualified minor, that is, a minor who has a deceased parent.

Clause 18 - Hardship

For persons who, because they are aged, infirm and poverty-stricken, cannot make full or partial payment of their property taxes. The decision to grant a Clause 18 exemption is made solely at the discretion of the Assessors.

Clause 37 - Blind ($437.50 up to $656.25 Tax Exemption)

Are available to a blind person. (Registered with the Mass. Commission of the Blind)

Clause 22 - Disabled Veterans ($400 up to $600 Tax Exemption)

Provide exemptions to certain veterans (and their spouses or surving spouses) who were not dishonorably discharged and who meet certain residency requirements)
Certification of a war-service connected disability from the Veterans Administration and separation papers. (minimum 10% disability)
Lived in Massachusetts for not less than 5 years prior to filing for exemption.

Clause 41A - Tax Deferral
Persons must be 65 years or older by July 1 of the year of application.
Massachusetts must have been your domicile for the preceding ten years.
Applicants must have owned and occupied as your domicile any real property in Massachusetts (including present property) for five years..
Gross annual income cannot exceed $51,000 in preceding year. (FTM...2008)

If the applicant meets the requirements, they can defer all or a portion of the taxes for the year. The interest on the amount deferred is (4%) four percent simple interest. The community imposes a lien on the property when the deferral is approved.

If you have any further questions or wish more information, please contact the Board of Assessors, 508-660-7315, or write us at Board of Assessors, 135 School St., Walpole, MA 02081