

City of East Providence Budget Commission
City Hall
145 Taunton Avenue
East Providence, RI 02914
(401) 435-7500

Public Meeting Minutes – Homestead and Tax Discount
May 3, 2012, 4:00 PM

Members: Michael O’Keefe – present
Stephen Bannon – present
Diane Brennan – present
City Manager, Peter Graczykowski – present
Mayor Bruce Rogers – present

Other Attendees: Ellen Eggeman – City Finance Director
Christy Healey, Budget Commission Fiscal Advisor
David Eaton, Budget Commission Fiscal Advisor
Heather Martino, Interim HR Director
Members of the Public

The meeting commenced at 4:00 pm. Agenda Item #1 was the second reading of the Ordinance on the Phase-out of the Property Tax Pre-Payment Discount by Fiscal year 2015. The Budget Commission will have the final approval May 10th. There was no public comment on this issue. The City Council has also passed this amendment according to the City Manager.

Agenda Item #2 was the second reading of a resolution to Phase-out the Homestead Exemption by Fiscal Year 2026. Michael O’Keefe made a motion to amend Section 1 (7) to state (6) years instead of (10) years to be in compliance with Rhode Island General Law. Peter Graczykowski seconded the motion. Michael O’Keefe opened the floor to public comment. Chrissy Rossi inquired about the reduction rate, the percentage of tax increase and the allowance of public input on this issue. The reduction rate will be reduced one percent annually through FY2026 and will increase the average tax bill \$115 annually. The Budget Commission will have a total of three hearings depending on public comment.

Another citizen inquired about the Phase-out of the Property Tax Pre-Payment and reducing the percent discount. The Budget Commission has analyzed the effect of reducing the 3% to 0% in Fiscal Year 2012, and will make the reductions of 2%, 1.5%, and 1% over the next four years reducing the fiscal impact to the budget. There were no further public comments and the Budget Commission will have a final vote on May 10th.

Agenda Item #3 was the first reading of the Ordinance Ordering the Assessment and Collection of Property Tax on the Ratable Real Estate, Tangible Personal Property, and an

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Excise Tax on Registered Motor Vehicles and Trailers. The adjusted tax rate would be reduced to bring the levy into compliance with the State's 4.25% Tax Levy Cap. Mr. O'Keefe opened the floor for public comment, however no comments were provided. Mr. O'Keefe made a motion to adjourn and Mayor Rogers seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

EPBC/ceh

Minutes approved by the East Providence Budget Commission on May 10, 2012.