AGENDA PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE PUBLIC HEARING PRESENTATION ON THE STATE OF NEW YORK'S NEW BASIC STAR PROGRAM PROCEDURES TO BE HELD IN THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512

Tuesday	September 3, 2013	6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairman Othmer who requested that the Director of Veterans Affairs' wife, Mrs. Rohde lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Scuccimarra, Oliverio, Nacerino, Albano, Gross, Castellano, LoBue, and Chairman Othmer. Also present was Legislative Counsel Van Ross. Legislator DiCarlo was absent.

Chairman Othmer requested the Clerk to read the Public Notice:

PUBLIC NOTICE

<u>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN</u>, that the Putnam County Legislature will hold a Public Hearing on the State of New York's new Basic STAR (School Tax Relief) property tax exemption. The hearing will be held prior to the Meeting of the Full Legislature on September 3, 2013 in the Historic Courthouse located at 44 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, New York at 6:00 P.M.

At that time a representative from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance will make a short presentation of the new program's procedures and will be available to answer questions.

BY ORDER OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE Diane Schonfeld Clerk

Item # 4 - Presentation/State of New York's New Basic Star Program Procedures

Mr. John Wolham, from the Southern Region of the Office of Real Property Tax Services, a division of the Department of Taxation and Finance gave a short presentation detailing the following requirements for the New Basic STAR Program.

- Re-registration through the Department of Tax and Finance is required for those who are already enrolled in the STAR Program in order to receive the exemption in 2014 and beyond.
 - Putnam County residents will receive mailed information within the next week which will include a recipient-specific STAR code that they will need to enter upon reregistering.
 - Information can be found at <u>www.tax.ny.gov</u> or by calling 518-457-2036.

- Part of the registration process asks for information such as an address and the social security number of each owner as well as each owner's spouse. This is because eligibility is based on combined income.
- STAR looks at household income two years removed (ex. For 2014, income from 2012 is looked at).
- Upon completion of registration, a confirmation number will be shown which is important to keep.
- Registration deadline is 12/31/13.
- Senior citizens receiving Enhanced STAR exemption are not impacted by this legislation.
- New applicants and Enhanced STAR recipients will apply or renew through their local assessor.

Chairman Othmer questioned if the picture ID required for voting can be combined with this program.

Mr. Wolham stated he was unsure, but would check if it was possible.

Legislator Scuccimarra stated her concern was with seniors being notified of this information. She suggested having presentations such as this one at senior centers.

Legislator Oliverio stated he had gotten complaints from some constituents about a few Counties not being available on the website.

Mr. Wolham stated this is because the mailings had not gone out yet for those counties and they should be available on the website next week.

Legislator Oliverio questioned what the age minimum was to receive the Enhanced STAR.

Mr. Wolham stated the minimum age of the homeowner is 65. If it is a situation where there are two owners, one must be 65 and the other must be at least 62.

Chairman Othmer questioned if Mr. Wolham is presenting this information to the towns.

Mr. Wolham stated there are presentations like this going on in all different cities.

Legislator Oliverio stated the Town of Putnam Valley has already met with its seniors.

Legislator Nacerino stated Putnam County could pass this information on to its seniors and constituents rather than have Mr. Wolham come out and do it.

Item # 5 - Public Comment

Mr. Carl Didone, constituent, questioned what the dollar amount was for the Enhanced STAR.

Mr. Wolham stated the income threshold changes from year to year, but for 2014 the amount is \$81,900.

Legislator Castellano questioned what the percentage of savings for seniors was.

Mr. Wolham stated it will vary by town and school district, but it will be around \$500-\$600. He stated the Enhanced STAR is about double the Basic STAR.

Betty Aubry, Carmel resident, questioned what the amount was for a married couple, as the \$81,900 appeared to be for a single person.

Mr. Wolham stated the amount stayed the same whether it was for a single person or a married couple.

There being no further business, at 6:31 P.M., Chairman Othmer made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Legislator Oliverio. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Schonfeld, Clerk.