ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES 5:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2014
Middle School/High School

1. Opening Items

1.01 Call to Order 5:30 pm
1.02 Tobacco Policy Statement
1.03 Pledge of Allegiance
1.04 Roll Call
Present: Trustee McGillicuddy Trustee Hickey, Trustee Spencer, Trustee McKeon, Trustee Kurnit
Not Present: Trustee Fletcher, Trustee Osmond

2. Discussion and Possible Action

2.01 Inter-School Transfer
Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-School Transfer from Woodstock to Phoenicia
Motioned: Trustee Kurnit
Seconded: Trustee Spencer
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee McGillicuddy Trustee Hickey, Trustee Spencer, Trustee McKeon, Trustee Kurnit
Not Present: Trustee Fletcher, Trustee Osmond

2.02 Rescind Veteran's Tax Exemption Resolution
Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby rescinds the resolution below rejected on February 20, 2014:
Motioned: Trustee Hickey
Seconded: Trustee Kurnit
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee McGillicuddy Trustee Hickey, Trustee Spencer, Trustee McKeon, Trustee Kurnit
Not Present: Trustee Fletcher, Trustee Osmond

WHEREAS, Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law has been amended by Chapter 518 of the Laws of the State of New York to permit school districts the authority to grant partial real property tax exemptions to eligible veterans ("Alternative Veterans' Exemption"); and

WHEREAS, after publication of legal notice, the Board of Education has held a public hearing for the purpose of considering the Alternative Veterans' Exemption pursuant to Section 458-a of the New York Real Property Tax Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District does hereby establish and grant the Alternative Veterans' Exemption from real property taxes for qualifying residential real property owned by veterans, their spouses, and the un-remarried surviving spouses of veterans as follows:
(1) an exemption equal to fifteen percent (15%) of the assessed value of such

property, provided, however, that such exemption may not exceed the lesser of: (a) twelve thousand dollars ($12,000.00) or (b) the product of twelve thousand dollars ($12,000.00) multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit where such property is situated;

(2) in the event the veteran served in a combat theatre or combat zone of operations, an additional exemption equal to ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of such property, provided however that such additional exemption may not exceed the lesser of: (a) eight thousand dollars ($8,000.00) or (b) the product of eight thousand dollars ($8,000.00) multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit where such property is situated;

(3) in the event the veteran received a compensation rating from the United States veteran's administration or from the United States department of defense because of a service connected disability, an additional exemption equal to the product of the assessed value of such property multiplied by fifty percent (50%) of the veteran's disability rating, provided, however, that such exemption shall not exceed the lesser of: (a) forty thousand dollars ($40,000.00) or (b) the product of forty thousand dollars ($40,000.00) multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit where such property is situated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be effective as of March 1, 2014, and shall apply to all real property taxes levied by the Onteora Central School District based on assessment rolls prepared after such date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be submitted to each assessor responsible for preparing the assessment roll listing all real property situated within the Onteora Central School District.

2.03 Veterans Tax Exemption

Recommended Action: BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District ("District") as follows:

Motioned: Trustee Spencer
Seconded: Trustee Hickey

Discussion:

- Superintendent Phyllis McGill stated that although she is not pleased at the way the Governor brought this out, she is in support of the Board approving this resolution
- Great respect for veterans' service to the country and want to help the them
- Ask veterans to help District by putting pressure on the State to stop unfunded mandates
- Community should see big picture that we must support the veterans
- No intent on Board's part to dodge vote
- Important for District shows support for veterans
- Saugerties, Ellenville and New Paltz have passed the exemption
- Puts the exemption to the taxpayers first, before the State has to help
    - As in the Star exemption, which the State takes last

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Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee McGillicuddy Trustee Hickey, Trustee Spencer, Trustee McKeon, Trustee Kurnit
Not Present: Trustee Fletcher, Trustee Osmond

Statement from Trustee Fletcher read aloud

- NYSSBA ‘s position that this is a difficult decision
- Veterans made the ultimate sacrifice and want to support them, but the process by which this is being brought to school districts
    - Did not have time to do due diligence to reach out to community who feel that their taxes are too high already

Public Comment:

Terry Brightenstein – History of exemptions and discussion of this exemption
Vincent Bernstien – Commended Board for actions

3. Adjournment

3.01 Adjourn Meeting. Next meeting is Tuesday, March 4, 2014 in the Phoenicia School at 6pm

Recommended Action: The meeting is adjourned at 6:15
Motioned: Trustee Hickey
Seconded: Trustee Kurnit
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee McGillicuddy, Trustee Hickey, Trustee Spencer, Trustee McKeon, Trustee Kurnit
Not Present: Trustee Fletcher, Trustee Osmond

Minutes Recorded By:
Victoria McLaren, District Clerk

Minutes Typed By:
Fern Amster

Board of Education: Ann McGillicuddy, Tony Fletcher, Laurie Osmond, Dan Spencer, Tom Hickey, Rob Kurnit, Michael McKeon