FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886

Town of Waterford

PHONE: 860-442-0553
www.waterfordct.org

AGENDA
Finance, Wage, & Personnel Standing Committee of the RTM
Meeting January 27, 2026
6:00 PM - Waterford Town Hall
BoE Conference Room

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Comments**
4. **Approval of 8/20/25 and 9/3/25 meeting minutes**
5. **Consideration of and possible action of items referred to the committee:**
   - Review of Ordinance 3.17 Fleet Management **(RTC 8/4/25)**
   - CIP Approval Process Pilot Program **(RTC 6/2/25)**
   - Salaries of Elected Officials **(RTC 12/2/24)**
6. **Adjournment**

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MINUTES
FINANCE, WAGE & PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE RTM
Special Meeting
Wednesday, August 20, 2025
6:00PM – Waterford Town Hall
Louise Appleby Room

1. Call to Order 6:00pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
   Present: Chairman Harry Colonis, Danielle Steward-Gelinas, Kate MacKenzie, Ted Olynciw, Kayla Mullen
   Absent: None
   Also present: RTM Minority Leader Susan Driscoll, RTM Moderator Paul Goldstein, RTM Member Tim Condon, Town Clerk David Campo, Assessor Paige Walton, Finance Director Kim Allen, and Town Attorney Rob Avena.
4. Public Comment: Resident Jeffrey Craddoc, 38 Seabreeze Drive, spoke in support of ITEM 6B and how he would qualify, along with additional background on the subject.
5. To consider and act upon the minutes of the January 27, 2025 meeting
   MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Olynciw, to accept.
   VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous
6. *Consideration of the possible action on items referred to committee:*

   B. New Veteran's Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans (RTC, 04/04/2025)
   Assessor Paige Walton provided background citing previous legislation that provided an exemption for Veterans with a 100% disability rating that left out Veterans or families that may be entitled. The notable absences were Totally Disabled Individually Unemployable (TDIU) individuals and Gold Star Families. Public Act No. 25-168 (Summary Attached) would allow for the addition of these ratings per an ordinance passed by the town's legislative body. The Assessor estimates the impact to the town would be $30,000. She noted that the amount is subject to unknowns and could change.
   Town Attorney Avena recommended that these be added to the Waterford Code of Ordinances as two new sections under section 3.12. The reason that this is in committee now is to have this in place by October 1, 2025 to allow the Town to apply it to the next Grand List. The bill clarifies and provides the language to apply the exemption.

RTM Member Tim Condon noted that some of the language in regard to trusts is somewhat contradictory, but Town Attorney Avena believes it is defendable and the language is required under Public Act No. 25-168.
The body discussed what they thought would be the logical way to incorporate the ordinances within the Waterford Code of Ordinances. It was decided to entitle the ordinance that relates to Totally Disabled Individually Unemployable residents as 3.12.145 and Gold Star Families as 3.12.182 (See Attachment)
MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Mullen to move Draft 1 of Ordinance 3.12.145 and Draft 1 of Ordinance 3.12.182 to a Public Hearing on 09/03/2025. (See Attachment)
VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

A. Review of Ordinance 3.17 Fleet Management (RTC 08/04/2025)
RTM Member Tim Condon provided background for his letter (See Attachment) to the RTM in regard to Chapter 3.17 – Fleet Management Plan and Reserve Account Fund. The intent of the fleet ordinance is to provide a five year look forward while amortizing for the tax impact on the residents. He is concerned that this may create an unsustainable and unaffordable wave of expenses, if we don't review and make some adjustments to the ordinance. He explained that lease options may be an option to keep fleet expenses consistent and to identify larger fleet expenses. The town officials need to see how fleet works and how it will affect us year to year.
Finance Director Kim Allen noted that this review and update could provide the town with additional options to fund larger fleet purchases.
Draft language would be compiled by Town Attorney Avena and Finance Director Kim Allen.

7. Adjournment
MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Colonis, to adjourn at 6:32.
VOTING IN FAVOR Unanimous

Harry Colonis
Chair – Finance, Wage & Personnel Committee

applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2025)

Any person who has established his or her entitlement to a property tax exemption under subdivision (19), (20), (22), (23), (24), (25), (26), (28), [or] (53) or (83) of section 12-81 or section 12-81g for a particular assessment year shall be issued a certificate as to such entitlement by the tax assessor of the relevant municipality. Such person shall be entitled to such exemption in any municipality in this state for such assessment year provided a copy of such certificate is provided to the tax assessor of any municipality in which such exemption is claimed and further provided such person would otherwise have been eligible for such exemption in such municipality if he or she had filed for such exemption as provided under the general statutes.

Sec. 240. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may provide that, in lieu of the exemption prescribed under subdivision (20) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, any resident of this state who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the United States and has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability shall be entitled to an exemption from property tax on (1) that fractional share of a dwelling, including a condominium, as defined in section 47-68a of the general statutes, a unit in a common interest community, as defined in section 47-202 of the general statutes, and a mobile manufactured home, as defined in section 12-63a of the general statutes, (A) that belongs to or is held in trust for such resident, or that is possessed by such a resident as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under section 12-48 of the general statutes, and (B) that is occupied by such resident as the resident's primary residence, or (2) lacking such residence, one motor vehicle that belongs to or is held in trust for such resident and is garaged in this state. As used in this subsection, "dwelling" does not include any portion of the unit or structure used by such resident for commercial purposes or from which such resident derives any rental income.

