

Town of Colchester
CHVFD Exemption Revision Commission
Special Meeting
June 8, 2020 – 6:00p.m.
***Virtual Meeting**

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Turner, Walter Cox, Chuck Maynard, Jim Carona, John Knapp, John Chaponis

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Hayes

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1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** D. Turner called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 1, 2020:** C. Maynard motioned to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2020 meeting, seconded by J. Corona. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **CITIZENS COMMENTS:** None
5. **PRESENTATION FROM JOHN CHAPONIS ON HISTORY OF THE EXISTING ORDINANCE:** The state statutes changed in 2011 to allow for EMS and in 2016 for retired members, however, town ordinances were never changed. It needs to be decided if the ordinance should be expanded to include these exemptions and language changes on how members qualify and the process is audited. There has been a frequent turnover of members and inconsistencies with the CHVFD Tax Exemption Eligibility Commission. J. Chaponis said he feels the current ordinance and verbiage has outlived its usefulness and does not think he can be the one to audit and keep track of who attends calls.
6. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ENHANCEMENTS TO EXISTING ORDINANCE:** Members discussed ways to streamline the process making it easier on the Assessor's office and the Eligibility Committee, if there needs to even be a committee any longer. J. Chaponis shared the sliding scale process Andover uses. W. Cox explained how eligibility data is currently being collected using the *I am Responding* app and *Fire House* database. Members will need to determine if a point system, or another method, will work to determine eligibility. C. Maynard said that there are ways to volunteer besides responding to a call, such as administratively. He also pointed out that answering an EMS call can require not only the time for the actual call but also the time to complete paperwork.
7. **NEXT STEPS:** C. Maynard, J. Chaponis, J. Carona, and W. Cox all agreed to contact other towns to obtain copies of their ordinances. They will then be distributed to all members prior to the next meeting to allow time to be reviewed. Members will need to make recommendations for what pieces of the program they want to go forward, such as EMS, Fire Police, etc..., and what way the eligibility should be measured. J. Chaponis said that what to do for retired members will also need to be considered. Members that retired previously thinking they qualified should still be able to be eligible as long as they meet the retirement criteria the committee sets.
8. **SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Members tentatively planned to meet again on June 22nd.
9. **ADJOURNMENT:** J. Corona motioned to adjourn, seconded by W. Cox. Chairman Turner adjourned the meeting at 6:51p.m.

Submitted by

Dawn LePage, Clerk