

**TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**  
**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 28, 2024**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING**  
**THE TAX RELIEF FOR VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE MEMBERS ORDINANCE**

**Section 1. Authority and Purpose**

This ordinance, amending the Bethlehem Tax Relief for Volunteer Ambulance Members Ordinance (Bethlehem Code of Ordinances, Chapter 121, Article IV), is adopted pursuant to General Statutes § 12-81w, which authorizes a town to provide volunteers serving certain emergency service organizations with an abatement of up to \$2,000 in property taxes due for any fiscal year; and is adopted pursuant to General Statutes § 7-1, which requires a town to hold a Special Town Meeting for a lawful purpose pursuant to a petition filed with the Town Clerk and signed by at least twenty inhabitants qualified to vote in town meetings.

**Section 2. Amendment to the Code of Ordinances**

This ordinance hereby amends the Code of the Town of Bethlehem, Chapter 121 “Taxation”, Article IV “Tax Relief for Volunteer Ambulance Association Members”, Section 121-9 “Annual abatements authorized; amount”, as follows:

**“§ 121-9 Annual abatements authorized: amount.**

Pursuant to § 12-81w of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Town of Bethlehem hereby authorizes annual abatements of property taxes of qualifying members of the Association in an amount of up to a maximum of \$2,000, provided that qualifying members whose total real and personal property taxes are less than the amount specified in § 121-10A of this Code for any relevant year shall receive an abatement in the total amount of such taxes for such year.”

This ordinance further amends the Code of the Town of Bethlehem, Chapter 121 “Taxation”, Article IV “Tax Relief for Volunteer Ambulance Association Members”, Section 121-10 “Procedures”, as follows:

**“§ 121-10 Procedures.**

A. On or before February 1st of each year, the President of the Association shall provide the First Selectman with a certified list of the names and addresses of each emergency medical technician, emergency medical responders, paramedic or ambulance driver who is a volunteer member of the Association and who, during the entire prior calendar year, met the Association's criteria, in accordance with their bylaws, to qualify as a member in good standing and who is eligible for a tax abatement under this article and the amount each member qualified for up to a maximum of \$2,000 per member in accordance with accumulated points as stated in their bylaws as follows:

- (1) Qualifying ambulance drivers with 50 points may be eligible for an abatement of \$1,000; 75 points may be eligible for an abatement of \$1,500; or with 100 points may be eligible for an abatement of \$2,000.
- (2) Qualifying EMR's with 75 points may be eligible for an abatement of \$1,500; or with 90 points may be eligible for an abatement of \$2,000.
- (3) Qualifying EMTs with 50 points may be eligible for an abatement of \$2,000.
- (4) Points referenced in Paragraph A (1), (2), and (3) of this ordinance shall be accrued by Volunteer Ambulance Members as specified in the Bethlehem Ambulance Association document “Accrue ment of Points for Incentive Programs”

B. Any tax abatement shall be applied first to any real property taxes owed by the member to the Town and then to any taxes on personal property (including, but not limited to, motor vehicles) owed by the member to the Town. The tax abatement shall be applicable whether such property is owned individually by the volunteer member or jointly or as tenant in common with one or more persons.

C. The procedures used to determine qualifications of the Association members for the tax relief will be sampled and reviewed during the annual Town audit.”

**Section 3.**

This ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication of a summary of its provisions pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, § 7-157(b).

Adopted by town meeting on 2/28/, 2024.

Published in the Republican America on March 5, \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

Effective date: March 20, \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

Recorded in the Bethlehem Town Records: Vol. \_\_\_\_\_, Pg. \_\_\_\_\_.