



Committee on Budget & Appropriations

~MINUTES~

Monday, March 2, 2020

1:01 PM

Committee Chair: Catherine Borgia

Committee Room, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

www.westchesterlegislators.com

CALL TO ORDER

Joint with Legislation.

With a quorum present, Chair Catherine Borgia called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Catherine Borgia	Chair	Present	
Nancy Barr	D6 Legislator	Present	
Margaret A Cunzio	D3 Legislator (Minority Leader)	Present	
Vedat Gashi	Vice Chair	Present	
Christopher Johnson	D16 Legislator (Majority Whip)	Present	
Damon Maher	D10 Legislator	Present	
Catherine Parker	D7 Legislator	Absent	
David J. Tubiolo	D14 Legislator	Present	
Ruth Walter	D15 Legislator	Present	
Alfreda Williams	D8 Legislator (Vice Chair)	Present	

Others In Attendance: BOL: Lyndon Williams, Kitley Covill, MaryJane Shimsky, Jill Axelrod, Alessandra Restiano, Melanie Montalto, Dayana Gomez, T'tyana Martinez, Sarah Carbonaro, Lisa Hochman LAW: John Nonna, Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Justin Adin, Jason Whitehead
BUDGET: Larry Soule

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Guests:

County Attorney, John Nonna and Chief Deputy Attorney, Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz

Budget Director, Larry Soule

1. **(ID # 12419) Resolution – PH - Tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance service members:**

A RESOLUTION to set a Public Hearing on a "LOCAL LAW of the Westchester County Board of Legislators amending Chapter 475 of the Laws of Westchester County by extending the expiration date of tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service

members." [Public Hearing set for _____, 2020 at _____ .m.]. LOCAL LAW INTRO 12420 - 2020.

County Attorney John Nonna, Assistant County Attorney Justin Adin, and Budget Director Larry Soule joined the members to discuss items # 12419/12420- Tax Exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance service members. This is a local law that will extend the expiration date of tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance members. Legislator Covill noted that this law is a way to show our gratitude to these volunteers. Mr. Nonna noted that he was one of the sponsors of the original legislation in 2009. Mr. Adin stated that this law only changes the sunset date in the original act from 2019 to 2021. He suggested that after 2021, we should ask the State to amend Real Property Tax Law Section 466-d, which authorizes the County to provide the exemption as long as its population is between 900,000 and 950,000, to use the words "the County of Westchester" instead of a population number so we don't have to ask them to change it every 10 years based on census data.

Mr. Soule stated that there is no cost to the County, because the exemption just spreads the obligation for the County portion of taxes across a smaller base. Legislator Borgia stated that only negative thing she has heard is that this creates a moral imperative for municipalities, but noted that this is not a legal onus.

Legislator L. Williams noted that the municipalities that benefit from having volunteer firefighters bear the cost, and he wants to make clear to firefighters who are union members that this is just an incentive for volunteers in communities that do not necessarily have career firefighters or career ambulance service members.

With a motion by Legislator Maher, seconded by Legislator Borgia, the item was approved for all purposes with a vote of 9 - 0.

RESULT: SIGNED BY COMMITTEE

2. (ID # 12420) Local Law – LEGISLATORS SMITH, BORGIA, CUNZIO, COVILL, BOYKIN, PARKER, A. WILLIAMS, SHIMSKY AND GASHI: Tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance service members:

A LOCAL LAW of the Westchester County Board of Legislators amending Chapter 475 of the Laws of Westchester County by extending the expiration date of tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service members.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

Unfinished Business and any other agenda items to come before the Committee.

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Johnson seconded by Legislator Tubiolo the Committee adjourned at 1:51 PM.

RESOLUTION NO. - 2020

RESOLVED, that this Board hold a public hearing pursuant to Section 209.141(4) of the Laws of Westchester County on Local Law Intro No. - 2020 entitled A LOCAL LAW of the Westchester County Board of Legislators amending Chapter 475 of the Laws of Westchester County by extending the expiration date of tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service members.” The public hearing will be held at __ .m. on the day of _____, 2020 in the Chambers of the Board of Legislators, 8th Floor, Michaelian Office Building, White Plains, N.Y. The Clerk of the Board shall cause notice of the time and date of such hearing to be published at least once in one or more newspapers published in the County of Westchester and selected by the Clerk of the Board for that purpose in the manner and time required by law.

TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

The Committee is in receipt of “A LOCAL LAW of the Westchester County Board of Legislators amending Chapter 475 of the Laws of Westchester County by extending the expiration date of tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service members.”

In 2008, by Local Law 16-2008, your Honorable Board enacted Chapter 475 of the Laws of Westchester County, which provides volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service members, who are qualified real property owners, with the tax exemption authorized by Section 466-d of the Real Property Tax Law and to continue this exemption in the case of certain un-remarried spouses of deceased volunteers pursuant to the provisions of Sections 466-f and 466-h of the Real Property Tax Law. The exemptions authorized by this Chapter are subject to all of the qualifications and limitations set forth in Sections 466-d, 466-f and 466-h of the Real Property Tax Law.

