

NEW HAVEN TOWN PUBLIC HEARING HELD JULY 11, 2006

CALL TO ORDER:

Public Hearing on the Local Law #1 of 2006 titled "A Local Relative To Tax Exemption For The Elderly" was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Wilbur. Councilman Parkhurst, Councilman Perras, Councilwoman Schmidt, Councilman Yablonski and Supervisor Wilbur Present. Notice of Public Hearing was legally advertised and posted. Also present were Assessor Jacqueline Rombough, Legislator Kevin Gardner, Town Clerk Debra Allen and 5 residents of the Town.

Jacqueline Rombough informed the board that there are currently 52 seniors receiving exemptions at the county level.

Brenda McAuslan asked how much increasing the income limit for senior exemptions would raise taxes for the rest of the taxpayers in the town. She went on to say that it was not fair to the young people.

Linda Clark said she is not opposed to giving low-income seniors a brake, but she sees a lot of young people struggling and raising the income limit for senior exemptions would shift the burden to the young people.

Brenda McAuslan said that it would be reverse discrimination.

Fred Wilbur stated that the last time the income limit was adjusted was in 1996. He also stated that when the tax rate is adjusted for our equalization rate, the Town of New Haven is about median for towns in Oswego County.

Brenda McAuslan said that American incomes have decreased by 5.8%.

Chuck Yablonski estimated that the increase would be approximately \$66.00 per parcel.

Debra Allen said this estimate was too high as current seniors who would qualify for the exemption are already getting the exemption on the county portion of the taxes and the exemption does not affect the fire, lighting or water portion of the taxes. Also a portion of the seniors are already receiving the exemption on the town portion of the taxes.

Larry Perras stated that based on the census information he estimated that up to 22 new exemptions could be added at the town level. He estimated that the impact per parcel would be close to \$4.00. He also stated that he felt this estimate was probably high as the census data had a cutoff of \$19,999 so he could not tell how many were actually below the \$16,025.00 limit called for in the proposed local law.

Patty Prosser asked about the revaluation project. Supervisor Wilbur stated that there would be a public informational meeting concerning the revaluation project on July 12th at 7:00 at the fire station.

Madelyn Schmidt stated that she felt these becoming seniors now are in better shape than in the past and the young need help.

ADJOURNMENT

Public Hearing closed at 6:55 p.m. by motion of Perras, second by Parkhurst.
Unanimously carried.

Minutes are preliminary until approved by the board.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. Allen
New Haven Town Clerk