(b) If such resident lacks such dwelling or motor vehicle in such resident's name, the dwelling or motor vehicle, as applicable, belonging to or held in trust for such resident's spouse, or possessed by such resident's spouse as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under section 12-48 of the general statutes, who is domiciled with such resident, shall be so exempt. When any resident entitled to an exemption under the provisions of this section has died, the dwelling or motor vehicle, as applicable, belonging to or held in trust for such deceased resident's surviving spouse, or possessed by such deceased resident's surviving spouse as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under section 12-48 of the general statutes, while such spouse remains a widow or widower, or belonging to or held in trust for such deceased resident's minor children during their minority, or both, while they are residents of this state, shall be so exempt as that to which such resident was or would have been entitled at the time of such resident's death.

(c) No individual entitled to the exemption under this section and under one or more of subdivisions (19), (22), (23), (25) and (26) of section 12-81 of the general statutes or section 241 of this act shall receive more than one exemption.

(d) (1) No individual shall receive any exemption to which such individual is entitled under this section until such individual has complied with section 12-95 of the general statutes and has submitted proof of such individual's determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, to the assessor of the town in which the exemption is sought. If there is no change to an individual's determination, such proof shall not be required for any assessment year following that for which the exemption under this section is granted initially. If the United States Department of Veterans Affairs modifies an individual's determination to other than a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability, such modification shall be deemed a waiver of the right to the exemption under this section. Any such individual whose determination was modified to other than a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability may seek the exemption under subdivision (20) or (83) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, as applicable.

(2) Any individual who has been unable to submit evidence of such determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in the manner required by this section, or who has failed to submit such evidence as provided in section 12-95 of the general statutes, may, when such individual obtains such evidence, make application to the tax collector not later than one year after such individual obtains such proof or not later than one year after the expiration of the time limited in section 12-95 of the general statutes, as the case may be, for abatement in case the tax has not been paid, or for refund in case the whole tax or part of the tax has been paid. Such abatement or refund may be granted retroactively to include the assessment day next succeeding the date as of which such individual was entitled to such determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, but in no case shall any abatement or refund be made for a period greater than three years.

(3) The tax collector shall, after examination of such application, refer the same, with the tax collector's recommendations thereon, to the board of selectmen of a town or to the corresponding authority of any other municipality, and shall certify to the amount of abatement or refund to which the applicant is entitled. Upon receipt of such application and certification, the selectmen or other duly constituted authority shall, in case the tax has not been paid, issue a certificate of abatement or, in case the whole tax or part of the tax has been paid, draw an order upon the treasurer in favor of such applicant for such amount, without interest. Any action so taken by such selectmen or other authority shall be a

matter of record and the tax collector shall be notified in writing of such action.

(e) (1) In any municipality that provides the exemption under subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section, such municipality may, upon approval by its legislative body, further provide that, for any individual receiving the exemption under said subsections for a dwelling described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, not more than two acres of the lot upon which such dwelling sits shall be exempt from taxation.

(2) In any municipality that provides the exemption under subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section, such municipality may, upon approval of its legislative body, further provide that the surviving spouse of any resident of this state who (A) had served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the United States, (B) had been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability, and (C) died prior to October 1, 2025, but after a date to be determined by such legislative body, shall, while such spouse remains a widow or widower, be entitled to the exemption under this section.

(3) In any municipality that provides the exemption or exemptions under this section, such municipality may, upon approval of its legislative body, limit the total amount of the exemption or exemptions granted under this section to the median assessed valuation of residential real property in such municipality.

Sec. 241. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may provide that the surviving spouse, while such person remains a widow or widower, of a person who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general matter of record and the tax collector shall be notified in writing of such action.

(e) (1) In any municipality that provides the exemption under subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section, such municipality may, upon approval by its legislative body, further provide that, for any individual receiving the exemption under said subsections for a dwelling described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, not more than two acres of the lot upon which such dwelling sits shall be exempt from taxation.

(2) In any municipality that provides the exemption under subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section, such municipality may, upon approval of its legislative body, further provide that the surviving spouse of any resident of this state who (A) had served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the United States, (B) had been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability, and (C) died prior to October 1, 2025, but after a date to be determined by such legislative body, shall, while such spouse remains a widow or widower, be entitled to the exemption under this section.

(3) In any municipality that provides the exemption or exemptions under this section, such municipality may, upon approval of its legislative body, limit the total amount of the exemption or exemptions granted under this section to the median assessed valuation of residential real property in such municipality.

