

RECEIVED

By Darlene Brady at 1:41 pm, Jun 13, 2023



Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting

June 8, 2023
7:30 P.M.

The minutes reflect motions and a summary of the discussion. Refer to the attached link for the recording of this meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itfDghEyP6s>

Jean Speck, Rufus deRham and Glenn Sanchez.

Also present: Darlene Brady, Debbie Devaux, Eric Epstein, Caralee Rochovansky, John Russell, Wendell Soule and Lynn Worthington.

Call to order:

Jean Speck called the meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.

Draft updated ToK Ordinance 18-7 Tax Abatement ordinance for Volunteer Emergency Services Personnel:

Discussion:

- Item 3 of proposed ordinance.
- Item 4 of proposed ordinance.
- Proposed revisions will be reviewed with town council.
- Schedule a special meeting to review revisions.

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

Glenn Sanchez:

Made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Jean Speck seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Joyce Kearns

Joyce Kearns

Administrative Assistant

These are draft minutes, and the Board of Selectmen at the subsequent meeting may make corrections. Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for possible corrections and approval.



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Special Meeting Agenda
June 8, 2023 @ 7:30 P.M.

REVISED

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88900070998>

Meeting ID: 889 0007 0998

One tap mobile: +13092053325,,88900070998# US

Supporting documentation for this meeting:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hvoXn4YFKSS8AIVRoszDwiwPZ2xbvFqX>

1. Call to order.
2. Draft updated ToK Ordinance *18-7 Tax Abatement ordinance for Volunteer Emergency Services Personnel.*
3. Public Comment.
4. Adjournment.

Sec. 18-7. Tax Abatement for Volunteer Emergency Services Personnel

Section 18-7 of the Town of Kent Code of Ordinances is repealed and the following is substituted therefor.

Pursuant to the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Sec. 12-81w:

1. Volunteer firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics and ambulance drivers of the Kent Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) who reside in or pay property tax to the Town of Kent shall be eligible for an abatement in property taxes in an amount not to exceed the amount as may be authorized by CGS section 12-81w, as from time to time amended, due for any fiscal year when meeting the following criteria:

a. Volunteer firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics and ambulance drivers must complete their probationary period by December 31 of the current year to be eligible for tax abatement on July 1 of the following year; and

b. Volunteer firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics and ambulance drivers must have met the eligibility requirements established by the KVFD in Standard Operating Procedure 1-7, TAX ABATEMENT ELIGIBILITY (KVFD SOP 1- 7), as hereafter amended, from time to time.

2. Annually, on or before January 31 of each year, the Personnel Committee of the Kent Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD) shall submit and deliver to the Board of Selectmen, (BOS) by hand delivery or by e-mail, a notarized list identifying each volunteer firefighter, emergency medical technician, paramedic and ambulance driver eligible for tax abatement as of December 31 of the previous calendar year. This list shall contain the full name and address, and criteria upon which eligibility is based for each such volunteer. At its next regularly scheduled meeting, the BOS shall acknowledge receipt of the notarized list.

3. **REVISED LANGUAGE:** Abatement of property taxes for those eligible volunteers set forth on the list submitted to the Board of Selectmen shall be applied against the property tax bills assessed as of the October 1 Grand List of the listed eligible volunteers in an amount determined **jointly by and between the KVFD and the BOS**, not to exceed the amount as authorized by CGS section 12-81w, as from time to time amended.

OPTION 1 (town counsel): Abatement of property taxes for those eligible volunteers set forth on the list submitted to the Board of Selectmen shall be applied against the property tax bills assessed as of the October 1 Grand List of the listed eligible volunteers in an amount determined by the BOS, **in consultation with the KVFD**, not to exceed the amount as authorized by CGS section 12-81w, as from time to time amended.

OPTION 2: Abatement of property taxes for those eligible volunteers set forth on the list submitted to the Board of Selectmen shall be applied against the property tax bills assessed as of the October 1 Grand List of the listed eligible volunteers.

