Tax Aid Committee

TOWN OF DUNSTABLE

511 MAIN STREET

DUNSTABLE MA 01827

Meeting Minutes- Approved

April 16, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Dunstable Tax Aid Committee meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by the Chair.

Tax Aid Committee Members Present

Anne J. Farina, Resident, Chair

Bonnie Ricardelli, Acting Town Treasurer

Nikole Roth, Resident

Lori Brooks, Resident

Not Present

Brett Rock, Chair- Board of Assessors

Others

None

2. **Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
   - Approved Minutes for 3/19/25 and 4/2/25 Meetings
3. **Review MGL Chapter 60, Section 3D**

A city or town which accepts the provisions of this section is hereby authorized, subject to the approval of the commissioner, to design and designate a place on its municipal tax bills, or the motor vehicle excise tax bills, or to mail with such tax bills a separate form, whereby the taxpayers of said city or town may voluntarily check off, donate and pledge an amount not less than $1 or such other designated amount which shall increase the amount otherwise due, and ***to establish a city or town aid to the elderly and disabled taxation fund for the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of low income****.*

Any amounts donated to said fund shall be deposited into a special account in the general treasury and shall be in the custody of the treasurer. The treasurer shall invest said funds at the direction of the officer, board, commission, committee or other agency of the city or town who or which is otherwise authorized and required to invest trust funds of the city or town and subject to the same limitations applicable to trust fund investments, except as otherwise specified herein. The fund, together with the interest earned thereon shall be used for the purpose specified in this section without further appropriation.

In any city or town establishing an aid to the elderly and disabled taxation fund, there shall be a taxation aid committee to consist of the chairman of the board of assessors, the city or town treasurer and three residents of the city or town to be appointed by the mayor or board of selectmen as the case may be. Said board shall adopt rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this section and to identify the recipients of such aid.

4. **General Discussion**

A general discussion ensued regarding Eligibility criteria and the following was agreed:

- **Age (Elderly")**: 65+
- **Disabled**: Applicant must establish that they are eligible for, and receiving state or federal disability benefits
- **Residency:**
  - Town resident 5+ years
  - Must occupy Dunstable residence
- **Income level ("low income")**: Deferred, pending additional information

- Application support documentation
- Decision-making procedures
- Communication of Committee's purpose and charge

5. **Communication Plan**

In addition to the Town Website and Neighbor-to-Neighbor, the Committee determined that once the program design is complete it will address the Town's Seniors at a regularly scheduled Senior meeting, and it will endeavor to attend the Dunstable summer activities to advertise the Charter/Purpose and solicit resident donations.

6. **Spring/Summer Meeting Schedule**

The Committee reasonably anticipates completing the design of the Program by early to mid-June. It determined it will meet on May 7, May 21, and June 4. If needed, the Committee will meet again on June 25.

Adjournment

Upon a Motion from the floor, which was seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.