Sec. 241. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) Any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may provide that the surviving spouse, while such person remains a widow or widower, of a person who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general statutes, which surviving spouse is a resident of such municipality, shall be entitled to an exemption from property tax on (1) that fractional share of a dwelling, including a condominium, as defined in section 47-68a of the general statutes, a unit in a common interest community, as defined in section 47-202 of the general statutes, and a mobile manufactured home, as defined in section 12-63a of the general statutes, (A) that belongs to or is held in trust for such surviving spouse, or that is possessed by such a surviving spouse as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under section 12-48 of the general statutes, and (B) that is occupied by such surviving spouse as the surviving spouse's primary residence, or (2) lacking such residence, one motor vehicle that belongs to or is held in trust for such surviving spouse and is garaged in this state. As used in this subsection, "dwelling" does not include any portion of the unit or structure used by such surviving spouse for commercial purposes or from which such surviving spouse derives any rental income.

(b) No surviving spouse entitled to the exemption under this section and under one or more of subdivisions (19), (20), (22), (23), (25), (26) and (83) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, section 12-81ii of the general statutes or section 240 of this act shall receive more than one exemption.

(c) (1) A surviving spouse described in subsection (a) of this section who claims an exemption from taxation under this section shall give notice to the town clerk of such municipality that he or she is entitled to such exemption.

(2) Any such surviving spouse submitting a claim for such exemption shall be required to file an application, on a form prepared for such purpose by the assessor, not later than the assessment date with respect to which such exemption is claimed, which application shall include at least two affidavits of disinterested persons showing that the deceased person was performing such active military duty, that such deceased person was killed in action while performing such active military duty

and the relationship of such deceased person to such surviving spouse, provided the assessor may further require such surviving spouse to be examined by such assessor under oath concerning such facts. Such town clerk shall record each such affidavit in full and shall list the name of such surviving spouse claimant, and such service shall be performed by such town clerk without remuneration. No assessor, board of assessment appeals or other official shall allow any such claim for exemption unless evidence as herein specified has been filed in the office of such town clerk. When any such surviving spouse has filed for such exemption and received approval for the first time, such surviving spouse shall be required to file for such exemption biennially thereafter.

(3) The assessor of such municipality shall annually make a certified list of all such surviving spouses who are found to be entitled to exemption under the provisions of this section, which list shall be filed in the town clerk's office, and shall be prima facie evidence that such surviving spouses whose names appear thereon are entitled to such exemption as long as they continue to reside in such municipality and as long as the legislative body of such municipality continues to provide for such exemption. Such assessor may, at any time, require any such surviving spouse to appear before such assessor for the purpose of furnishing additional evidence, provided, any such surviving spouse who by reason of disability is unable to so appear may furnish such assessor a statement from such surviving spouse's attending physician or an advanced practice registered nurse certifying that such surviving spouse is totally disabled and is unable to make a personal appearance and such other evidence of total disability as such assessor may deem appropriate.

(4) No such surviving spouse may receive such exemption until such surviving spouse has proven his or her right to such exemption in accordance with the provisions of this section, together with such further proof as may be necessary under said provisions. Exemptions so

proven shall take effect on the next succeeding assessment day.

(d) Any such surviving spouse who has submitted an application and been approved in any year for the exemption provided in this section shall, in the year immediately following approval, be presumed to be qualified for such exemption. During the year immediately following such approval, the assessor shall notify, in writing, each surviving spouse presumed to be qualified pursuant to this subsection.

(e) (1) In any municipality that provides the exemption under subsections (a) to (d) of this section, such municipality may, upon approval by its legislative body, further provide that, for any individual receiving the exemption under said subsections for a dwelling described in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, not more than two acres of the lot upon which such dwelling sits shall be exempt from taxation.

(2) In any municipality that provides the exemption or exemptions under this section, such municipality may, upon approval of its legislative body, limit the total amount of the exemption or exemptions granted under this section to the median assessed valuation of residential real property in such municipality.

Sec. 242. Section 12-81ii of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

(a) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, any municipality, upon approval by its legislative body, may provide that any parent whose child was killed in action, or the surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action, while performing active military duty with the armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103, which parent or surviving spouse is a resident of such municipality, shall be entitled to an exemption from property tax, provided such parent's or surviving spouse's qualifying income does not exceed (A) the

Chapter 3.12 PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

3.12.010 - Buildings with solar energy systems.

3.12.020 - Private residences with solar electricity-generating systems.

3.12.030 - Buildings with passive solar energy systems.

3.12.040 - Blind persons.

3.12.050 – *Property leased to nonprofit organization.*

3.12.060 - Homestead exemption for elderly or totally disabled—Authority.

3.12.070 - Homestead exemption—Qualifications.

3.12.080 - Homestead exemption—Applicability—Acreage restriction.

3.12.090 - Homestead exemption—Application for tax credit—Issuance of certificate.

3.12.100 - Homestead exemption—Application—Denial—Right of appeal.

3.12.110 - Homestead exemption—Effective date.

3.12.120 - Homestead exemption—Limitation.

3.12.130 - Homestead exemption—Conveyance of interest in real property.

3.12.140 - Tax exemption for qualified veterans.

3.12.141 - Additional exemption; qualifying income.

3.12.142 - Veteran's surviving spouse.

3.12.143 - Application for additional exemption.

3.12.144 - Notification; change in qualifying income.

3.12.145 – NEW Section Sept 2025.....need subtitle

3.12.150 - Tax exemption for modified handicap accessible vehicle.

3.12.160 - Tax abatement for volunteer firefighters.

3.12.170 - Excess tax payments.

