

## RINGGOLD FIRE DISTRICT

### RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING PARTIAL REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE WORKERS

The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Ringgold Fire District ("Fire District") at a meeting held on the 7th day of March 2023, adopted the following resolutions by majority vote:

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Chapter 670 of the Laws of 2022 effective December 9, 2022, the state Real Property Tax Law was amended by adding a new §466-a authorizing local governments, including Fire Districts, to enact by resolution a ten (10%) percent partial real property tax exemption of the assessed value of the primary residence owned by a qualified enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service that serves the city, town or village where the Fire District is located; and

**WHEREAS**, the intent of this Resolution is to permit the partial real property tax exemption for qualified enrolled members of said emergency services organizations for real property taxes imposed by the Fire District; and

**WHEREAS**, a Public Hearing was conducted by the Fire District, on March 7, 2023, after providing the statutorily required notice, to solicit input and to hear all persons interested in the partial real property tax exemption of the assessed value of the primary residence owned by a qualified enrolled member of said emergency service organizations that serve the Fire District.

#### **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the primary residential real property located in the Fire District that is owned by an enrolled member of a volunteer fire company, volunteer fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service that provides services within the city, town or village in which the Fire District is located shall be exempt from taxation and assessments levied by the Fire District to the extent of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of such property, exclusive of special assessments, subject to the requirements set forth in this herein; and it is further

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that for purposes of this Resolution the "Authority Having Jurisdiction" shall mean the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Fire District; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that such exemption shall not be granted unless:

- A. The applicant resides in the Fire District which is served by the above listed incorporated volunteer fire company, volunteer fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service of which the applicant is a qualified enrolled member;

- B. the property is the primary residence of the applicant;
- C. the property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided, however, that if any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this Resolution;
- D. the applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member who has served such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or voluntary ambulance service for at least two years; and
- E. the applicant must submit such certification together with the tax exemption application to the local assessor; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service, and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, shall be granted the ten percent (10%) exemption authorized by this Resolution for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Fire District, and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the property tax exemption authorized by this Resolution and granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service shall, upon application, be continued to such deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse if such member is killed in the line of duty, provided that:

- A. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of such enrolled member who was killed in the line of duty;
- B. such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five (5) years; and
- C. such deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death,

and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the property tax exemption authorized by this Resolution and granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service shall, upon application, be continued to such deceased enrolled member's un-remarried spouse, provided that:

- A. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of such enrolled member;
- B. such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least twenty (20) years; and
- C. such deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption for such property prior to the death of such volunteer;

and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that an application form for such exemption and a certification provided by the appropriate authority having jurisdiction shall be filed with the Assessor for the Town on or before the taxable status date of each year or as otherwise required as prescribed by New York State, and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that no applicant who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who by reason of such status is receiving any benefit under the provisions of Article 4 of the state Real Property Tax Law on the effective date of this Resolution shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this Resolution; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that these Resolutions shall take effect immediately.

Commissioner Jack Sabrestock moved, Commissioner W. Wheeler seconded, and the Board of Fire Commissioners voted as follows:

Name:	Voting: Aye or Nay:
Chairman <u>Chuck Jackson</u>	<u>X</u>
Commissioner <u>Ernie Wheeler</u>	<u>X</u>
Commissioner <u>Tom Sabrestock</u>	<u>X</u>
Commissioner <u>Brayton Silvestri</u>	<u>absent</u>
Commissioner <u>Chuck Deaton</u>	<u>absent</u>

The foregoing resolutions were thereupon declared duly adopted and approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

March 7, 2023

Lynda Mattison  
 Lynda Mattison, Secretary  
 Ringgold Fire District