

Public Hearing on Veterans Tax Exemption

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, February 10, 2014, beginning at 6:00 p.m., in the Board Conference Room at the William J. Brosnan School, 158 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York, with Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Chairperson, opening the meeting and presiding.

Members present: Mr. David Badanes, Ms. Julia Binger, Mr. James Maloney, Mrs. Lori McCue, Mr. Andrew Rapiejko, Mr. Joseph Sabia, Mrs. Jennifer Thompson, Mrs. Tammie Topel (arrived at 6:10 p.m.), Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr.

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Matthew Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Administration
Ms. Rosemarie Coletti, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Badanes, to convene into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to the employment history of particular persons, matters pertaining to negotiations, and matters pertaining to the employment of a particular corporation.

Unanimously carried by those present.

At 7:08 p.m. the Board reconvened in public session in the Cafeteria at the William J. Brosnan School.

Public attendance: There were approximately 40 persons present.

2. Mr. Waldenburg led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and
3. Pointed out the emergency exits.
4. PUBLIC HEARING ON REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW 458-A

4.01 Certain Exemptions from Real Property Tax for School Districts to Eligible Veterans

Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools, stated that Chapter 518 of the laws of 2013 extends the real property tax exemption for veterans to school tax bills. Prior to this law, which was passed on December 18, 2013, the exemption was only available on county, city, town and village taxes. Dr. McDermott stated that if the Board approves the resolution approximately \$772,000 would be redistributed among the other tax payers.

In response to question, Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business stated that the cost to the homeowner with an average assessed value of \$3,800 would be approximately \$36.44 per year, cost to the homeowner with an average assessed value of \$6,000 would be approximately \$57.54 per year. The cost to the homeowner would depend upon what their assessed value is. Ms. Molander stated that once the resolution is adopted it does not have to be reauthorized each year.

Several trustees stated that they would support the resolution but would like to see more community members weigh in on the discussion. Dr. McDermott noted that the Board could vote on it at the March 3rd meeting or could schedule a public hearing before then.

Motion was made by Trustee Sabia, seconded by Trustee Badanes, to vote on the resolution tonight.

Vote on Trustee Sabia's motion was as follows:

YES: Mr. Badanes, Mr. Maloney, Mr. Sabia, Mr. Waldenburg

NO: Ms. Binger, Mrs. McCue, Mr. Rapiejko, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Topel.

Motion failed.

President Waldenburg stated that the Board will hold an additional public hearing on the veterans tax exemption before the regular meeting scheduled for March 3, 2014.

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION OF THE VETERAN TAX EXEMPTION

Postponed until March 3, 2014.

6. ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING AND CONVENE INTO SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

At 7:30 p.m. the chair adjourned the public hearing and convened into regular business meeting.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

bmn