TOWN OF BOZRAH
TOWN MEETING
FIELDS MEMORIAL SCHOOL
January 7, 2020

First Selectman Carl Zorn called to order the Town Meeting on the 7th day of January 2020 at Fields Memorial School with 26 people in attendance.

Motion was made by Herb Nordgren and seconded by Laurie Tatro for Raymond Barber to act as moderator. Motion carried.

Call of the meeting was read aloud by Moderator Raymond Barber;

The electors of the Town of Bozrah and those entitled to vote at a Town Meeting are hereby warned and notified of a Town Meeting to be held at Fields Memorial School 8 Bozrah Street Extension on Tuesday, 7 January 2019 at 7:00 p.m. The agenda is as follows:

Consider and act on the following questions:

1) Discuss and act on the following proposed ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF BOZRAH, CONNECTICUT, PROVIDING FOR TAX ABATEMENTS FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE BOZRAH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDERS AND ADVANCED FIRE POLICE OFFICERS

Dated this 18th Day of December 2019 at Bozrah, CT.

Board of Selectmen:
Carl Zorn
William E. Ballinger’
Glenn Pianka

Motion was made by Donald Cassavant and seconded by Anne Chambers to read the ordinance. Motion carried.
Attachment 1

Motion was made by Bill Ballinger seconded by Carl Zorn to change the language to Section 1A of the ordinance. The corrections read:

"1) Attending a minimum of 25% of the year’s emergency calls and meets the training requirements as prescribed by the By-Laws of the company (both calculated from January 1- December 31 of each year) entitles members to a base of $1,000.00 tax abatement retroactive to 1 July 2019 and increases to $1,500.00 after 1 July 2021"

Motion carried.

Attachment 2

Evelyn Brown commented on section 1B of the ordinance.

Raymond Barber, moderator, took a vote to pass the ordinance as amended.

Vote was taken by hand. 25 for and 1 against.

Motion was made by Bill Ballinger to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Jacob Gwendo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Heather Barber
Recording Secretary
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF BOZRAH, CONNECTICUT, PROVIDING FOR TAX ABATEMENTS FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS OF THE BOZRAH VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY, EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDERS AND ADVANCED FIRE POLICE OFFICERS

WHEREAS, the Town of Bozrah (hereinafter “Town”) is a duly organized municipality under the laws of the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the Town has adopted an ordinance pursuant to General Statute §12-81w to provide property tax relief to members of the Bozrah Volunteer Fire Company; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has amended General Statute §12-81w with Public Act 19-36 increasing the amount of tax relief that may be given; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to increase the property tax relief to retired volunteer firefighters, fire police officers and emergency medical technicians.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF BOZRAH IN LAWFUL TOWN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED THAT THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCE BE ESTABLISHED BY THE TOWN OF BOZRAH:

Section 1. Residents of the Town of Bozrah who meet the following requirements and are active or retired members (hereinafter “member” or “members”) of the Bozrah Volunteer Fire Company (hereinafter “Company”) shall be eligible for a maximum of $1,500.00 property tax abatement each fiscal year until June 30, 2021, and then shall be eligible for a maximum of $2,000.00 property tax abatement for any fiscal year starting on or after July 1, 2021. The formula for computing an individual member’s tax abatement and eligibility shall be as follows:

A. For Active Members

An active member is a member participating in the delivery of emergency services and must be in good standing as defined within the Bozrah Volunteer Fire Company By-Laws, and must meet the following requirements:

1. Attending a minimum of 25% of the year’s emergency calls and meets the training requirements as prescribed by the By-laws of the Company (both calculated from January 1 – December 31 of each year) entitles the member to a base of $500.00 tax abatement; and

2. A member that is certified by the State of Connecticut at or above the level of Firefighter 1, Emergency Medical Responder, or Advanced Fire Police Officer (only those so appointed by the Bozrah Fire Chief) shall be eligible for an additional $250.00 for each category of certification achieved. This amount may be cumulative, but the total tax abatement to an individual may not exceed the statutory limit of $1,500.00 for any fiscal year until June 30, 2021, and then may not exceed the statutory limit of $2,000.00 for any fiscal year starting on or after July 1, 2021. A
member that does not meet the base requirements of Section 1 of this subsection shall not be eligible for any tax abatement for that year regardless of certifications.

B. For Retired Members

Retired members of the Bozrah Volunteer Fire Company are considered members that do not actively participate in the delivery of emergency services and are defined by the Company By-Laws as either a Club or Life Club member. Retired members shall be eligible to receive a property tax abatement to the highest level of certification achieved during their years of service for a maximum of $1,500.00 for any fiscal year until June 30, 2021, and then for a maximum of $2,000.00 for any fiscal year starting on or after July 1, 2021. Retired members must meet the following requirements:

1. Completed a minimum of 25 years of volunteer services as an active member with the Bozrah Volunteer Fire Company;
2. Be a Club or Life Club member in good standing as defined within the Company By-Laws;
3. Be a minimum of sixty (60) years of age; and
4. Submit a request in writing to the Bozrah Volunteer Fire Company stating that they wish to receive the property tax abatement.

The Fire Chief of the Bozrah Volunteer Fire Company shall submit a notarized list of all eligible members, as well as their respective level of tax abatement, to the Tax Collector no later than March 1st to be eligible for a tax abatement for the following October 1st Grand List.

Any other person specifically defined by General Statute §12-81w and Connecticut Public Act 19-36 who is not a member of the Bozrah Volunteer Fire Company but is a resident of the Town may be eligible for a maximum of $1,500.00 property tax abatement for any fiscal year until June 30, 2021, if approved by the Board of Selectmen, and then shall be eligible for a maximum of $2,000.00 property tax abatement for any fiscal year starting on or after July 1, 2021, if approved by the Board of Selectmen.

This ordinance shall only be applicable to residential owner-occupied real property and personally-owned personal property. Commercial property and non-owner occupied investment property of members and eligible persons shall not be covered by this ordinance.

Any eligible member or person who has a tax liability that is less than their permitted amount of tax abatement under this ordinance shall not be entitled to or receive any funds or credits for the difference between the tax liability and the permitted abatement.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 4. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of any other part of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid
provisions or applications; and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance and the various applications thereof are declared to be severable.

Section 5. This ordinance shall be effective fifteen (15) days after publication thereof in a newspaper having substantial circulation in the Town of Bozrah.
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