

OCTOBER 9,2019

TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

THE CONCEPT AND PRACTICE OF COMMUNITIES, GOVERNMENTS, THEIR AGENCIES, PRIVATE CORPORATIONS AND NON PROFIT ENTITIES, TO PROVIDE TO EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS, THIS BENEFIT OF A "STIPEND OR ALLOWANCE" FOR MANY SITUATIONS AND PURPOSES.HAS BECOME IMPORTANT NOW WITH OUR HOUSING CRISIS.

THIS PRACTICE IS IN VIRTUALLY EVERY COMMUNITY AND HAS BEEN FOR MANY YEARS.

IT IS AN EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE WAY FOR GOVERNMENTS AND OTHERS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN VALUED AND KEY MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES.

THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES OF THIS EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, BEING A COST SAVING PRACTICE THAT SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

TAKE FOR EXAMPLES OF THE LONG TERM USE OF STIPENDS/ALLOWANCES PAID TO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS, COMPUTER TECH SUPPORT, TRAVEL AND HOUSING FOR MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES.

SIMILAR ALLOWANCES ARE DONE VIA "CONTRACTS" , THEY HAVE INCLUDED VEHICLES,

AND OTHER COMPENSATION, NEEDED TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN QUALIFIED AND KEY TOWN EMPLOYEES.

I AM URGING YOU NOW TO SUPPORT A "HOUSING ALLOWANCE" FOR FULL TIME TOWN EMPLOYEES.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THIS BE AN OPTION FOR THE TOWN TO RUN EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY.

IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT YOU, THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN, SUPPORT AND ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

RESPECTIVELY,

MIKE COLANERI

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POSSIBLE CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING HOUSING STIPEND OR (ALLOWANCE) WITH A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$2500 PER MONTH.

1. APPLICANT MUST BE A "FULL TIME" EMPLOYEE OF THE TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
2. MUST HAVE A GROSS INCOME (DERIVED FROM INCOME SOLELY FROM THE TOWN OF WEST TISBURY OF LESS THAN \$120,000.00
3. INCOME OF HUSBAND OR PARTNER SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE MAXIMUM INCOME ALLOWED FOR THIS APPLICATION.
4. HOUSING SHALL BE DEFINED AS APPROPRIATELY SIZED UNIT FOR FAMILY SIZE, (ONE OR TWO BEDROOM FOR COUPLE OR SINGLE PERSON, AND A THREE BEDROOM FOR FAMILY WITH CHILDREN OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS.
5. THIS SHALL BE A PROGRAM WITH A YEARLY REVIEW AND DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY DETERMINED BY A THREE MEMBER BOARD, APPOINTED BY THE SELECTMEN,
IF THERE ARE NO CHANGES IN THE APPLICANTS HOUSING STATUS AND THE APPLICANT REMAINS WITHIN THE INCOME GUIDELINES, IT MAY BE ASSUMED THE ALLOWANCE WILL BE APPROVED.
A DENIAL MUST BE FOR REASON AND THOSE REASONS PROVIDED TO THE APPLICANT. SUCH A DECISION MAY BE APPEALED TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND THEIR DECISION SHALL BE FINAL
6. THE AMOUNT OF THIS STIPEND SHALL BE NO LESS THAN \$1000.00 PER MONTH OR A MAXIMUM OF NO MORE THAN \$2500.00 PER MONTH.
SUCH STIPEND MAY BE INCREASED AT ANY TIME BY THE BOARD, IF COSTS RISE, AND IN THE WISDOM OF THE BOARD, AND WITH WRITTEN JUSTIFICATION,.
7. THE HOUSING UNIT FOR WHICH THE STIPEND IS PROVIDED, MUST BE IN THE TOWN OF WEST TISBURY.

THE HOUSING CRISIS GROWS WORSE EVERY DAY.

SOLUTIONS TO THIS PROBLEM REQUIRE IMAGINATION AND BROAD PROBLEM SOLVING IDEAS.

THIS PROPOSAL IS ANOTHER WAY OF THE TOWN HIRING AND RETAINING QUALIFIED AND VALUED EMPLOYEES.

IT GOES A LONG WAY IN PRESERVING THE HUMAN QUALITY OF OUR UNIQUE AND SPECIAL COMMUNITY.

I ASK YOU TO BE THOUGHTFUL AND THROUGH IN YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROPOSAL.

MANY OF THE OTHER TOWNS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PRIVATE NON-PROFITS, HAVE PROVIDED SIMILAR BENEFITS TO THEIR EMPLOYEES.

MIKE COLANERI

9/1/2019