



TOWN OF TRURO

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POLICY MEMORANDUM #30

Date: Adopted July 30, 2003, revised 6/6/2006, 5/29/2007, 5/21/2008, 5/26/2009, 8/4/2009, 5/18/2010, 5/22/2013, 10/28/2014, 10/17/2017, 9/13/2022

*This policy was revised at the September 13, 2022 Select Board meeting solely to reflect the titles used in the Town Charter for the Town Manager and Select Board and to modify language to be gender neutral. No changes were made to the content of the Policy at that meeting.

Subject: **SENIOR MUNICIPAL SERVICE PROGRAM**

I. Introduction

Article 13, Section 9 of the April 29, 2003 Annual Town Meeting asked the town to adopt MGL Chapter 59 §5K as amended; this item was unanimously approved. By adopting this legislation the Town of Truro may offer real estate tax reduction to its senior residents for volunteer services provided to the town. Program guidelines and participation requirements are periodically revisited and updated to make sure the program is serving those most in need.

II. Program guidelines

- Applications will be accepted annually, beginning June 1st.
- Participants must reapply to the program annually.
- **After a Department Head has had someone in the same position for two successive years, the Department Head will be required to review the total list of applicants for that year and is encouraged to provide opportunities for others to participate in the program.**
- Participants will receive credit for their services on the first half real estate tax bill issued after completion of the required hours of service.
- Hours of service will be credited at the then-current minimum wage rate in effect in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- The maximum real estate tax reduction participants may earn is \$1000.00 per tax billing cycle; the minimum is \$500.00. The hours of service required to earn the reduction will fluctuate depending on the minimum wage in effect. Example: If minimum wage is \$11 per hour, participants will be required to complete 91 hours of service to earn the \$1000.00 benefit or 46 hours of service to earn the \$500.00 benefit. No partial credit will be received for participants who fail to complete the minimum or the maximum number of service hours required.
- Commission, Board or Committee members are not eligible for this program for the time they spend serving in that capacity.
- Current full-time employees are ineligible to participate.
- Only fifteen (15) full-time equivalent placements will be authorized in each fiscal year program.

III. Participation requirements:

- Must be 60 years of age or older.
- **First consideration will be given to those who otherwise would qualify for the Elderly Persons (clause 41C) real estate tax relief. The goal is not to eliminate anyone, but to give priority to those residents that show financial need.**
- Must own property in Truro that serves as their principal residence.
- Must have been a full-time resident of Truro as of July 1st of the previous year.
- Must be the homeowner.
- Must be the current occupant of property for which the real estate tax reduction is being requested.



Kristen Reed, Chair



Robert Weinstein, Vice Chair



John Dundas, Clerk



Susan Areson



Stephanie Rein

Select Board
Town of Truro