

DRAFT

TAX ABATEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2022

Members of the Tax Abatement Committee met by Zoom on January 14, 2022 at approximately 10:00 am to discuss the 100% tax abatement for Homes With Hope for 10 West End Avenue; the 35% tax abatement for Homes With Hope at 90, 94 and 98 Saugatuck Avenue; and the 20% tax abatement for Hales Court Housing LLC for Hales Court.

Committee members present: Gary Conrad, Finance Director; Christine Alison, Tax Collector; and Paul Friia, Tax Assessor.

Also present: Carol Martin and Bruce Whitaker of Hales Court Housing LLC (and the Westport Housing Authority); Helen McAlinden and Jacqui Hogan of Homes with Hope; and Eileen Lavigne Flug, Assistant Town Attorney.

Discussion:

Discussion Regarding Next Meeting Date for the Committee: Homes with Hope and Hales Court Housing LLC both have December 31 fiscal year ends. Because their financial statements are due 90 days after the fiscal year end (Homes with Hope, under the 10 West End Avenue Tax Abatement Agreement) and 120 days after the fiscal year end (Hales Court Housing LLC), and because the Tax Collector sends out tax bills in the third week of June, the sense of the meeting was that future meetings of the Tax Abatement Committee should be in late May or early June of each year.

Discussion Regarding Delivery of Financial Statements: In order to help Homes with Hope and Hales Court Housing comply with the financial statement delivery requirements of the Tax Abatement Agreements, the Assessor's Office will endeavor to send reminders in mid-April of each year. Failure of the Assessor's Office to send a reminder, however, does not relieve the housing providers from sending the financial statements as required by the Tax Abatement Agreements.

Homes with Hope – The Committee discussed the 100% tax abatement for 10 West End Avenue (the Rotary Centennial House) and the 35% abatement at 90, 94 and 98 Saugatuck Avenue (Powell Place). Helen McAlinden confirmed that the abatements are still being used for the purposes set forth in the Tax Abatement Agreements. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that Homes with Hope would continue to receive a 100% tax abatement for 10 West End Avenue and a 35% tax abatement for 90, 94 and 98 Saugatuck Avenue, for Grand List Year 2020.

Hales Court Housing LLC -- The Committee discussed the 20% tax abatement for Hales Court. Carol Martin confirmed that the abatements are still being used for the purposes set forth in the Tax Abatement Agreement. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously

RESOLVED, that Hales Court Housing LLC would continue to receive a 20% tax abatement for Hales Court for Grand List Year 2020.

The abatement has not been applied to the tax bills issued for Hales Court for Grand List Year 2020, so Ms. Alison will apply the full 20% abatement to the fourth quarter tax bill.

The abatement was not applied to the tax bills issued for Hales Court for Grand List Year 2019, which bills were already paid in full by Hales Court Housing LLC. The LLC intends to submit a request for a refund of the unabated amount.

The abatement was also not applied to the tax bills issued for Hales Court for 2016, 2017 or 2018. While the LLC previously had requested a refund of those amounts, Carol Martin, on behalf of the LLC, submitted a letter to the Assistant Town Attorney on January 13, 2022 withdrawing that request. The Committee thanked Carol Martin for this withdrawal and for continuing to provide housing for those in need.

There was no further action.

The meeting properly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Eileen Lavigne Flug
Assistant Town Attorney