

Middletown Tax Exploratory Committee

Minutes:

- Tax Committee met at the Middletown Fire Station

- Jul 25, 2016

- Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

- Attendees:

o Antone Viveiros - President

o Dennis Turano – Vice President

o Larry Connell - Secretary

o Tom Heaney - Member

o Terry Flynn - Resident

Purpose: Examine the way the Town of Middletown assesses and levies property taxes.

Objective: Compare and contrast alternative methods for levying residential property taxes. Present findings and recommendations to the Middletown Town Council.

Old Business:

Approval of minutes.

Motion: Approve minutes from June 16, 2016 Committee board meeting

Vote: Motion carried

Resolved: Minutes from the meeting on June 16, 2016 approved

without modification

New Business: Alternative Methods for taxing residential properties

Discussion:

● Discussion on the merits of Proposition 13 in California.

● Discussion on the current exemptions allowed under property tax. Committee would like to obtain a list of all allowed exemptions to factor into alternative tax models.

● Reviewed data from previous meeting in order to formulate a proposal to the Middletown Town Council.

● Discussed “Triggers” for reassessments e.g. addition to house, addition of a deck, sale of a home, etc.

● Discussed how market value can (and often does) exceed assessed value, although that is not always the case i.e too much variation in how homes are assessed.

● Discussion on how there is no correlation between the value of a home and the services provided by the town. Everyone uses most, if not all services equally e.g. Fire, Police, DPW, etc.

● Discussed “line item” taxation e.g. All residents should pay an equal amount for Police, Fire, DPW, Town Hall Services, etc. Taxes paid for school gets much more complicated but could fall under the same model based on the number children a resident has in public school.

Next Meeting: Next committee meeting is scheduled for Wed. 24 Aug 2016.

Topics for next meeting:

- **How to calculate home improvements**
- **When a house sells**
- **Transfer to a relative**
- **Comparison to other states**

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 19:58 p.m.