3.12.180 - Property tax exemption for buildings used in farming.

3.12.181 - Tax exemption for gold star parents/spouses.

3.12.182 – NEW Section Sept 2025..... need subtitle

3.12.140 - Tax exemption for qualified veterans.

Pursuant to Section 12-81(21)(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes Annotated, an exemption from any property tax is authorized for qualified veterans. The dwelling house and the lot whereupon the same is erected, belonging to or held in trust for any citizen and resident of this state, occupied as such citizen's domicile shall be fully exempt from local property taxation if such citizen is a veteran of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States and has received financial assistance for specially adapted housing under the provisions of Section 801 of Title 38 of the United States Code and has applied such assistance toward the acquisition of such dwelling house. The same exemption may also be allowed on such housing units owned by the surviving spouse of such veteran: (1) while such spouse remains a widow or widower; or (2) upon the termination of any subsequent marriage of such spouse by dissolution, annulment, or death, or by such veteran and spouse while occupying such premises as a residence.

Application for such exemption must be filed in accordance with C.G.S.A. § 12-81(21)(c) within thirty days following the annual assessment date.

(R.T.M. 10-3-94)

3.12.141 - Additional exemption; qualifying income.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-81f(a), as amended, any veteran entitled to an exemption from property tax in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-81(19) shall be entitled to an additional exemption of ten thousand dollars, applicable to the assessed value of the property, provided such veteran's qualifying income does not exceed, by more than twenty-five thousand dollars, the applicable maximum amount as provided under Section 12-81L of the Connecticut General Statutes, as the same may be amended from time to time.

(R.T.M. 6-7-04 § 1)

3.12.142 - Veteran's surviving spouse.

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-81f(b), as amended, any veteran's surviving spouse entitled to an exemption from property tax in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-81(22) shall be entitled to an additional exemption of ten thousand dollars, applicable to the assessed value of property, provided such surviving spouse's qualifying income does not exceed by more than twenty-five thousand dollars, the maximum amount applicable to an unmarried person as provided under Section 12-81L of the Connecticut General Statutes, as the same may be amended from time to time.

(R.T.M. 6-7-04 § 2)

3.12.143 - Application for additional exemption.

Any such veteran or spouse submitting a claim for such additional exemption shall be required to file an application on a form prepared for such purpose by the assessor, not later than thirty days following the assessment date with respect to which such additional exemption is claimed, provided when an applicant had filed for such exemption and received approval for the first time, such applicant shall be required to file for such exemption biennially thereafter, subject to the provisions of Section 3.12.144 of this chapter. Each such application shall include a copy of such veteran's or spouse's federal income tax returns, or in the event such a return is not filed such evidence related to income as may be required by the assessor, for the tax year of such veteran or spouse ending immediately prior to the assessment date with respect to which such additional exemption is claimed. With respect to an exemption applicable to the October 1, 2004 grand list only, an applicant may file an application no later than December 31, 2004.

(R.T.M. 6-7-04 § 3)

3.12.144 - Notification; change in qualifying income.

Any person who has submitted an application and been approved in any year for the additional exemption under Section 3.12.141 or 3.12.142 of this chapter shall, in the year immediately following approval, be presumed to be qualified for such exemption. During the year immediately following such approval, the assessor shall notify, in writing, each person presumed to be qualified pursuant to the section. If any person has qualifying income in excess of the maximum allowed under Sections 3.12.141 or 3.12.142, such person shall notify the assessor on or before the next filing date for such exemption and shall be denied such exemption for the assessment year immediately following and for any subsequent year until such person had reapplied and again qualified for such exemption. Any person who fails to notify the assessor of such disqualification shall make payment to the municipality in the amount of property tax loss related to the exemption improperly taken.

(R.T.M. 6-7-04 § 4)

3.12.181 - Tax exemption for gold star parents/spouses.

Current August 2025

Pursuant to the Connecticut General Statute §§ 12-81(19), (20), (21), and in accordance with Public Act No. 17-65, any parent whose child was killed in action, or, the surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action, while performing active military duty with the Armed Forces, as defined in C.G.S.A. § 27-103, which parent or surviving spouse is a resident of the Town of Waterford, shall be entitled to an exemption of twenty thousand dollars applicable to the assessed value of property within the town and subject to taxation; provided such parent's or surviving spouse's qualifying income does not exceed by more than twenty-five thousand dollars the maximum amount applicable to an unmarried person as provided under C.G.S.A. § 12-81l.

A. *Application for additional exemption.*

1. Any such surviving parent or spouse submitting a claim for such additional exemption shall: (1) notify the town clerk; and (2) file an application on a form prepared for such purposes by the assessor, which must be filed between February 1 and October 31, as to the October 1 st assessment date for which the exemption is claimed.

2. Each such person claiming this exemption shall provide the assessor two notarized affidavits of disinterested persons showing that: (1) the deceased child or person was performing such active military duty, that such deceased child or person was killed in action while performing such duties; and (2) the relationship of such deceased child to such parent, or such deceased person to such surviving spouse. Such parent or surviving spouse may further be required by the assessor to be examined under oath concerning such facts. Such town clerk shall record each such affidavit in full and shall list the name of such parent or surviving spouse claimant, and such service shall be performed without remuneration.

