

Town of Colchester
CHVFD Exemption Revision Commission
Special Meeting
June 22, 2020 – 6:00p.m.
***Virtual Meeting**

Minutes

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** D. Turner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None
3. **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** None
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 8, 2020:** J. Corona motioned to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2020 meeting, seconded by M. Hayes. W. Cox requested the minutes be changed accordingly: Item 6, 3rd sentence - W. Cox explained how eligibility data is currently being collected using the *Firehouse* database and there is potential to use the *I am Responding* app. J. Corona amended his motion to include the change by W. Cox. M. Hayes amended his second to include the change. All members voted in favor with M. Hayes abstaining. **MOTION CARRIED.**
5. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ENHANCEMENTS TO EXISTING ORDINANCE:**
C. Maynard prepared a spreadsheet comparing the ordinances of over 30 towns. Members discussed whether all details of the exemption should be included in the ordinance or if the ordinance should reference an internal document. The internal department document would outline the point system used for eligibility determination. By doing this, if changes were needed to the criteria they could be made without a change to the ordinance. Ways in which eligibility would be determined, such as being an active member, certifications, etc... were discussed as well as tiered levels for years of service. Opinions varied as to if the ordinance should include an audit process and what that process would be. J. Chaponis suggested that the ordinance include verbiage that required the Board of Selectmen to appoint a committee every five years to revisit the ordinance similar to the process used for the Charter Revision. He requested the list of qualified individuals be given to the Assessor's Office by December 31st each year. Eligibility agreements with other towns need to be looked at. The terms might vary depending on the agreements that can be reached with each town. This would be for volunteers that do not actually reside in Colchester. There also needs to be guidelines for volunteers that do not own taxable property or taxes owed are less than the exemption they qualify for. D. Turner and M. Hayes said they are certain the BOS and BOF will want to know the cost of any interlocal agreement and exemptions. J. Corona questioned how the exemption would work for a retired member that moved out of Colchester. D. Turner would like to establish a list of what members would like to have in ordinance. Members agreed there should be four categories: Fire Police, Firefighter, EMT, Paramedic.
6. **NEXT STEPS:** W. Cox will develop precedent for what a "member in good standing" would mean. J. Chaponis will review the current ordinance and edit accordingly based on discussion thus far. D. Turner asked members to continue to think about what they want included in the ordinance. J. Chaponis suggested D. Turner and M. Hayes give updates to their respective boards and obtain feedback as to what specifics they will be looking for when the proposed new ordinance is presented to the boards. J. Corona suggested last year's numbers be calculated to get an idea on an approximate cost to the town.
7. **SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Members tentatively planned to meet again on July 6, 2020
8. **ADJOURNMENT:** J. Knapp motioned to adjourn, seconded by C. Maynard. Chairman Turner adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by,


Dawn LePage, Clerk

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