

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

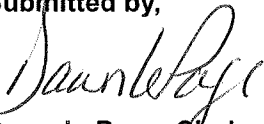
Minutes

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

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COLCHESTER, CT
2020 JUL -8 PM 1:07
CAYLE FURMAN
TOWN CLERK

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:** D. Turner called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.
2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None
3. **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:** None
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 22, 2020:** J. Knapp motioned to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2020 meeting, seconded by J. Carona. Vote was unanimous. **MOTION CARRIED.**
5. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ENHANCEMENTS TO EXISTING ORDINANCE:** Clarification is needed from J. Chaponis as to if the wording would be "abatement" or "exemption". W. Cox created a draft of qualifications to be considered an active member in any of the three divisions: EMS (EMR & Ambulance Driver), EMT, or Paramedic; Fire (Firefighter I or greater); Fire Police - State certification. The draft also included a points award system with 150 points being the minimum for qualifying. Abatements would start at \$500 and go up to \$2000. The \$2000 will be effective in 2021 per state statute. Members would need to have 25 years of active service to retire and receive a \$1000 exemption. If they choose to continue active status after 25 years of service the amount they receive can increase up to as much as the \$2000 maximum credit while they remain active. J. Knapp said there are currently 109 members in the fire company, the majority do not reach 175 points which would be needed for the \$1000 exemption. C. Maynard believes the updated program could be an incentive for members to complete the necessary paperwork to receive points. There are approximately 10 members that have retired since 2001 when the ordinance went into place and an additional two that have retired since 2016. Whether there should be a minimum age requirement to retire was considered but was not felt necessary. Clarity is needed from J. Chaponis if the tax exemption needs to be taken all on personal property or all on real estate tax or if it can be divided among both.
6. **NEXT STEPS:** J. Knapp will continue to gather numbers from this past year and use them to calculate an approximate cost to the town under the proposed point system eligibility. D. Turner will speak with J. Chaponis and ask him to review the draft before the next meeting.
7. **SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Members tentatively planned to meet again on July 21, 2020.
8. **ADJOURNMENT:** M. Hayes motioned to adjourn, seconded by C. Maynard. Chairman Turner adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Submitted by,


Dawn LePage, Clerk