Town Issues Impacting Seniors

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Fairfield Senior Advocates
FSA on Town Issues

Working on many issues & opportunities here in Town

- Senior housing solutions
- Affordable Fairfield
- Senior/disabled tax relief
- Senior programs and facilities
- Education and engagement
Why Invest in Our Seniors?

... Because investing in our seniors makes perfect sense!

- Property tax revenues for age 65+ households + $56,000,000
- Age 65+ share of Town side cost - $24,000,000
- Senior tax relief (includes disabled) - $3,500,000
- Bigelow Center (for seniors) - $450,000
- Town contributions to non-profits - $75,000
- Bigelow facilities - $25,000
- Age 65+ net gain to Town = $28,000,000

Expected cost of losing a senior household $10,000/year
FY 2020 Budget Reality

Proposed 1.9% FY’20 tax increase with higher spend rate
- Town ops spend increased ~ 2.8+%
- Education spend increased ~ 4.6%
- Overall spend increase of ~ 3.8%
- Spending increases nominally offset by ~1% growth in grand list

Board of Finance Budget Public Hearing
- > 10 speakers advocating for FSA focus issues and spending control such as:
  - Spending balanced and focused on seniors
  - Senior center
  - Senior programs
  - Greater equity and fairness
- Visibly recognized and commented upon by BOF

Current status regarding budget – now on to RTM
**Longer Term Budget Realities**

There are potential implications that should be planned for . . .

- Forecast: continued educational spending increases and enrollment declines
- 2020 revaluation likely to show decline of higher priced properties, pushing tax burden to price segments <$750K
- State burden push to Towns may continue
  - Removal of motor vehicle tax revenue to Town
  - Education cost share reductions
  - Eliminated funding for low income senior tax relief
  - Potential: teacher pension liabilities transfer
  - Potential: Hartford tax redistributions
Longer Term Focus on Keeping Seniors

... Community-wide interest needs to result in action

- Senior-friendly housing: key to our demographics and finances
- Evaluation of senior tax relief
- Investment in facilities
- Programs to engage seniors in the 2020’s
Senior/Disabled Tax Relief

May 15th is the deadline for this year!

- Program is designed to assist seniors age 65+ and disabled
- Afford relief to ~full time residents based on income/assets
- Costs Town ~$3.5 million per year; ~1300 households participate
- Recent recommendation to modify program criteria requires review:
  - Income eligibility
  - Asset eligibility vs. appraised value
  - Benefit levels
- Finding: Board of Finance must approve any program changes
- Near term review required if any revision for 2020-21 budget year

May 15th is the deadline for this year – inquire or apply ASAP!