



TOWN OF BEACON FALLS
FIRE AND EMS SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
C/O TOWN CLERK
10 MAPLE AVE.
BEACON FALLS, CT. 06403
(Subject to revision)

Members Present: J. Weid (JW), D. Bousquet (DB), P. Brennan (PB), J. Wrenn (JDW)

Members Absent: M. Krenesky (MK) and J. Carrol (JC)

Other Members Present: None

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance:

DB called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and led the assembled in the pledge of allegiance.

2. Proposal Review – Discussion & Action:

DB gave brief update on the change in proposal recommendation. Board reviewed material from JW. .03 difference would be incurred in the mill rate should option 1 be adopted.

Motion to present option 1 to the BOS at the December meeting made by PB seconded by JW. All ayes

3. Adjournment:

Motion made to adjourn at 7:10 PM – PB/JW, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren A. Fennell
Clerk, Service Award Committee



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Exhibit A.

October 25, 2022

Dear Members of the Service Award Committee,

In 2020, the State of Connecticut passed an amendment to the Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Personnel Tax Relief Act, doubling the maximum benefit from \$1,000 per year per individual to \$2,000. The current tax abatement program has not increased since its inception in the 1990s. While this is not mandatory, due to the increased inflation and cost of living, approving this increase would help to provide maximum relief to those individuals who volunteer their time and skills to serve the town. In the program year ending in 2022, 37 volunteers qualified for the service award and tax abatement benefit, 15 of those volunteers have over ten years of service but are maxed out at the current plan ceiling of 10 years, \$1,000. I am proposing the financial increase of the tax abatement program in one of two ways. The first would be to double the program from \$100 per year to \$200 per year, keeping the maximum of 10 years; however, the financial maximum would be \$2,000 as opposed to the current \$1,000. Using the figures from the most recent year, the total amount of funding would increase from \$23,500 to \$47,000. The second proposal would be to increase the maximum number of years of the program from 10 to 20, keeping the \$100 per year increment. Using the same figures, the increase in funding would change from \$23,500 to \$32,500. This would also increase the maximum permanent relief benefit from \$1,000 to \$2,000, reached after 20 or more years of service and given after age 65. As the Tax Abatement Program is a town ordinance, the change would need to be voted on by the Board of Selectmen and then taken to a town meeting for approval.

Sincerely,

Jamie Weid