

**EAST GREENBUSH CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2023
Central Administration Boardroom**

1. A.PUBLIC HEARING - Called to Order: Mr. Buono- 6:00 P.M.

B. ATTENDANCE

	Present	Absent	Arrival
Mr. Buono	X		
Ms. Curtin		X	
Mr. Dunn	X		
Ms. Kennedy	X		
Mr. Mann		X	
Ms. O'Brien	X		
Ms. Skumurski			6:04 P.M.
Ms. Steinbach			6:02 P.M.
Ms. Taylor	X		

Also Attending

Mr. Simons	X
Ms. Cannon	X
Mr. Stiles	X
Ms. Wager	X

2. PRESENTATION OF PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS

A. Presentation of Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers

Ms. Wager gave a presentation explaining the new legislation giving a property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers, and stated they hoped to pass a resolution to give the volunteers a 10% reduction on their tax assessment after two years of service, and lifetime and line of duty death exemptions. She gave examples of what the emergency workers could expect to save, and how the district would reallocate the taxes amongst the remaining taxpayers.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Bob Lehmann, chairman of East Greenbush Firehouse #3, stated that it was very important to be in support of this legislation, and he appreciated the District's efforts to pass the resolution so quickly. He thanked Ms. Wager for her comprehensive presentation. He explained that the amount of crisis calls are increasing, but there are less volunteers, and he hoped this legislation would help increase their ranks.

Mr. Dan Garab, Green Meadow principal, said he joined the Defreestville firehouse right after high school. He expressed his sincere thanks to the Board for taking the time to consider this resolution and for being one of the first districts to do so.

Mr. Chris Lavin said the volunteers were all surprised how quickly the District has taken action on this legislation, and stated how much all the members appreciated them having a special meeting to consider the resolution.

Mr. Steve Golden, president of the Defreestville firehouse, also thanked the Board for taking action so quickly. He said he felt it was an appropriate offer for all time the volunteers give.

4. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Ms. Kennedy thanked the volunteers and said she was glad the Board was able to pass this resolution for them.

Ms. Skumurski stated she was in full support of approving the resolution, and thanked the volunteers for all they do for the community.

Mr. Dunn thanked the volunteers and their families. He said the tax exemption is a small token to give compared to all the volunteers do for the community. He told the students in the audience to take notice, and realize what it means to give back to the community.

Ms. O'Brien stated she fully supported the cause, and said she appreciates all the volunteers do. She also thanked Ms. Wager for the detailed and clear presentation.

Ms. Taylor stated this exemption was long overdue and well deserved. She thanked the volunteers, and said she hoped this initiative helped them increase their ranks.

Ms. Steinbach thanked the volunteers for all they do and for opening their doors to the community. She thanked Ms. Wager for her presentation, and said she fully supported the resolution.

Mr. Buono also thanked the volunteers for all the time they give, all the trainings they attend, and meals they provide to the community. He said he was glad to be able to pass this resolution for them, and hoped it helped them retain and recruit members.

5. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS

Motion by Mr. Dunn, Second by Ms. Taylor

Resolved, the Board of Education of the East Greenbush Central School District hereby approves the Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers

Vote: Ayes- 7, Nays- 0

Motion carried

6. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Buono closed the public hearing.

Time: 6:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Pangburn
District Clerk