

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070 to receive public comment concerning the proposed Amendment to the Simsbury Code of Ordinances, Chapter 141, concerning tax abatements for volunteer firefighters and ambulance personnel. Copies of the proposed changes can be found on the Town of Simsbury’s website, www.simsbury-ct.gov on the Board of Selectmen’s page. Hard copies are available at the Town Clerk’s Office, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT.

Public Hearing Date: Monday, April 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

**Draft Amendment to Chapter 141
Ordinance Providing Tax Abatement For
Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Personnel**

1. Delete §141-17 and substitute the following in lieu thereof:

§141-17 Abatement Schedule

Each volunteer firefighter of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company and each volunteer of the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association (collectively “volunteer”) who is eligible pursuant to §141-18 to receive a tax abatement, shall have his or her real estate and/or motor vehicle property taxes owed to the Town of Simsbury for the current fiscal year abated in an amount equal to the lesser of the total amount of his or her real estate and/or motor vehicle property taxes owed to the Town of Simsbury for such fiscal year or an amount as calculated in the following schedule:

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
Years of Volunteer Service to the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company and/or the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association	Dollar Amount of Taxes Abated
2	\$200.00 500.00
4	\$400.00
6	\$600.00
8	\$800.00
5 or more	\$1,000.00

2. Delete §141-18 and substitute the following in lieu thereof:

§141-18 Eligibility

To be eligible for the tax abatement pursuant to §141-17 for any fiscal year, an eligible volunteer shall, on or before April 30th prior to such fiscal year, present to the Tax Collector a written statement certified to by the Chief of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company or the President of the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association, which statement shall include the name and address of said volunteer, that said volunteer has served as an active volunteer in good standing for the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company and/or the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association for not less than the two (2) immediate preceding calendar years, and the total number of Years of Service of said volunteer. "Volunteer in good standing" for members of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company shall be defined as set forth in the bylaws of the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company. "Volunteer in Good Standing" for members of the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association shall be defined as a regular ambulance volunteer who has done 288 qualifying hours in the year preceding October 1. "Years of Service" shall not be deemed to have been interrupted by medical leave authorized by the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company and/or the Simsbury Volunteer ambulance Association, leave for military service for the United States of America, or leave covered under the Connecticut Workmen's Compensation Act.

A person who terminates his or her volunteer service to the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company and/or the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association shall, upon his or her return to volunteer service to the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company and/or the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association, be eligible for the tax abatement provided under Section §141-17 only after he or she completes ne full calendar year of volunteer service. Such volunteer's total years of Service shall then include any previous years of volunteer service to the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company and/or the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association.

Any person who terminates his or her volunteer service to the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company or the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association for five (5) or more years shall lose any credit for any previous Years of Service.

3. Delete §141-22 and substitute the following in lieu thereof:

§141-22 Effective Date

Revised Sections 141-17 and 141-18 of this Ordinance shall take effect and shall be applicable to taxes owing beginning with taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2015. For the October 1, 2014 Grand List, the tax abatement schedule that was in effect prior to this Amendment shall remain in full force and effect.

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