

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
Wednesday, February 21, 2007**

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Canton was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2007, at 6:45 p.m. in the Canton Public Library and Community Center, 40 Dyer Avenue, Collinsville, CT.

Mary Tomolonius opened the meeting at 6:53pm by asking for a nomination from the floor for a Moderator. David Gilchrist nominated Mary Tomolonius and it was seconded by Jonathan Webb. The vote was unanimous. The Town Clerk, Linda Smith, read the call of the meeting and the return of notice.

Mary Tomolonius moved that the meeting consider and take action on a proposed ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Authorizing a Program of Property Tax Relief." David Gilchrist stood to explain the origin of the effort and procedure taken to bring the Ordinance before the people. It is similar in structure to the Avon elderly tax relief program. It would be in addition to the State program already in place. The ordinance will be reviewed and evaluated every two years.

Jim Keane, Freedom Drive, did not feel that the program was fair because the Town still needs the same amount of tax dollars regardless of who it comes from. Some will pay more because some will pay less under this program. The elderly should not benefit at the expense of the young. If there is to be a program in place, it should be income drive only; not age driven.

George Elmgren, 72 West Mountain Road, felt that the elderly do not use as many tax dollars because they don't have kids in the school system. Families with children use many benefits.

Mary Tomolonius pointed out that this is an income and age based program that would cost the Town approximately \$34,000 annually.

Jonathan Webb, a member of the committee that drafted the proposed ordinance, spoke about the income that would be considered when evaluating eligibility.

Peg Farrar, River Street, noted the program is being done successfully in Avon and this would allow fixed income people the ability to stay in their homes.

Jim Keane moved the vote. Seconded by David Sinish.

13 YES
1 NO

David Gilchrist made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Peg Farrar.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

Linda Smith
Linda Smith, Town Clerk

Linda Smith
Linda Smith, Town Clerk

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