

Council Members Support Residents' Plea for Tax Relief

Tax relief has been an important discussion for many property owners residing in the Town of Kure Beach. Property owner **Frances Regan** appeared at the January Town Council meeting requesting Kure Beach's immediate support at the county and state level.

Mayor Montgomery and the Council took her plea for help seriously and requested more information from officials in the General Assembly. Senator Julia Boseman, who represents the area, responded with information about House Bill 449.

"Thanks for contacting my office with your inquiry. I am sure that the tax situation in our district is causing quite a number of folks some serious concern," stated Senator Boseman in an e-mail to the Mayor. "I am attaching a link to the bill passed this past session that addressed property tax payment options. I was a part of the Property Tax Options Interim Committee this past fall and we had numerous discussions with a wide variety of stakeholders about pending revaluations and the consequences of the re-evals." she continued.

Current law, according to Boseman, will alleviate some distress for homeowner's as it raises the Homestead Exclusion qualifying income and places a circuit breaker for qualifying homeowners.

While other bills will be introduced next session to address the situation, Mayor Montgomery and Council are encouraging New Hanover County to consider more frequent revaluations. Currently, revaluation is conducted every nine years. Other counties in North Carolina complete the process more frequently to reduce the impact to property owners and the expense to the governing body. The Kure Beach Town Council is approving a resolution requesting New Hanover County to consider more frequent revaluations

For more information about the circuit breaker bill, read below. You can also click on the following link and "look up" HB 497.

<http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2007&BillID=H1499>

To learn more on how this law can help you in New Hanover County, visit their Web site at: <http://www.nhcgov.com/AgndDpt/TAXS/Pages/TaxAdministrationsHome.aspx>.