3. Each such application to the assessor shall include a copy of the surviving parent's or surviving spouse's federal income tax return, or in the event such a return is not filed such evidence of income as required by the assessor for the tax year ending immediately prior to the assessment date to which such exemption is claimed. Once such application for the exemption is received and approved for the first time, such applicant shall be subsequently required to file on a biennial basis.

4. The assessor shall annually make a certified list of the recipients of this exemption and file such list with the town clerk which shall be prima facie evidence that such parents or surviving spouses whose names appear thereon are entitled to such exemptions long as they continue to reside in the Town of Waterford.

5. Upon sale or transfer of said property to which the exemption is applied the exemption shall be prorated as of the date of sale. If property is transferred to a trust, the trust must benefit the recipient of the exemption and no other. A certified statement from the preparer of any such trust must be submitted indicating the beneficiary.

B. *Limit to exemption.* This exemption is in addition to the basic veteran exemption under C.G.S.A. §§ 12-81(19), (20), (21). However, no applicant may receive more than one additional municipal property tax exemption for veterans or their family members under C.G.S.A. §§ 12-81(f), (g).

C. *General provisions.* Any such parent or surviving spouse who has submitted an application and been approved in any year for the exemption provided in this section shall, in the year immediately following approval, be presumed to be qualified for such exemption. During the year immediately following such approval, the assessor shall notify, in writing, each parent or surviving spouse presumed to be qualified pursuant to this subsection. If any such parent or surviving spouse has qualifying income in excess of the maximum allowed under the ordinance codified in this section, such parent or surviving spouse shall notify the assessor on or before the next filing date of such exemption and shall be denied such exemption for the assessment year immediately following and for any subsequent year until such parent or surviving spouse has reapplied and again qualified for such exemption. Any such parent or surviving spouse who fails to notify the assessor of such disqualification shall make payment to municipality in the amount of property tax loss related to such exemption improperly taken. Said ordinance shall become effective fifteen days after passage and shall commence with the October 1, 2019 Grand List.

(Amend. of 12-18-18(2))

3.12.145 – Exemptions for veterans with TDIU determination

Pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes §12-81 (19), (20), (21), (83) and in accordance with Public Act No. 25-168, any Waterford resident who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the United States and has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability (TDIU) shall be entitled to an exemption from property tax on either of the following:

1. The fractional share of a dwelling, including a condominium as defined in C.G.S. § 47-68a, a unit in a common interest community as defined in C.G.S. §47-202, and a mobile manufactured home as defined in C.G.S. §12-63a, that (a) belongs to or is held in trust for such resident, or is possessed by such a resident as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under C.G.S. §12-48, and (b) is occupied by such resident as the resident's primary residence, or
2. Lacking such a residence, one motor vehicle that belongs to or is held in trust for such resident and is garaged in this state.

As used in this subsection, "dwelling" does not include any portion of the unit or structure used by such resident for commercial purposes or from which such resident derives any rental income.

If such resident lacks such dwelling or motor vehicle in such resident's name, the dwelling or motor vehicle, as applicable, belonging to or held in trust for such resident's spouse, or possessed by such resident's spouse as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under C.G.S. §12-48, who is domiciled with such resident, shall be so exempt.

When any resident entitled to an exemption under the provisions of this section has died, the dwelling or motor vehicle, as applicable, belonging to or held in trust for such deceased resident's surviving spouse, or possessed by such deceased resident's surviving spouse as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under C.G.S. § 12-48, while such spouse remains a widow or widower, or belonging to or held in trust for such deceased resident's minor children during their minority, or both, while they are residents of this state, shall be so exempt as that to which such resident was or would have been entitled at the time of such resident's death.

A. *Application for dwelling exemption.*

1. No individual shall receive any exemption under this section until such individual has complied with C.G.S. § 12-95 and has submitted proof of such individual's determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to the Waterford assessor.
2. If there is no change to an individual's TDIU determination, such proof shall not be required for any assessment year following that for which the exemption under this section is granted initially. If the United States Department of Veterans Affairs modifies an individual's determination to other than a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability, such modification shall be deemed a waiver of the right to the exemption under this section. Any such individual whose determination was modified to other than a service-connected TDIU may seek an exemption under subdivision (20) or (83) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, as applicable.

B. *Retroactive abatement or refund.*

1. *Any individual who has been unable to submit evidence of TDIU determination by the United States* Department of Veterans Affairs in the manner required by this section, or who has failed to submit such evidence as provided in C.G.S. §12-95 may, when such individual obtains such evidence, make application to the tax collector not later than one year after such individual obtains such proof or not later than one year after the expiration of the time limited in C.G.S.§ 12-95, as the case may be, for abatement in case the tax has not been paid, or for refund in case all or part of the tax has been paid. Such abatement or refund may be granted retroactively to include the assessment day next succeeding the date as of which such individual was entitled to TDIU determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, but in no case shall any abatement or refund be made for a period greater than three years.

