

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Tyler at 6:30 p.m.

Members present on a roll call were:

Councilperson Kirkby

Councilperson Viens

Councilperson Morrison

Supervisor Tyler

Others present:

Catherine L. Simmer, Town Clerk

Michael Fergot

Cynthia Schera

Jen Williams

Phyllis Perna

Richard Arndt

David Gloembach

The newspaper ad announcing the Public Hearing was read aloud by the Town Clerk as follows:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING that the Town Board of the Town of Westport, Essex County, New York, will meet at the Town Hall located at 22 Champlain Ave., Westport, New York 12993, on the 8th day of August, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing to introduce proposed Local Law #2 of 2023 entitled, “Local Law To Provide A Property Tax Exemption To Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers.” Regular Town Board meeting immediately following.

The purpose of this Local Law is to implement the authority granted to the local taxing jurisdictions by Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a- Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers. The Town Board of the Town of Westport finds and hereby determines that New York Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a makes available a tax exemption for volunteer firefighters at the option of the local municipality. The Town Board finds and determines that the Town of Westport should exercise said option and implement said tax exemption because it would enhance the ability to recruit and retain the volunteers that are the lifeblood of the volunteer fire organization currently serving the residents of Westport.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that at said Public Hearing to be held at the time and place set forth above, the Town Board will consider this Local Law and hear all parties interested therein concerning the same.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a, copy of the full text of the proposed Local Law #2 of 2023 may be obtained upon request from the Town Clerk of the Town of Westport.

SUPERVISOR TYLER: The purpose of conducting this hearing is to propose Local Law No. 2 of 2023 entitled “Real Property Tax Law 466-a, Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers”. The text of the law may be obtained in the office of the Town Clerk.

Councilperson Kirkby questioned the delay of exemption benefit in the event of death on duty prior to the two-year minimum volunteer service. He feels in the event of an on duty death the surviving spouse should be afforded the tax exemption benefit regardless of time served.

Supervisor Tyler explained he assumed the Fire District presented this law to the Town as it is presented. The law has been adopted by other Town’s as it presented here before this Board. The Fire district was pleased with this law as written and presented before this Board.

RESOLUTION #140

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilperson Morrison, seconded by Councilperson Viens, and approved on an all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 pm.

SUPERVISOR TYLER: Closed the public hearing and called the Regular Board Meeting to commence at 6:38 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Catherine L. Simmer, Town Clerk