

<u>February 15, 2023</u>	<u>Public Hearing</u>	<u>Library</u>
Date	Kind of Meeting	Where Held

Board Members Present:

Drew Shuster
 Melissa Maldonado
 Debra Bunce
 Loni Koument-Holdridge
 Jean Jaeger

Board President, Drew Shuster, called the public hearing to order at 5:08 p.m.

Drew Shuster led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was the Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance workers.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

<u>February 15,, 2023</u>	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Library</u>	<u>Drew Shuster</u>
Date	Kind of Meeting	Where held	Presiding Officer

Members Present:

Drew Shuster
 Debra Bunce
 Jean Jaeger
 Melissa Maldonado
 Loni Koument-Holdridge
 John Wiktorko
 Michelle Mattice, Treasurer
 Karen Van Valkenburgh, District Clerk

Absent

Others Present:
 Cody Rogers

Public Comments – None

Recommended Actions – Consent Agenda

1) Routine Matters

- i. **RESOLVED**, the Board approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 11, 2023.
- ii. **RESOLVED**, the Board approves the minutes of the Special Meeting held on January 24, 2023.
- iii. **RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the Treasurer’s Report for January 2023
- iv. **RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the Superintendent’s Transfers for February 2023 as presented.
- v. **RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the Bill Schedule for February 2023 as presented:
 - General Fund: Ck #52216 - Ck#52218, Ck#52219 - Ck#52293 totaling \$549,919.87
 - Federal Fund: Ck#2491 totaling \$1,363.49
 - School Lunch Fund: Ck#352 totaling \$19,343.90

Routine
Matters

2) New Business

- a) Personnel

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| i. | RESOLVED , upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appoints the following individuals to the following extra-curricular position for the 2022-2023 school year, pending a Clearance of Appointment.
Modified Track Coach – Luke McGeeney | Extra
Curriculars |
| | b) Other | |
| i. | RESOLVED , upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the recommendation from the Committee on Special Education, Committee on Pre-School Education and the American with Disability Act, Section 504 for student #'s: 1871, 1921, 2062, 2090, 2163 and 2233. | CSE/CPSE |
| ii. | RESOLVED , upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the non-resident tuition charges provided by the State Education Department for the 2022-2023 school year, as presented under separate cover. | Non-
Resident
tuition |
| iii. | RESOLVED , upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board authorizes a sports team merger agreement between Windham-Ashland-Jewett CSD and Hunter-Tannersville CSD for the Boys Varsity and Modified Baseball, for the 2022-2023 sport season. | HTC
Merger |
| iv. | RESOLVED , upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the use of \$50,000.00 from the Retirement Contribution Reserve for payments to New York State Employees' Retirement System. | Retirement
Contribution
Reserve |
| v. | RESOLVED , the Board of Education of the Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School does hereby authorize the Superintendent on April 17, 2023 to cast one vote on the Otsego Northern Catskill BOCES Administrative Budget as presented for the 2023-2024 school year and cast three (3) votes for the BOCES Board of Education members. | ONC
BOCES
Budget
Vote |
| vi. | RESOLVED, WHEREAS , pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a, the Board of the Windham-Ashland-Jewett-Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, offer a school tax exemption on the real property situated in the School District and owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such enrolled member and spouse and used as the primary residence by such, shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of 10 percent of the assessed value of such property for tax purposes, exclusive of special assessments; and | Volunteer
Firefighter
& Volunteer
Ambulance
Real
Property
Tax
Exemption |

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board, after having conducted a public hearing on February 15, 2023 and having given the public an opportunity to be heard on the issue of the Board's proposed adoption of the Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers pursuant to Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law, hereby adopts the Exemption at the following provisions:

1. **Qualifications** – Such exemption shall only be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance services if:
 - a. The applicant resides in the Windham-Ashland-Jewett School District and is a member of an incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated ambulance service which provides service within said district.
 - b. The real property which is the subject of such exemption is the primary residence of the applicant.
 - c. The real property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this Local Law.
 - d. The applicant has obtained and displayed a certificate issued by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department indicating that the applicant has been an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department for a least two years or the applicant has

been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member of such incorporated voluntary ambulance service for at least two years.

2. **Continuation of eligibility requirements** – The applicant shall maintain continual eligibility for the exemption by being a continuously active member of the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, fire district, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service. An active member shall meet the requirements for active service as defined by each company, department or corporation. Annual attestation by such company, district or corporation is required to maintain this exemption.
3. **Twenty-year active members** – Any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service, as defined in Section 2 hereof, and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, shall be granted the ten percent exemption as authorized by this section for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the School District.
4. **Un-remarried Surviving Spouses of Volunteers killed in the line of duty** – An un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers killed in the line of duty may receive the real property tax exemption if:
 - a. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service who was killed in the line of duty; and.
 - b. Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five years; and.
 - c. Such deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.
5. **Un-remarried Surviving Spouses of Volunteers with a least Twenty Years of Service** – An un-remarried spouse of a volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers with twenty years of service may receive the real property tax exemption if:
 - a. Such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service.
 - b. Such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least twenty years.
 - c. Such deceased volunteer and un-remarried spouse had been receiving the exemption of such property prior to the death of such volunteer.
6. **Application process.**
 - a. Applications for such exemption shall be filed with the assessor of the city, village or town on or before the taxable status date on a form as prescribed by the New York State Commissioner for the Office of Real Property Tax Services.
 - b. The assessor of the city, village or town shall have the duty and responsibility of procuring and filing a copy of such certification prior to granting the exemption provided for by this Local Law.
7. **No diminution of current benefits.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no applicant who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who by reason of such status is receiving any benefit under the provisions of law on the effective date of this local law shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this local law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this local law shall be effective immediately, available to eligible to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service for the upcoming school tax year and shall continue until rescinded or amended by resolution of the Board of Education.

The consent agenda Items 1i through 2aiv, was approved after a discussion occurred regarding 2biii, on motion by Debra Bunce, second by Loni Koument-Holdridge.

Yes: Jean Jaeger, Loni Koument-Holdridge, Debra Bunce, Drew Shuster and Melissa Maldonado.

Absent:

Consent
Agenda

Correspondence – None

Important Dates

February	15	Morning Program 8:15 a.m.
	17	PK-12 1:00 p.m. Dismissal (Emergency Drill)
	20	President's Day – No School
	21-24	Winter Recess – No School
March	3	School Wide Blue & White Day
	8	PK-12 Early Dismissal-Parent/Teacher Conferences 12-7 p.m. Audit Finance Committee Meeting 4:15 p.m. Board of Education Meeting 5:00 p.m.

Important
Dates

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wiktoro gave a detailed report on each of the following:

- 2023-2024 Budget
- Capital Project
- 2022-2023 District Board of Education Goals
- April 2023 BOE meeting date modification
- Upcoming Draft Course Selection Guide presentation

Superintend
ents Report

Public Comment – None

Resolved, that the Board go into Executive Session at 6:38 p.m., for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining, on motion by Debra Bunce, second by Jean Jaeger, and carried by those present.

Executive
Session

The Board reconvened in regular session at 7:47 p.m. on motion by Melissa Maldonado, second by Debra Bunce, and carried by those present.

Adjournmen
t

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m. on motion by Melissa Maldonado, second by Debra Bunce, and carried by those present.

Karen Van Valkenburgh, District Clerk

John Wiktoro, Clerk Pro Tem