2. The tax collector shall refer such application, with the tax collector's recommendations thereon, to the board of selectmen and shall certify to the amount of abatement or refund to which the applicant is entitled. Upon receipt of such application and certification, the board of selectmen shall issue a certificate of abatement if the tax has not been paid or, in case all or part of the tax has been paid, draw an order upon the treasurer in favor of such applicant for refund of such amount, without interest. Any action so taken by the board of *selectmen shall be a matter of record and the tax collector shall be notified in writing of such action.*

C. *Limit to exemption.*

1. No individual entitled to the exemption under one or more subdivisions of C.G.S. § 12-81 (19), (22), (23), (25), (26) and (83) shall receive more than one exemption.

2. No applicant may receive more than one additional municipal property tax exemption for veterans or their family members under C.G.S. §12-81 (f) and (g).]

(RTM xx/xx/25)

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2025 AUG 26 P 3:25
ATTEST: [signature]
TOWN CLERK

3.12.182 – Alternate exemption for gold star surviving spouses

Pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes §§ 12-81 (19), (20), (21), (83), and in accordance with Public Act No. 25-168, any surviving spouse who is a resident of the Town of Waterford, while such person remains a widow or widower of a person who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces, as defined in C.G.S. § 27-103, shall be entitled to an exemption from property tax on either of the following:

A. The fractional share of a dwelling, including a condominium, as defined in C.G.S. §47-68a, a unit in a common interest community, as defined in C.G.S. §47-202, and a mobile manufactured home, as defined in C.G.S. 12-63a, that (1) belongs to or is held in trust for such surviving spouse, or that is possessed by such a surviving spouse as a tenant for life or a tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under C.G.S. 12-48, and (2 that is occupied by such surviving spouse as the surviving spouse's primary residence, or

B. Lacking such residence, one motor vehicle that belongs to or is held in trust for such surviving spouse and is garaged in this state.

As used in this subsection, "dwelling" does not include any portion of the unit or structure used by such surviving spouse for commercial purposes or from which such surviving spouse derives any rental income.

No surviving spouse entitled to the exemption under this section and under one or more of subdivisions (19), (20), (22), (23), (25), (26) and (83) of section 12-81 and section 12-81ii of the General Statutes, shall receive more than one exemption.

C. Application for dwelling exemption.

1. Any such surviving spouse submitting a claim for such exemption shall: (1) notify the town clerk; and (2) file an application on a form prepared for such purpose by the assessor, not later than the October 1 assessment date with respect to which such exemption is claimed.

2. Each such person claiming this exemption shall provide the assessor two notarized affidavits of disinterested persons showing that: (1) the deceased person was performing such active military duty, that such deceased person was killed in action while performing such duties; and (2) the relationship of such deceased person to such surviving spouse. Such surviving spouse may further be required by the assessor to be examined under oath concerning such facts. Such town clerk shall record each such affidavit in full and shall list the name of such surviving spouse claimant, and such service shall be performed without remuneration. No assessor, board of assessment appeals or other official shall allow any such claim for exemption unless evidence as herein specified has been filed in the office of such town clerk.

3. Once such application for the exemption is received and approved for the first time, such applicant shall be subsequently required to file on a biennial basis.

4. The assessor shall annually make a certified list of the recipients of this exemption and file such list with the town clerk which shall be prima facie evidence that such surviving spouses whose names appear thereon are entitled to such exemptions long as they continue to reside in the Town of Waterford.

D. Limit to exemption. No individual entitled to the dwelling exemption under one or more subdivisions of C.G.S. §§ 12-81 (19), (20), (22), (23), (25), (26) and (83) shall receive more than one exemption. No applicant may receive more than one additional municipal property tax exemption for veterans or their family members under C.G.S. §§ 12-81(f) and (g).

E. *General provisions. Any such surviving spouse who has submitted an application and been approved in any year* for the exemption provided in this section shall, in the year immediately following approval, be presumed to be qualified for such exemption. During the year immediately following such approval, the assessor shall notify, in *writing, surviving spouses presumed to be qualified pursuant to this subsection. Said ordinance shall become* effective fifteen days after passage and shall commence with the October 1, 2025, Grand List.]

(RTM xx-xx-25)

8/4/25
[redacted]

Moderator Goldstien,

Sir, as you know the manner in which we the Town of Waterford fund our fleet is markedly different from many of our neighboring communities. Bourne from recommendations made after the deregulation of power, it is one that if administered correctly fully funds our fleet without the use of traditional methods such as bonding. This method is fair to both the departments requesting the vehicles and the taxpayer as it provides a known funding level fiscal years in advance. To no fault of any particular board or individual the plan is faltering and in need of some alterations if we deem this model worthy of continuing. Without adjustment at its current trajectory our fleet will become unaffordable in just a few budget cycles. This coupled with the rate at which the RTM is able to review and pass an ordinance is on average over a year, making now the time to act if we wish impact the fleet plan for FY 27-28. Some items recommended for consideration would be,

> 3.17.050- Include alternative funding methods such as lease purchase to be available to be requested as a variance for vehicles over a certain price point.
>
> 3.17.060- Charge the Ad Hoc Committee with the development of a funding level to be submitted to the First Selectman. Similar to a request made by any other departments.
>
> Add the ability for the RTM to recommend a 0 sum back to the Board of Selectman the same as the Board of Finance.
>
> Add transparency to the funding level by requiring out year budget impacts at current funding requests along with calculations as backup materials.
>
> Add the ability for the Fleet Ad Hoc to issue a variance itself without a request from a department head on issues of funding.

