



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Board of Selectmen

Tax Abatement Ordinance for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Personnel Work Group

Tuesday, April 2, 2019

7:30 a.m.

Main Meeting Room, Town Hall, 933 Hopmeadow Street

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – Draft

Members Present: Sean Askham, Chris Peterson (by phone)

Staff Present: Maria Capriola, Town Manager; Melissa Appleby, Deputy Town Manager; Kevin Kowalski, Chief of Administration for the Fire District; Jim Baldis, Fire District Chief; Gary Wilcox, Fire District President; Karin Stewart, Executive Director of the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30am.

1) Public Audience

None

2) Review and discussion regarding Tax Abatement Ordinance for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Personnel

The group reviewed the proposed revisions to the Tax Abatement for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Personnel ordinance. Mr. Askham indicated that the primary objective of revisiting the ordinance is to correct a scrivener's error that occurred when the section on the retiree benefit was inadvertently struck from the ordinance. Mr. Kowalski noted that the abatement continued to be granted to retirees in the meantime. Ms. Capriola will seek counsel from the Town Attorney on whether that issue can be cleaned up by a simple resolution.

Mr. Askham noted that there is no financial impact associated with any of the proposed changes. The group agreed to propose striking Section C in its entirety, as Section B sufficiently addresses the calculation of service credit for those volunteers that have a break in service. The new Section D reflects the restoration of the language that was inadvertently left out of the ordinance. The group recommends changing "reside" in the last sentence to "occupy and own property." This language will be further refined to clarify that the abatement may be applied to motor vehicle taxes.

The group also proposes striking "who are Simsbury residents" in the last sentence of Section 141-19 and replacing it with "as long as they continue to occupy and own property in the Town of Simsbury." In addition, the group recommends striking Section 141-21 in its entirety.

3) Next Steps

Staff will send the proposed revisions to the Town Attorney for review. The Board of Selectmen will set a public hearing date at their April 22 meeting, with the intent to hold the public hearing and potentially take action on the ordinance at their May 13 meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:00am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa Appleby
Deputy Town Manager