Local Law 16-2008, by its own terms, expired on December 31, 2019. However, Section 466-d of the Real Property Tax Law, authorizes the County to provide this exemption as long as the County’s population is between 900,000 to 950,000, as of the last federal decennial census. Given that the County’s population as of the 2010 census was 949,113, the County remains able to provide this exemption, at least until the County’s population is determined in the next decennial census. Therefore, this Local Law would extend the exemption through the end of 2021, as the result of the next decennial census are not expected until sometime in 2021.

Additionally, and as you know, your Honorable Board must comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”). The Department of Planning has advised

that this proposed Local Law is not an action under SEQRA regulations (6 NYCRR §617.2(b)). Your Committee concurs in this conclusion.

The Committee, after careful consideration, recommends the adoption of this local law.

Dated: March 2, 2020

White Plains, New York

Dedet Gabri
 Cynthia S. Wall
 Catharine Long
 Kitt Sprill
 Alfreda Williams
 Nancy Barr
 Mary Jane [unclear]

Donald J. Jubilo
 Dedet Gabri
 Margaret A. Cize
 Ruth Weber
 Catharine Long
 Alfreda Williams
 Nancy Barr
 [unclear]
 [unclear]


COMMITTEES ON

Budget & Appropriations

Legislation

Attachment: RESO - PH - Tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance service members - SIGNED BY COMMITTEE (12419 : PH - Tax

TO: Justin Adin, Associate County Attorney
Department of Law

FROM: David S. Kvinge, AICP, RLA, CFM
Director of Environmental Planning 

DATE: February 28, 2020

SUBJECT: **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW FOR EXTENSION OF
TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER
AMBULANCE SERVICE MEMBERS**

PROJECT/ACTION: A local law amending Chapter 475 of the Laws of Westchester County to extend the expiration date of the tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service members by 2 years.

With respect to the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617, the Planning Department recommends that no further environmental review is required because the project/action:

- DOES NOT MEET THE DEFINITION OF AN "ACTION" AS DEFINED UNDER SECTION 617.2(b)**
- MAY BE CLASSIFIED AS TYPE II PURSUANT TO SECTION 617.5(c)():**

COMMENTS: None

DSK/cnm
cc: Norma Drummond, Commissioner
Claudia Maxwell, Associate Environmental Planner

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

1.1.b

SUBJECT: Extend RPT Exemption Sec. 466

NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

SECTION A - FUND

GENERAL FUND

AIRPORT FUND

SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense \$ -

Total Current Year Revenue \$ -

Source of Funds (check one): Current Appropriations Transfer of Existing Appropriations

Additional Appropriations

Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: _____

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount _____

Describe: _____

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: Annual Amount _____

Describe: _____

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year: _____

Next Four Years: _____

Prepared by: Gideon Grande

Title: Deputy Director

Department: Budget

Date: February 26, 2020

Reviewed By:

Budget Director

Date: 2/27/20

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LOCAL LAW NO. ___ - 2020

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Be it enacted by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester, as follows:

SECTION 1.

Section 2 of Local Law 16-2008 is hereby amended to read as follows:

This Local Law shall take effect immediately and shall apply to assessment rolls prepared on the basis of taxable status dates occurring on or after such date and shall expire on December 31, 20[19]21 and shall not apply to assessment rolls prepared on the basis of taxable status dates occurring on or after that date.

SECTION 2. Effective date.

This Local Law shall take effect on January 1, 2020.

RECEIVED

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Dated: March 2, 2020

White Plains, New York

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 Cathrin By
 K. T. Spill
 Alfreda Williams
 Nancy Barr
 Mary Jane [Signature]

David L. Jubilo
 Dedet Gabi
 Margaret A. Cize
 Ruth Weber
 Cathrin By
 Alfreda Williams
 Nancy Barr
 [Signature]
 [Signature]


COMMITTEES ON

Budget & Appropriat

Legislation

Attachment: LL - Tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance service members - SIGNED BY COMMITTEE (12420 : Tax exemption

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Department of Law

FROM: David S. Kvinge, AICP, RLA, CFM
Director of Environmental Planning 

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COMMENTS: None

DSK/cnm
cc: Norma Drummond, Commissioner
Claudia Maxwell, Associate Environmental Planner

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SUBJECT: Extend RPT Exemption Sec. 466

NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

SECTION A - FUND

GENERAL FUND

AIRPORT FUND

SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

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Total Current Year Revenue \$ -

Source of Funds (check one): Current Appropriations Transfer of Existing Appropriations

Additional Appropriations

Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: _____

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount _____

Describe: _____

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Describe: _____

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year: _____

Next Four Years: _____

Prepared by: Gideon Grande

Title: Deputy Director

Department: Budget

Date: February 26, 2020

Reviewed By:

Budget Director

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