These are but a few changes that if implemented would bring sustainability along with greater transparency and understanding of how our fleet plan is funded and functions. Therefore, I am requesting that ordinance 3.17 Fleet Management Plan and Reserve Account Fund be sent into committee for review and possible alteration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy R. Condon

District 1

Representative Town Meeting

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886

Town of Waterford

PHONE: 860-442-0553
www.waterfordct.org

MINUTES
FINANCE, WAGE & PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE RTM
PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, September 3, 2025
6:00 P.M. - Waterford Town Hall, Louise Appleby Room

The September 3, 2025 Public Hearing of the Finance, Wage & Personnel Standing Committee of the RTM was called to order by Chairperson Harry Colonis at 6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL
Present: Harry Colonis, Kayla Mullen, Ted Olynciw, Danielle Steward-Gelinas
Absent: Kate MacKenzie
Also Attending: Town Clerk David L. Campo, Town Attorney Robert Avena, RTM Member Susan Driscoll, Assessor Paige Walton

The Public Hearing opened at 6:01 P.M.in regard to the Waterford Code of Ordinances proposed amendments, **Sections 3.12.145 – Exemptions for Veterans with TDIU Determination** and **Section 3.12.186 – Alternate exemption for dwelling or motor vehicle of veterans' surviving spouse.**

Assessor Paige Walton gave a summary of the proposed amendments.
PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident Jeffrey Craddoc, 38 Seabreeze Drive, spoke in support of ITEM 6A.
Public hearing closed at 6:08 PM

The September 3, 2025 Special Meeting of the Finance, Wage & Personnel Standing Committee of the RTM was called to order by Chairperson Harry Colonis at 6:10 P.M.

ROLL CALL
Present: Harry Colonis, Kayla Mullen, Ted Olynciw, Danielle Steward-Gelinas
Absent: Kate MacKenzie
Also Attending: Town Clerk David L. Campo, Town Attorney Robert Avena, RTM Member Susan Driscoll, Assessor Paige Walton

AGENDA ITEM 3: <u>Minutes</u>
MOTION by Olynciw, seconded by Steward-Gelinas, to approve the minutes from the

August 20, 2025 meeting with the following corrections offered by Driscoll: add "veterans deemed to have a total disability based on individual unemployability" to the second sentence after "were" and replace 'Totally Disabled Individually Unemployable" in the last sentence with "TDIU" prior to "residents" in section 6B
VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

AGENDA ITEM 4A: **New Veteran's Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans, RTC 08/04/25**

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Olynciw, to open discussion.
VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous
MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Olynciw, to report issue out of committee and recommend that the RTM approve the two proposed ordinances, **Sections 3.12.145 – Exemptions for Veterans with TDIU Determination** and **Section 3.12.186 – Alternate exemption for dwelling or motor vehicle of veterans' surviving spouse** to extend the maximum exemption to our veterans. (See attachment)
VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

AGENDA ITEM 4B: No discussion

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Mullen, to adjourn at 6:31 P.M.
VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Harry Colonis
Chairperson

3.12.145 – Exemptions for veterans with TDIU determination

Pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes §12-81 (19), (20), (21), (83), ~~and in accordance with~~ as amended by Public Act No. 25-168, any Waterford resident who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the United States and has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability (TDIU) shall be entitled to an exemption from property tax on either of the following:

1. The fractional share of a dwelling, including a condominium as defined in C.G.S. § 47-68a, a unit in a common interest community as defined in C.G.S. §47-202, and a mobile manufactured home as defined in C.G.S. §12-63a, that (a) belongs to or is held in trust for such resident, or is possessed by such a resident as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under C.G.S. §12-48, and (b) is occupied by such resident as the resident's primary residence, or

2. Lacking such a residence, one motor vehicle that belongs to or is held in trust for such resident and is garaged in this state.

As used in this subsection, "dwelling" does not include any portion of the unit or structure used by such resident for commercial purposes or from which such resident derives any rental income.

If such resident lacks such dwelling or motor vehicle in such resident's name, the dwelling or motor vehicle, as applicable, belonging to or held in trust for such resident's spouse, or possessed by such resident's spouse as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under C.G.S. §12-48, who is domiciled with such resident, shall be so exempt.

When any resident entitled to an exemption under the provisions of this section has died, the dwelling or motor vehicle, as applicable, belonging to or held in trust for such deceased resident's surviving spouse, or possessed by such deceased resident's surviving spouse as a tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under C.G.S. § 12-48, while such spouse remains a widow or widower, or belonging to or held in trust for such deceased resident's minor children during their minority, or both, while they are residents of this state, shall be so exempt as that to which such resident was or would have been entitled at the time of such resident's death.

A. *Application for dwelling exemption.*

1. No individual shall receive any exemption under this section until such individual has complied with C.G.S. § 12-95 and has submitted proof of such individual's determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to the Waterford assessor.

