



# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Board of Selectmen

Tax Abatement Ordinance for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Personnel Work Group

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

8:30 a.m.

## **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – Draft**

**Members Present:** Jackie Battos, Wendy Mackstutis

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:37am.

### **1) Public Audience**

None

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

Ms. Capriola gave an overview of the workgroup history and why they were meeting due to state legislation that lets towns raise the max abatement allowed for first responders. Staff presented their analysis of implementing the max allowable amount. Ms. Capriola provided the group information from the Town Attorney on options related to implementing the increased abatement.

Mr. Kowalski and Mr. Baldis explained the background on the Volunteer Fire Department and how the abatement isn't why people join but it is a way to thank them for their service to the community. It was explained that members must meet certain length of service requirements before being eligible to receive the abatement. The same is true for the Volunteer Ambulance members. Ms. Stewart had similar words on the Ambulance personnel and that the abatement is one way to reward their members.

The work group discussed different funding options for the increased abatement. These options included implementing to the fully allowable abatement amounts over a three year period, gradually increasing the abatement at amounts lower than what is allowable, or stretching the increase over a period of time longer than 3 years to limit budgetary impacts.

### **3) Next Steps**

The different options discussed will be presented to the Board of Selectmen at their late September or early October meeting.

**4) Minutes of April 2, 2019**

The minutes of the April 2, 2019 meeting were approved by consensus.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Thomas Fitzgerald  
Management Specialist