

3 Windhams Firefighter Incentive Program

First Taxing District Sub-Committee/Regular Meeting

Wednesday December 30, 2015 / 7 p.m.

Co-Chair Bill Powers called the meeting to order at 1901 hours.

Members present - Bill Powers, Elaine Rogers, John Wylie, Jan Mott Pat Farley, Ray Miles, and R.J. Miles - Josh Niles came late 1915.

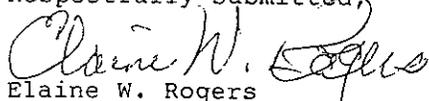
Bill Powers touched on ethics and protection of members. He suggested we present a report to the Taxing District with suggestions logged in.

First order of business, seeing no public comment, the committee set meeting dates for 2016 to be the last Wednesday of each month. Jan. 27, 2016, Feb. 24, 2016, March 30, 2016, April 27, 2016, May 25, 2016, June 29, 2016, July 27, 2016, Aug. 31, 2016, Sept. 28, 2016, Oct. 26, 2016, Nov. 30, 2016, and Dec. 28, 2016. All Meetings to be at the Windham Center Fire Dept. at 7:00 P.M.

The committee proceeded with discussion of Tax Abatement. Jan Mott had secured from his files The "Windham First Taxing District Proposed Tax Abatement For Windham Volunteer Emergency Personnel" document. Bill read it section by section (see attachment) with some discussion after each section. We were unsure of date modification, this will be checked. After the document had been read through we pulled it apart by section for discussion of improvements. (Ord. Public Act 00-120) Josh Niles brought up the most troubling part for him was the section on percentage of fire and emergency calls attended. He thought 20 % was too high or some other criteria be used, several things were discussed but it was mostly decided that lowering of the percentage was the fairest and easiest. The members were charged to bring this up to members of the depts. and bring back any changes they would like to see. John brought up the possibility of giving survivors benefits to surviving spouse, also discussed was members living outside of the Town of Windham currently there are a few.

Being no public discussion Bill asked for adjournment, at 2003 P.M.

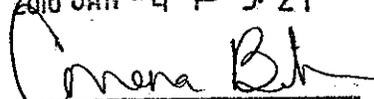
Respectfully submitted,


Elaine W. Rogers

Co-Chair

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CORINA B. H.
WINDHAM TOWN CLERK

WINDHAM FIRST TAXING DISTRICT
PROPOSED TAX ABATEMENT
FOR WINDHAM VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, the firefighters / EMTs of the Windham First Taxing District (North Windham, South Windham and Central Windham Fire Departments) provide an outstanding service to the District;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Act 00-120, a municipality may by ordinance provide for an abatement for property assessments for volunteer firefighters / EMTs; and

WHEREAS, the Windham First Taxing District is desirous of showing its appreciation for the faithful and courageous performance of their duties by the volunteer firefighters / EMTs in the Windham First Taxing District and encouraging others to become volunteer firefighters / EMTs within the Windham First Taxing District.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Windham First Taxing District that the following ordinance be and hereby is recommended to the Windham Board of Selectmen for action pursuant to the provisions of Section 12-81 of the General Statutes as amended by Public Act 00-120.

SECTION I. DEFINITIONS

a. Firefighter – Shall include any firefighter certified as a Firefighter I or greater by the State of Connecticut Commission on Fire Prevention and Control or any fireperson appointed as a Fire-Police by the Chief of any fire company or department to perform Fire Police duties per Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 7-313A

b. EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) – An individual who has successfully completed the requirements of the State of Connecticut, Department of Health Services Office of Emergency Medical Services, and shall include EMT-P (Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic) and MRT (Medical Response Technician).

SECTION II. ELIGIBILITY

The residents of Windham who are active members of one of the following fire departments; South Windham, North Windham or Windham Center for a minimum of 2 years shall be eligible for a maximum of \$1,000 property tax abatement as outlined in Public Act 99-272 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The requirements for participation in this tax abatement program are set forth in the following subsections:

Active Member:

A member for minimum 2 years
 Respond to minimum of 20% of valid emergency calls toned out by
 WSFCA
 Attend and participate 50% of drills/training sessions

By meeting this requirement the member shall be entitled to a maximum tax abatement of \$500.00 with ten (10) or more years of service. Less than 10 years of service will be prorated as stated below:

Years of Service	Percent	Tax Abatement
2 to 4	25%	\$125.00
5 to 6	50%	\$250.00
7 to 9	75%	\$375.00
10 or more	100%	\$500.00

Certifications:

An active member, who is certified by the State of Connecticut at or above FFI, Medical Response Technician, Emergency Medical Technician, Rapid Intervention, Hazmat Operational or Fire Police, shall receive \$250 for each certification with a maximum of two (2) certifications for a total of \$500.00 with ten (10) or more years of service. Less than 10 years of service will be prorated as stated below. This will entitle an active member with ten (10) or more years of service to a tax abatement of \$1,000.00 as allowed by state statute. The participant must first meet the Active Member requirement prior to getting any certification credits.

Years of Service	Percent	1 Certification	2 Certifications
2 to 4	25%	\$62.50	\$125.00
5 to 6	50%	\$125.00	\$250.00
7 to 9	75%	\$187.50	\$375.00
10 or more	100%	\$250.00	\$500.00

SECTION III ADMINISTRATION OF THE ABATEMENT PROGRAM

To ensure accountability, the Fire Chief of each department shall certify and submit a notarized list of eligible members, based on qualifications for the previous calendar year, as well as the level of tax abatement to the President of the Windham First Taxing District by February 15 of each calendar year. The

President shall forward a verified list to the Windham Tax Collector by April 1 of each calendar year.

Limitations:

This abatement shall only be applicable to residential and personally owned property that is on the Grand List for the Windham First Taxing and/or Town of Windham. Commercial and non-member occupied investment property shall not be covered by this abatement. This abatement shall not be construed to imply that if an eligible member has less tax liability than their permitted amount of tax abatement, that they are entitled to receive any additional funds from the Windham First Taxing District. In a household with two or more members the maximum tax abatement shall be no more than \$2,000.

SECTION IV. The credit afforded hereunder shall terminate at the end of the fiscal year in which a qualifying member dies.

SECTION V. The sale or transfer of any grand list property by a qualifying member shall disqualify said property from ~~exemption~~ ^{abatement} application for the remainder of the then fiscal year, on a pro-rata basis.

SECTION VI. This Ordinance shall take effect _____ 2002 and shall be applicable for tax ~~exemption~~ ^{abatement} purposes to taxes owing on the Grand List of October 1, 2001 due July 1, 2002.