

ARTICLE 22

**ACCEPTANCE OF LEGISLATION/SENIOR
PROPERTY TAX WORK-OFF PROGRAM**

To see if the Town will vote to accept Massachusetts General Law Chapter 59 Section 5K, in order to authorize Arlington to establish a program to allow residents age 60 and over to volunteer to provide services in exchange for a reduction in the real property tax obligations on the residents' tax bills, which reduction shall be in addition to any exemption or abatement to which that person is otherwise entitled; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted by the Board of Selectmen)

VOTED: That the Town does hereby adopt Section 5K of M.G.L. Ch. 59, establishing a senior tax work off program as defined therein, including any subsequent amendments or modifications thereto, and elects to allow “approved representatives” to perform the services for the Town where otherwise eligible seniors are physically unable to do so themselves; such adoption shall be effective upon acceptance.

(4-0) Mr. Greeley was absent.

COMMENT: This article represents the first of a suite of measures this Board sought from the Health and Human Services Department, Town Manager, and other Town officials to ease the tax burdens of potentially vulnerable Arlington homeowners, particularly Arlington seniors and others on fixed incomes, especially as the Town employs debt exclusions to meet the pressing capital needs of our schools. By accepting this legislation, one new tool will be available to Arlington seniors (defined in the statute as persons over the age of 60) to meet their local real property tax obligations – a volunteer “work off” program, which can supplement other abatement or exemption programs with a maximum property tax reduction of up to \$1,500.00 for calendar year.

In order to ensure maximum access, the Board of Selectmen also strongly recommends Town Meeting adopt this legislation with the added option of allowing an “approved representative” to perform the volunteer work for an eligible senior unable to provide approved work services to the Town themselves. The Board strongly urges Town Meeting’s favorable action on each and all of these tax assistance articles as integral to balancing the diverse needs and resources of Arlington’s valued residents.