

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF VILLAGE OF BRONXVILLE
AND PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON DECEMBER 19, 2006 AT THE BRONXVILLE
LIBRARY, 201 PONDFIELD ROAD, BRONXVILLE, N.Y.

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PRESENT: Mary C. Marvin Mayor
Glenn D. Bellitto
Robert S. Underhill
Anne W. Poorman
William H. Barton, Jr. Trustees

ALSO PRESENT: Harold Porr III Village Administrator

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On motion of Trustee Bellitto, seconded by Trustee Underhill, and unanimously carried the meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m.

The special meeting was recessed to go to a public hearing.

Mayor Marvin called the public hearing to order at 7:01 p.m. She advised that the purpose of the hearing was to hear and consider comments with regard to a proposed Local Law to amend the Code of the Village of Bronxville, Chapter 268, entitled "Taxation", to add a new sub-division Article VII, entitled "Eligible Funds Veterans Exemption".

Village Administrator Porr verified that due notice of the public hearing had been given by posting and publication.

Mayor Marvin asked if there were any comments from the public.

Thomas Wolff, Pondfield Road, said he takes it that the purpose of the proposed local law is to take into account the revaluation that is in the process of being done and will be completed early next year and to keep the veterans benefits the same as before the revaluation. He asked if anyone knew the difference between the provisions of sections 458 and 458A of the Real Property Tax Law.

Mayor Marvin said that section 458 applies to World War I and World War II veterans. She said that section 458A is the alternative veterans exemption and applies to veterans from the Korean War forward.

Mayor Marvin then called for Trustee comments.

Trustee Underhill asked if we have to enact this law. Mayor Marvin responded that this law will give veterans the same benefits they had before the revaluation. She said we are not giving the veterans more but keeping the ratio the same.

Trustee Poorman asked how many veterans we have in Bronxville. Mayor Marvin said there are 23.

Trustee Underhill asked if veterans who rent get any benefit. He also asked about the dollars involved.

Trustee Barton asked if the law applies to co-ops. Mayor Marvin said the law does apply to veterans living in co-ops.

Trustee Underhill said he thinks it's a benefit for veterans who own real estate. He said he has immense respect for all people in the armed services. However, he feels that veterans affairs are the obligation of the federal government. He said it's not the Village's obligation to support veterans - we need to say no for an exemption. He said he thinks its arbitrary and he doesn't think its fair to veterans who live in the village who don't own real estate.

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Mayor Marvin said that right now we are at 2.46% of assessed value. To move it to 100% you essentially would be ending the benefit to the individual homeowner who is a veteran. She said the co-ops are at 3.2%. She explained that it's just like we give senior citizens a property tax exemption. It's something the Village has done since World War I. It's a policy decision if we want to continue to give veterans benefits. We have to pass the law by the end of the year or it reverts to the way the state does it.

Mr. Wolff said if you are a war veteran and had an old assessment of \$55,000, you would receive a veterans benefit of \$700 - \$800 off your assessment. If your new assessment was \$1.75 million you would receive that \$700-\$800 off that assessment. That would be a very small benefit. The Village would have to send out new assessment notices to people who were war or combat veterans explaining why it was recalculated. He said that in our society, whether it's good or bad, you do give benefits to veterans. He said we do give civil service credits to veterans.

There being no further comments the public hearing was closed at 7:20 p.m. and the special meeting was re-opened.

RESOLUTION – Local Law 4, 2006

Trustee Bellitto offered a motion, seconded by Trustee Poorman, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Real Property Tax Law permits municipalities to authorize a change in the amount of the eligible funds exemption granted to veterans in the event of a material change in the level of assessment as authorized by Subdivision 5 of § 458 of the Real Property Tax Law.

WHEREAS, a draft local law has been presented to and reviewed by the Village Board;

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was duly advertised in the Journal News, the official newspaper of said Village, on the 13th day of December, 2006; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was duly held on the 19th day of December 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bronxville Public Library, 201 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, New York, and all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to speak on behalf of or in opposition to said proposed Local Law, or any part thereof; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) it has been determined by the Village Board of said Village that adoption of said proposed Local Law would not have a significant effect upon the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board, after due deliberation, finds it in the best interest of said Village to adopt said Local Law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board does hereby enact the following local law No. 4 - 2006, a copy of which is attached hereto as if fully set forth herein.

On the roll call voting was as follows:

AYES: Trustee Bellitto, Trustee Poorman, Trustee Barton, Mayor Marvin

NAYES: Trustee Underhill

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

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On motion of Trustee Underhill, seconded by Trustee Barton, and unanimously carried the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

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Harold Porr III, Village Clerk