2. If there is no change to an individual's TDIU determination, such proof shall not be required for any assessment year following that for which the exemption under this section is granted initially. If the United States Department of Veterans Affairs modifies an individual's determination to other than a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployability, such modification shall be deemed a waiver of the right to the exemption under this section. Any such individual whose determination was modified to other than a service-connected TDIU may seek an exemption under subdivision (20) or (83) of section 12-81 of the general statutes, as applicable.

B. *Retroactive abatement or refund.*

1. Any individual who has been unable to submit evidence of TDIU determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in the manner required by this section, or who has failed to submit such evidence as provided in C.G.S. §12-95 may, when such individual obtains such evidence, make application to the tax collector not later than one year after such individual obtains such proof or not later than one year after the expiration of the time limited in C.G.S.§ 12-95, as the case may be, for abatement in case the tax has not been paid, or for refund in case all or part of the tax has been paid. Such abatement or refund may

be granted retroactively to include the assessment day next succeeding the date as of which such individual was entitled to TDIU determination by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, but in no case shall any abatement or refund be made for a period greater than three years.

2. The tax collector shall refer such application, with the tax collector's recommendations thereon, to the board of selectmen and shall certify to the amount of abatement or refund to which the applicant is entitled. Upon receipt of such application and certification, the board of selectmen shall issue a certificate of abatement if the tax has not been paid or, in case all or part of the tax has been paid, draw an order upon the treasurer in favor of such applicant for refund of such amount, without interest. Any action so taken by the board of selectmen shall be a matter of record and the tax collector shall be notified in writing of such action.

C. *Limit to exemption.*

1. No individual entitled to the exemption under one or more subdivisions of C.G.S. § 12-81 (19), (22), (23), (25), (26) and (83) shall receive more than one exemption.

2. No applicant may receive more than one additional municipal property tax exemption for veterans or their family members under C.G.S. §12-81 (f) and (g).]

(RTM xx/xx/25)

3.12.182 – Alternate exemption for dwelling or motor vehicle of veterans' surviving spouses

Pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes §§ 12-81 (19), (20), (21), (83), ~~and in accordance with~~as amended by Public Act No. 25-168, any surviving spouse who is a resident of the Town of Waterford, while such person remains a widow or widower of a person who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces, as defined in C.G.S. § 27-103, shall be entitled to an exemption from property tax on either of the following:

~~A.~~ 1. The fractional share of a dwelling, including a condominium, as defined in C.G.S. §47-68a, a unit in a common interest community, as defined in C.G.S. §47-202, and a mobile manufactured home, as defined in C.G.S. 12-63a, that (1) belongs to or is held in trust for such surviving spouse, or that is possessed by such a surviving spouse as a tenant for life or a tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under C.G.S. 12-48, and (2 that is occupied by such surviving spouse as the surviving spouse's primary residence, or

~~B.~~ 2. Lacking such residence, one motor vehicle that belongs to or is held in trust for such surviving spouse and is garaged in this state.

As used in this subsection, "dwelling" does not include any portion of the unit or structure used by such surviving spouse for commercial purposes or from which such surviving spouse derives any rental income.

No surviving spouse entitled to the exemption under this section and under one or more of subdivisions (19), (20), (22), (23), (25), (26) and (83) of section 12-81 and section 12-81ii of the General Statutes, shall receive more than one exemption.

~~C~~A. *Application for dwelling exemption.*

1. Any such surviving spouse submitting a claim for such exemption shall: (1) notify the town clerk; and (2) file an application on a form prepared for such purpose by the assessor, not later than the October 1 assessment date with respect to which such exemption is claimed.
2. Each such person claiming this exemption shall provide the assessor two notarized affidavits of disinterested persons showing that: (1) the deceased person was performing such active military duty, that such deceased person was killed in action while performing such duties; and (2) the relationship of such deceased person to such surviving spouse. Such surviving spouse may further be required by the assessor to be examined under oath concerning such facts. Such town clerk shall record each such affidavit in full and shall list the name of such surviving spouse claimant, and such service shall be performed without remuneration. No assessor, board of assessment appeals or other official shall allow any such claim for exemption unless evidence as herein specified has been filed in the office of such town clerk.
3. Once such application for the exemption is received and approved for the first time, such applicant shall be subsequently required to file on a biennial basis.
4. The assessor shall annually make a certified list of the recipients of this exemption and file such list with the town clerk which shall be prima facie evidence that such surviving spouses whose names appear thereon are entitled to such exemptions long as they continue to reside in the Town of Waterford.

~~D~~B. *Limit to exemption.* No individual entitled to the dwelling exemption under one or more subdivisions of C.G.S. §§ 12-81 (19), (20), (22), (23), (25), (26) and (83) shall receive more than one exemption. No applicant may receive more than one additional municipal property tax exemption for veterans or their family members under C.G.S. §§ 12-81(f) and (g).

~~E~~C. *General provisions.* Any such surviving spouse who has submitted an application and been approved in any year for the exemption provided in this section shall, in the year immediately following approval, be presumed to be qualified for such exemption. During the year immediately following such approval, the assessor shall notify, in writing, surviving spouses presumed to be qualified pursuant to this subsection. Said ordinance shall become effective ~~fifteen days after~~upon passage and shall commence with the October 1, 2025, Grand List.]

(RTM xx-xx-25)