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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

There will be a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, Connecticut, on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, to hear public comment concerning the possible enactment of an amendment to Ordinance 79, Assessment Exemption for Volunteer and Ambulance Personnel.

The text of the proposed amendment follows.

If you are disabled, hearing impaired, require an interpreter or assistance to attend this meeting, contact the Office of the First Selectman, (203) 270-4201, at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Mary Ann Jacob
Chairman, Newtown Legislative Council Ordinance Committee

**ARTICLE VI Assessment Exemption for Volunteer Fire, Ambulance and Underwater
Rescue Personnel [Adopted 5-2-2001 (Ord. No 79)]
[Amended 3-7-2007; Effective 4-28-2007]**

§ 370-19 Purpose.

In recognition of the benefits provided to the Town of Newtown by the dedicated service of the Town's volunteer fire, ambulance and underwater search and rescue personnel, the Newtown Legislative Council hereby establishes an assessment exemption program pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 12-81w for volunteer fire, ambulance and underwater search and rescue personnel on the conditions outlined below.

§ 370-20 Eligibility.

Members of at least three years' good standing of the Newtown Volunteer Fire Departments, Ambulance Corps and Newtown Underwater Search and Rescue (NUSAR) who reside in and pay property tax to the Town of Newtown as of October 1 preceding their application shall be eligible for such exemption. A year's service in good standing is achieved when meeting at least one of the following criteria:

- A. Member must respond to a minimum of 25 calls in the calendar year preceding inclusion on any certified list, or
- B. Member must hold one of the following positions in the emergency services:
 - (1) Administrative/Executive Board.
 - (2) Commissioner.
 - (3) Line officer/Operational Officer.
 - (4) Support member, per company or association bylaws.

§ 370-21 Administration.

- A. Annually on or before December 5 of each year, the president of each fire department shall certify and submit to the Board of Fire Commissioners a list of the members of his/her organizations who are eligible as defined in § 370-20. This list shall contain addresses of such members and the exemption amount for which each member is eligible. The Board of Fire Commissioners will review and certify said list, making corrections as necessary, before submitting it to the Office of the First Selectman (for forwarding to the Town Assessor) by December 15 of each year.
- B. The Ambulance Association shall review and certify the Ambulance Corp list and said list shall contain addresses of such members and the exemption amount for which each member is eligible as defined in § 370-20 and submit it directly to the Office of the First Selectman (for forwarding to the Town Assessor) by December 15 of each year.
- C. Annually on or before December 5 of each year, the president of NUSAR shall certify and submit to the director of Newtown Emergency Management its own list of members who are eligible as defined in § 370-20. The Director will review and certify said list, making corrections as necessary, before and submitting it directly to the Office of the First Selectman (for forwarding to the Town Assessor) by December 15 of each year.

§ 370-22 Exemption schedule.

Exemption against assessed values with respect to property taxes (which shall be applied first to any real property the recipient may own before being applied to personal property) shall be applied to the July 1 installment tax bill in accordance with the following:

**ARTICLE VI Assessment Exemption for Volunteer Fire, Ambulance and Underwater
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Exemption schedule.

Years of Service in Good Standing (preceding date of list certification)	Exemption
3	\$250.00
4	\$440.00
5	\$675.00
6	\$860.00
7 or more	\$1,000.00

- A. Assessed exemption amounts for two or more members can be applied to the same property if each member is a co-owner of that property.
- B. A member who has a break in service may subsequently return to service and in such case shall be entitled to have former qualifying years counted towards benefits under this schedule.

§ 370-23 Maximum relief.

- A. In no event may any assessed exemption amount provide more than the maximum amount of relief permitted under state statute, and if so, the Assessor may cap the total relief afforded to any member to the permitted maximum.
- B. Members are limited to only one exemption regardless of the number of volunteer organizations to which they belong.

§ 370-24 Adjustments.

The Legislative Council may adjust the level of tax relief for qualified members, on or before May 1 of each year, by majority vote at a regular meeting of the Council, such adjustment to take effect for the current Grand List.