

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON
FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW #7 OF 2023
HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

Present: Tistrya Houghtling, Supervisor
Norman Rasmussen, Councilmember
Deborah Gordon, Councilmember
John Trainor, Councilmember
Susan Tipograph, Councilmember

Recording Secretary: Marsha (Marcie) Robertson, Town Clerk

Others Present: Ted Salem, ZBA Member & ZRC Chair
Josh Young, Planning Board & QOL Member, Shaker
Preservation Com., & BEDC Chair
Sharon Powers, IT Website Support, BEDC & QOL Com.
Member
Steve Powers, CAC & ZRC Member & CSC Chair
Mary Young, NL Rep to CC Office for the Aging & Traffic
Safety
Peg Munves, CAC Co-Chair
Becky Segal, BEDC Member
Jim Carroll, Planning Board & ZRC Member
Ed Godfroy, LVPA
Erminia Rasmussen, BEDC Member
Margaret Robertson, Historic Railroad Depot
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER:

The Public Hearing was called to order at 5:58pm by Supervisor Houghtling. The meeting was held in person at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 State Route 22 North, New Lebanon, NY 12125 with members of the public also being able to view the meeting at the following link: https://townhallstreams.com/towns/new_lebanon_ny

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE:

Town Clerk Robertson read the following public hearing notice aloud:

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 7 of 2023
TOWN OF NEW LEBANON**

COUNTY OF COLUMBIA

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of New Lebanon on November 14th, 2023 at 5:55 p.m. at 14755 Route 22 North, New Lebanon, New York, 12125 regarding the adoption of Introductory Local Law No. 7 of the Town of New Lebanon for the year 2023. Introductory Local Law No. 7 of the Town of New Lebanon for the year 2023 is a local law to amend Chapter 185 of the Town Code of the Town of New Lebanon, entitled “Taxation”, with respect to the exemptions for senior citizens, volunteer firefighters, ambulance workers, and persons with disabilities with limited incomes.

Copies of said proposed Local Law are available for review at the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of New Lebanon, 14755 Route 22 North, New Lebanon, New York, 12125 and the proposed local law can be viewed on the town website at www.townofnewlebanon.com.

Participation by the public will be in person at the New Lebanon Town Hall. Those not attending in person who wish to comment on the proposed local law can email in advance of the meeting to supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com and all comments will be read at the public hearing and entered into the record.

Marcie Robertson
Town of New Lebanon Town Clerk
10/16/2023

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Supervisor Houghtling opened the floor to public comment and asked if there was anyone that wished to speak regarding Introductory Local Law #7 of 2023 or have any comments that they would like to put on the record.

Steve Powers: Steve commented, he has a question regarding section 185-9, un-remarried surviving spouses of volunteers killed in the line of duty. He stated, anyone else will get this if they have served for two years. In section B, it states, such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five years. Steve commented, between two to five years the spouse will not get it, it does not seem fair.

Supervisor Houghtling: The Supervisor responded, they mirrored the County’s law, that is where they got that language. She stated, a volunteer firefighter gets it after

two years of service. If three years into service they were to pass away, their un-remarried surviving spouse would only get it if they were a volunteer for five years.

Councilmember Gordon: Deb responded; she thinks benefits accrue with longevity in a position. It may be because of that.

Supervisor Houghtling: The Supervisor stated, she does not think it is unheard of for benefits becoming available to a spouse to have a longer waiting period than to the volunteer themselves. She stated, the county asked very nicely, as much as possible, that the town mirrors the county's version because from an assessment perspective. If the towns and the counties vary too much it could create issues for the Assessor.

Ed Godfroy: Ed stated, the LVPA was not in dispute with the county decision on this.

Councilmember Tipograph: Susan asked if the volunteer dies after service in two years, does the spouse start getting the benefits after five years?

Supervisor Houghtling: The Supervisor responded, no. The deceased volunteer has to an enrolled member for at least five years.

Jim Carroll: Jim asked, if you take a snap shot of the taxes this year, what is the total amount that is going to be pushed off to other taxpayers by passing this law?

Supervisor Houghtling: The Supervisor responded; she would have to get back to Jim on the answer to his question. She stated, the impact on other taxpayers is minimal but she would get back to Jim with more details.

Steve Powers: Steve asked, what if there are two members of the family volunteering for the LVPA? Do they get a single exemption or a double exemption?

Supervisor Houghtling: The Supervisor responded; the exemptions are for only that household. The property, the tax map ID is either eligible for the exemption or not eligible for the exemption.

Supervisor Houghtling stated that she had not received any emails regarding Introductory Local Law #7 of 2023.

CLOSING OF PUBLIC HEARING:

All persons desiring to be heard and having been heard, a motion was made by Supervisor Houghtling, to close the Public Comment and adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:07pm. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gordon.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilmember Rasmussen-

Aye

Councilmember Gordon-	Aye
Supervisor Houghtling-	Aye
Councilmember Trainor-	Aye
Councilmember Tipograph -	Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Robertson
New Lebanon Town Clerk

Draft