OPTION 3: Abatement of property taxes for those eligible volunteers set forth on the list submitted to the Board of Selectmen shall be applied against the property tax bills assessed as of the October 1 Grand List of the listed eligible volunteers **in an amount determined by the BOS not to exceed the amount as authorized by CGS section 12-81w, as from time to time amended.**

Provided however:

a. Said tax bills are due and payable on the fiscal year commencing the following July 1.

b. Any person eligible for such tax abatement each year may decline the tax abatement by March 1 of the calendar year in which such bills become due and payable in accordance with procedures, adopted by the Assessor of the Town of Kent for such purpose. The tax abatement under this Ordinance shall be applied first against any real property tax owed by an eligible volunteer to the Town of Kent. In the event that the tax to which the abatement is applied is paid in installments, then the abatement amount shall be applied against the total due and payable.

4. In event the KVFD intends to amend SOP 1-7, the KVFD shall notify the BOS, in writing, of its intent to amend so as to consult and collaborate with the BOS on the intended amendment. The BOS, and KVFD delegates shall meet within Thirty (30) days of said notification and shall discuss the intended amendments. Following such meeting, the KVFD shall submit, by delivery of a hard copy or an e-mail, the amended SOP to the BOS within thirty (30) days of adoption of the amendment by KVFD members. The failure of the Board of Selectmen to act on the amended KVFD SOP 1-7 within thirty-five (35) days following official submission shall result in approval of the KVFD SOP 1-7, as amended. The date of "official submission" shall be the date that written notice is received as hereinabove stated. A copy of KVFD SOP 1-7, approved by the Board of Selectmen, shall be on file at all times in the Office of the Town Clerk.

5. The tax abatement granted by virtue of this ordinance shall be applicable for any real property or personal property of an eligible volunteer, whether such property is owned individually, jointly, or as a tenant in common with one or more other persons.

6. The Tax Collector of the Town of Kent shall maintain a record of all taxes abated in accordance with this ordinance.

History: Adopted at Annual Budget Meeting May 19, 2002, effective June 17, 2002 on applicable taxes due on Grand List of 10/1/01 and thereafter.



Joyce Kearns <adminassist@townofkentct.org>

Re: final draft of ToK Ordinance 18-7. Tax Abatement for Volunteer Emergency Service Personnel

1 message

Darlene Brady <townclerk@townofkentct.org>

Mon, May 22, 2023 at 1:09 PM

To: Jean Conlon Speck <firstselectman@townofkentct.org>

Cc: Deborah Devaux <taxcollector@townofkentct.org>, Jennifer Dubray <assessor@townofkentct.org>, President <president@kentfire.org>, Alan Gaweel <kent1@kentfire.org>, Joyce Kearns <adminassist@townofkentct.org>, Glenn Sanchez <Glennsanchez@townofkentct.org>, Rufus DeRham <Rufuspderham@townofkentct.org>, "D. Randall DiBella" <drdibella@crameranderson.com>

I still believe option 2 is the most clear; the amount is defined item #1 and by the actions stated in #4

Darlene F. Brady
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o/ 860.927.3433
www.townofkentct.org

On Thu, May 18, 2023 at 3:42 PM Jean Conlon Speck <firstselectman@townofkentct.org> wrote:

Hi all,

Attached please find the final draft of the document. Within the document you will see there are three options for language for section 3. After discussion with town counsel, it made sense to include the three choices as the BOS will have to discuss and make a decision on at our meeting on Wednesday.

Some perspective on each option (matching the colour coding in the document for reference) for section 3:

- **the Revised Language** is what came back from town counsel at the last revision that was discussed at the last BOS meeting;
- **Option 1** replaces the phrase "...jointly by and between the KVFD and the BOS" from the "revised" language with "...determined by the BOS, in consultation with the KVFD." This is the option recommended by town counsel which strikes a balance between maintaining the authority granted in the statutory language and setting a transparent and inclusive process by having the KVFD at the table during the BOS discussion;
- **Option 2** came up during discussion in previous discussions with the group and removes the language on the third line after "volunteers" from the "revised" language;
- **Option 3** replaces the phrasing "...jointly by and between the KVFD and the BOS" in the "revised" language with "...in an amount to determined by the BOS."

Please review for the meeting and please reach out with questions.

Thanks everyone for all the work on this, and a special shout out to Darlene for her proofreading prowess!

jean



Jean Speck (she, her, hers)

First Selectman, Town of Kent

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