

1/24/23

Sloatsburg Village Board

Public Hearing & Regular Meeting  
January 24, 2023

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:15 PM by the Honorable Peter J. Akey, Mayor, in the Conference Room of the Sloatsburg Municipal Building, 96 Orange Turnpike, Sloatsburg, New York.

Trustees Present -       John Bonkoski  
                                  Thomas Donnelly  
                                  Darrell Frasier  
                                  Marc Bitterman

Village Clerk & Treasurer – Mary Hahn – Present

Village Attorney – Richard Ellsworth – Present

Interested Citizens Attending: Matt Swanson, Doug Volpicella, Brandon Bates, Aniello Vacchiano, Thomas Bonkoski, Carlos Diaz, Hailey McPhebe, Jess DeDuca

Pledge to Flag – Trustee Frasier

Note for the record: Attached, herewith, is a copy of the Notice of Public Hearing.

The Village Clerk confirmed that the Notice was published and posted properly.

Mayor Akey opened the public hearing and reviewed the proposed Local Law of 2023 for the Village of Sloatsburg Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Real Property Tax Exemption.

The Mayor asked for any comments. Trustee Bonkoski asked for clarification regarding the term unmarried spouses. Mayor Akey indicated that, if one of them dies, it would be the widow (correction, un-remarried).

The Mayor asked if anyone else would like to address the Board regarding the proposed local law. There were no further comments. The Mayor then asked for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing

*On a motion by Trustee Bonkoski, seconded by Trustee Donnelly to adjourn the public hearing and open the regular meeting at 7:30 PM. All in favor, motion carried.*

Pledge to Flag – Trustee Frasier

Discussion and Possible Adoption of Proposed Local Law

Mayor Akey asked for any discussion on the public hearing. The Village Attorney explained that there is a similar existing law and recommended against repealing that one at this time.

There was further discussion on the proposed local law as it pertains to two typographical errors, which will be corrected accordingly when the law is filed.

At this time, Mayor Akey asked for a motion to adopt the proposed local law.

Resolution #23-04 Local Law Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption

Trustee Bonkoski offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Sloatsburg adopt the following local law:

**LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2023 OF THE VILLAGE OF SLOATSBURG  
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS  
EXEMPTION**

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Sloatsburg, County of Rockland and State of New York as follows:

**Section I**

**1. Legislative Intent**

The state Real Property Law has been amended by adding a new §466-a regarding a partial real property tax exemption for the primary residence owned by a volunteer firefighter, volunteer ambulance worker and their un-remarried spouses. The intent of this local law is to continue and expand the partial real property tax exemption currently offered by

**Section II**

**1. Grant of exemption.**

An exemption of Ten (10%) percent of assessed value of property owned by an enrolled member as set forth below, or such enrolled member and their spouse, is hereby granted from taxation with respect to the real property taxes of the Village of Sloatsburg as long as eligibility requirements are met.

**2. Eligibility requirements.**

Such exemption shall be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service provided that:

- A.** The property is owned by the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker;
- B.** The property is the primary residence of the volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker;
- C.** The property is used exclusively for residential purposes;
- D.** The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker resides in the Village of Sloatsburg and the Village of Sloatsburg is served by such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service;
- E.** The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker is certified by the authority having jurisdiction as an enrolled member of such an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service; and
- F.** The volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker meets the minimum service requirement established by the Village of Sloatsburg, which is hereby established as two (2) years.

**3. Application.**

A volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker must annually, on or before the applicable taxable status date, file an application for such property tax exemption with the assessor responsible for preparing the assessment roll for the Village of Sloatsburg, on a form as prescribed by the New York State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance. The Village of Sloatsburg must maintain written guidelines, available upon request, as to the requirements of an enrolled volunteer member relating to this exemption.

**4. Certification.**

The Village of Sloatsburg Board of Trustees or its designee must annually file with the assessor, prior to the applicable taxable status date, a list of the active volunteer members who are certified to meet the minimum service requirement. Such list must provide, as of the applicable taxable status date, the number of years of service served by each such enrolled member and such enrolled member's address of residence.

**5. No diminution of benefits.**

An applicant who is receiving any benefit pursuant to Article 4 of the Real Property Tax Law as of the effective date of this article shall not have any of those benefits diminished because of this article.

**6. Grant of lifetime exemption.**

Any eligible enrolled member who accrues more than 20 years of active volunteer service (as certified by the authority having jurisdiction) shall be granted the Ten (10%) percent exemption as authorized by this article for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Village of Sloatsburg.

**7. Un-remarried spouse of enrolled member killed in the line of duty.**

The un-remarried surviving spouse of a deceased enrolled member killed in the line of duty, as certified by the authority having jurisdiction, is qualified to continue to receive an exemption, as long as the deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five years and had been receiving the exemption at the time of his or her death.

**8. Un-remarried spouse of deceased enrolled member.**

The un-remarried surviving spouse of a deceased enrolled member, as certified by the authority having jurisdiction, is qualified to continue to receive an exemption, as long as the deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least 20 years and the deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption at the time of his or her death.

**Section III.**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law is declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to said clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law.

**Section IV.**

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing in the office of the Secretary of State in accordance with Municipal Home Rule Law Section 27.

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The foregoing was seconded by Trustee Donnelly and;

on a roll call vote:

Trustee Bonkoski	Aye
Trustee Donnelly	Aye
Trustee Frasier	Aye
Trustee Bitterman	Aye
Mayor Akey	Aye

Resolution adopted.

#### Minutes Regular Meeting 1/10/23

On a motion by Trustee Frasier, seconded by Trustee Bitterman to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of 1/10/23. All in favor, motion carried.

#### Resolutions in Mass

*On a motion by Trustee Bonkoski, seconded by Trustee Donnelly to adopt resolutions in mass. All in favor, motion carried.*

#### Resolution #23-05 Interest Payment Village of Sloatsburg Public Improvement Serial Bond 2020

Trustee Bonkoski offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLVED that the Clerk Treasurer transfer \$13,346.25 from the General Fund Account A9720.7 to the Debt Service Fund Account V9720.7. This transfer to cover the interest payment due on the Public Improvement Serial Bond 2020.

The foregoing was seconded by Trustee Donnelly and was duly adopted by unanimous vote.

#### Resolution #23-06 Funds Transfer

Trustee Bonkoski offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLVED that the Village Clerk Treasurer transfer \$45,351,.25 from the General Fund Account A9720.7 held at the M&T Bank to the Debt Service Fund V9720.7 fund held at the Sterling National Bank. This payment represents interest payment due on the Public Improvement Serial Bond 2017. Account charge in the General Fund A9720.7. Account Charge in the Debt Service Fund V9720.7.

The foregoing was seconded by Trustee Donnelly and was duly adopted by unanimous vote.

#### Attorney's Report

Mr. Ellsworth reported that they are looking at suggestions on a registration law regarding residential real property that is rented out. He recommended that there be some discussion on how it would be enforced. Mr. Ellsworth requested an executive session to discuss further matters.

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Public Comment

Mayor Akey asked for any comments or questions, none received. He called for a motion to move into executive session.

Executive Session

*On a motion by Trustee Donnelly, seconded by Trustee Bonkoski to go into executive session at 7:38 PM. All in favor, motion carried.*

*On a motion by Trustee Donnelly, seconded by Trustee Bonkoski to come out of executive session. All in favor, motion carried.*

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hahn  
Village Clerk

MH:ds