

TOWN OF BROADALBIN

201 UNION MILLS RD
BROADALBIN, NY 12025

518-883-4657

CLOSE OUT MEETING

DECEMBER 26, 2023

TOWN OFFICIALS

Supervisor – Dave Bardascini-present

Deputy Supervisor – Doug Kissinger -present

Town Board Member – David Bogardus-absent

Town Board Member – Junell Pasquarelli-present

Call to Order – Supervisor Dave Bardascini 6:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call – Town Clerk

PUBLIC SESSION

-Nothing at this time.

LEGISLATION 6:32 PM

-Opened Public Hearing Local Law #2023-02 Tax Exemptions for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers

-The Town Board, along with 2 Fire Fighter representatives, discussed the pros to this resolution hoping by giving an incentive to encourage more people to volunteer as fire fighters. Also discussed was the State Exemption of \$200 vs the 10% Tax Exemption before us tonight.

-Fire Policeman Bob Zurlo stated he understood that the 10% Tax Exemption is taken from your Property Tax bill not the homeowner's assessment value. Therefore most fire fighters he believes would benefit more from the State Exemption of \$200.

-Supervisor Bardascini stated by passing this resolution it gives the volunteer workers some leverage to fight on the State Level in the future.

-Also discussed was the possibility that with the high costs to maintain a volunteer Fire Dept., someday the County may have to take over at an even higher cost to the Town.

-Discussion took place to add the word Volunteer in front of the ambulance workers prior to approving the resolution.

On a motion made by Supervisor Bardascini and seconded by Councilman Kissinger
A motion to add the word "volunteer" before the word "ambulance" on this resolution for clarification.

No further discussion;

VOTE: Bardascini-aye Kissinger-aye Pasquarelli-aye Bogardus-absent

The Public Hearing on Local Law #2 of 2023 was closed at 6:52

On a motion made by Councilman Kissinger and seconded by Councilwoman Pasquarelli
**A LOCAL LAW TO PROVIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS
AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-A OF THE REAL
PROPERTY TAX LAW**

Section 1: Legislative Intent:

Volunteer fire and volunteer ambulance members provide our community with valuable emergency and lifesaving services. Members spend countless hours and their own personal finances for the betterment of their services and their community.

In addition, by volunteering, these persons keep local property taxes at a heavily reduced rate compared to areas with paid members. The Town Board of the Town of Broadalbin finds it appropriate to recognize these volunteers for the countless hours they spend on behalf of the community as well as to provide a benefit and incentive for future volunteer service. This exemption only applies to the Town portion of the property tax bill.

Pursuant to the Laws of 2022, Section 466-A of the RPTL was amended in such a way to render volunteer fire and volunteer ambulance members throughout the State of New York to be eligible for this exemption under certain circumstances. Earlier this year, the Fulton County Board of Supervisors ratified a local law granting the instant exemption on County Level and the intention of the instant local law is to provide this exemption on the town level.

Section 2: Enactment

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF BROADALBIN, NEW YORK AS FOLLOWS:

Exemption Granted.

- A. Any qualified member who has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction (hereinafter the "AHJ") for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or the volunteer ambulance service as an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or volunteer ambulance service shall be entitled to a 10% reduction in the taxable value of their real property for Town real property tax purposes so long as:
1. The applicant resides in the Town of Broadalbin, which is served by the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or volunteer ambulance service;
 2. The real property in question serves as the primary residence of the applicant;

3. The real property in question is used exclusively for residential purposes, provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's primary residence but is instead used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided for under this Section;
 4. The applicant has been an enrolled member of incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or volunteer ambulance service for at least 5 years prior to submitting an application for tax exemption; and
 5. The applicant has submitted an Application for Volunteer Firefighters/Volunteer Ambulance Workers Exemption to the Town Assessor or AHJ and has obtained a certification from the Town Assessor or AHJ certifying to such membership and to participation and /or attendance levels established for such qualification.
- B. Any member who has achieved over 20 years of accumulated service shall be considered a life member and the exemption shall continue for the remainder of their life if the real property serves as their primary residence.
- C. Any un-married surviving spouse of a volunteer who was killed in the line of duty shall continue to receive the 10% real property tax exemption if:
1. The AHJ certifies that the un-married surviving spouse is eligible for the exemption;
 2. The volunteer had accumulated at least 5 years of service;
 3. The real property in question continues to serve as the primary residence of the surviving spouse; and
 4. The deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to their death.
- D. Any un-married surviving spouse of a volunteer that passed away shall continue to receive the 10% real property tax exemption if:
1. The AHJ certifies that the un-married surviving spouse is eligible for the exemption;
 2. The deceased volunteer had accumulated at least 20 years of service;
 3. The real property in question continues to serve as the primary residence of the surviving spouse; and
 4. The deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to their death.

Section 3. Effectiveness:

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Supervisor Bardascini-aye
Councilman Kissinger-aye
Councilman Bogardus-absent
Councilwoman Pasquarelli-aye

Supervisor Bardascini

OLD BUSINESS

-Acceptance of Minutes from previous meeting.

On a motion made by Councilman Kissinger and seconded by Supervisor Bardascini
RESOLUTION #2023- 88 APPROVAL OF SUBMITTED MINUTES FORM PREVIOUS MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Broadalbin Town Board approved the submitted minutes from the previous meeting December 12, 2023 as submitted.

Discussion: question if only 2 Board members can we approve the minutes from Dec. 12, 2023? Joe Digiacomo stated they are the Clerk’s minutes so can be approved as written.

VOTE: Bardascini -aye Kissinger-aye Bogardus-absent Pasquarelli-was absent 12-12-23

*At this time Supervisor Bardascini read aloud a letter from the Court stating at the Organizational Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2024, the 2023 Town Court Books will be reviewed by the Board.

-Discussion took place to extend the Moratorium for the Solar Farm and Energy Law another six months to August 10, 2024 from February 10, 2024.

On a motion made by Supervisor Bardascini and seconded by Councilman Kissinger
A motion to extend the moratorium Local Law six months to August 10, 2024 by advertising a Public Hearing at a Special Meeting to be scheduled on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Town Municipal Building.

Discussion; It was noted that the State can override any solar farm over 20 megawatts and these solar companies are receiving many incentives from the State.

-At the Organizational Meeting a date will be set to adopt the extension to the moratorium.

VOTE: Bardascini-aye Kissinger-aye Bogardus-absent Pasquarelli-aye

NEW BUSINESS

Approval to pay vouchers (claim)

Prepaid	\$ 8,955.20
General	26,138.30
Gen OV	14.04
Highway	9,441.26
Total	\$44,548.80

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On a motion made by Supervisor Bardascini and seconded by Councilman Kissinger
RESOLUTION #2023-89 APPROVAL TO PAY VOUCHERS (CLAIMS)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Broadalbin Town Board authorizes the payment of the vouchers in the amount of \$44,548.80.

No further discussion;

VOTE: Bardascini -aye Kissinger-aye Bogardus- absent Pasquarelli-aye

Public Session (3 minutes)

-Mike Rorick thanked both Councilwoman Junell Pasquarelli and Highway Superintendent Eric Alley on jobs well done for their service to the Town of Broadalbin. Both will be missed.

-Councilwoman Junell Pasquarelli thanked Highway Superintendent Eric Alley on a good job with the roads for the Town of Broadalbin and her Board Members.

ADJOURNMENT 7:31 P.M.

On a motion made by Councilman Kissinger and seconded by Supervisor Bardascini
The December 26, 2023 Town of Broadalbin Close Out meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Cheryl Briggs