

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING  
TAX EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN VEHICLES****October 23, 2001****Council Chambers****41**

President Rob Bouvier called the hearing to order at 7:06 p.m.

Present were Councilors Rob Bouvier, Carl Donatelli, Liz Gillette, Jonathan Harris, Jim O'Brien, Andrew Schoolnik, John Shulansky and Al Turco. Councilor Kevin Connors was absent.

President Bouvier: Thank you Mrs. Cronin. We have a copy of an ordinance implementing tax exemption for certain vehicles. Mr. Feldman.

Mr. Feldman: Mr. Mayor has been around a while. It has been through the administration a number of times. It has been recently reviewed with Finance and Budget for further refinement. The Town Assessor is here, Joanne Ferraresso and maybe if you will permit maybe Joanne if you would take just a minute or two and just little bit of description of what the ordinance would allow.

Ms. Ferraresso: The current ordinance in place allows for a tax exemption of vehicles used to transport disabled persons and that has been in place since about 1984. Our Legislature allowed the Town to expand the ordinance if it chooses to include vehicles that have been modified so that handicapped or disabled person can drive themselves so we are asking to have the ordinance expanded to include people who have modified their car so that they can transport themselves.

President Bouvier: Thank you. Would you do me a favor? I am assuming this is going to be adopted. Would you get back on behalf of the Council to the one gentleman who was inquiring and give him a call tomorrow and tell him we did.

Ms. Ferraresso: Yes, I will.

President Bouvier: It is presumptuous on my part.

Councilor Gillette: Well check with Norma first to make sure it did pass.

President Bouvier: Thank you. Mr. Alair.

Mr. Alair: Just for the record, I believe you have a substitute that was passed out at the table just so everyone is on the same page.

President Bouvier: Thank you sir. Thank you Joanne. Any questions from the Council? If not, we will close the public hearing.

The hearing adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Norma W. Cronin  
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE AMENDING  
CHAPTER 7, SECTION 7-1 OF THE TOWN CODE OF ORDINANCES  
PERTAINING TO THE PROCEDURE FOR SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS**

**October 23, 2001**

**Council Chambers**

**40**

President Rob Bouvier called the hearing to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present were Councilors Rob Bouvier, Carl Donatelli, Liz Gillette, Jonathan Harris, Jim O'Brien, Shulansky and Turco. Councilors Kevin Connors and Andrew Schoolnik were absent.

President Bouvier: Mr. Feldman.

Mr. Feldman: Mr. Mayor this is an ordinance that really does two things. We have number one we have brought a service in that we had previously contracted out to a private vendor we have brought that service inside and now conducted through an individual in the Risk Management Office which is a Claims Administrator position so that is one change that basically I believe is bracketed in your ordinance that indicates that Corporation Counsel and Risk Manager shall have settlement authority as opposed to the private company that did claims, adjustment claims management. That is one change.

The second change, which is the underlined change essentially, raises the limits that you have granted to the Risk Manager to settle claims at \$50,000 or less. I believe the current limit is \$25,000 or less so both Pat and I want to point that out to you that that is a change that has been recommended. You may want to consider it and discuss that at your leisure but those are the two changes that this ordinance provides.

President Bouvier: I wonder when the last time we even updated the \$25,000 limit was. I mean just the nature of claims now.

Mr. Feldman: Mr. Mayor I think that is when we took essentially our own self insured program back in the early 90's, 91 or 92.

President Bouvier: So roughly ten years ago. Mr. Alair.

Mr. Alair: Mr. Mayor there are actually two other minor things in there that I wanted to point out to you. The first is in the second line, the Corporation Counsel's authority to settle would go from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and the last paragraph there, three lines there that are sort of offset it has been our practice since the 1989 revaluation that the settlement of tax appeals goes to a Council committee. It has changed over the years. That has always been the practice and the understanding. It has never been formalized in our ordinances and we never really had a grasp on it because of our settlement authority being a set dollar amount and how do you equate that in a tax appeal. Do you tax dollars versus assessment or what so we are putting right into the ordinance that it goes to a designated committee.

**President Bouvier:** And the Woodland Group is gone. There are no other companies out there that, I mean we think it is more efficient to handle it internally, just get a person on board and do it?

**Mr. Feldman:** Yes. Mr. Mayor we actually attempted to bid this work out and we got quotes back in that would make the hair on your head stand and I'm not always a big fan of bringing things back in but this was a no brainer. This was so expensive to provide through a private company that it didn't make sense.

**President Bouvier:** Thank you. Mr. Shulansky.

**Councilor Shulansky:** Thank you Mr. Mayor. During my tenure I can't remember, I think I can probably count on one hand the number of times that we actually had to consider that \$10,000 threshold or the \$25,000 threshold. Has there been any particular circumstance that would cause us to consider the change in the threshold given the limited review that the Council has had to, the limited number of times we had to exercise our review power?

**Mr. Feldman:** Mr. Mayor, Mr. Shulansky. Good question. I can't recite anything. Maybe Pat knows but nothing hits me unless something hits you.

**Mr. Alair:** There have been as you say a few claims that have come up in either the range of just right around \$10,000 or right around \$25,000 which have prompted us to say well maybe it is time to revise this upward a little bit. Once in a while when you get a case that is settling on the eve of trial and you are telling court we have to go to Council for approval it is going take two weeks and a resolution, that can potentially make or break a settlement so we thought upping it was advisable. I'm not sure that \$50,000 is a must have number but it was round.

**President Bouvier:** And it is not \$100,000.

**Mr. Alair:** And it is not \$100,000.

**President Bouvier:** Thank you. Any questions or comments? Is there a sign up sheet?

**Mr. Alair:** Yes Mr. Mayor there is and I have already given it to the Clerk and it was blank.

**President Bouvier:** If not, we will close the public hearing.

The hearing adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Norma W. Cronin  
Town Clerk/Council Clerk