

A Resolution to Adopt Local Law No. 2 of 2023 – A Local Law Authorizing a Property Tax Exemption to Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers

RESOLUTION #2023-2

Whereas, the Town of Newfield wishes to encourage its residents to volunteer with the Newfield Volunteer Fire Company (NVFC) as both firefighters and EMS personnel; and

Whereas, the leadership of the NVFC has stated to this Town Board that volunteer recruitment and retention stands as a challenge to the NVFC, and that this Board needs to provide incentives for more residents to join and remain with its Volunteer Company; and

Whereas, the New York State Legislature enacted and the Governor signed in 2022 an amendment to Section 466-a of the New York State Real Property Tax Law (RPTL), said amendment providing up to a ten per cent (10%) exemption in residential real property taxes to qualifying volunteers in the firefighting and volunteer ambulance services; and

Whereas, this Newfield Town Board has actively encouraged adoption of this amendment to the Real Property Tax Law, and now chooses to implement it in its Town; and

Whereas, in accordance with the provisions of Section 466-a of the RPTL, a public hearing was held before this Town Board on January 26, 2023, to hear all persons interested in proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2023; therefore be it

Resolved, that Local Law No. 2 of 2023, a local law authorizing Section 466-a of the New York State Real Property Tax Law - A Property Tax Exemption to Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers, is hereby adopted, and applied by the Town of Newfield to grant a 10 per cent (10%) partial reduction in residential property tax assessments to all qualifying volunteer firefighters and emergency medical workers, and do so to the fullest extent as the provisions of Section 466-a of the New York State Real Property Tax Law allow; and be it further

Resolved, that this Town Board directs the Town Supervisor and officers of the Newfield Volunteer Fire Company to cooperate with the Tompkins County Department of Assessment to implement the exemption authorized by this local law, including, but not limited to, the designation of the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for the NVFC, and the AHJ's timely filing of volunteer eligibility lists by the annual March 1 tax status date, or by such other date as the Department of Assessment may designate; and be it further

Resolved, that the Town Clerk shall file one copy of this local law with the Secretary of State.

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