

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION FOR JUNE 9, 2020 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING:
Donna Bronwell, 699 Bailey Hill Road, East Killingly,
Resident of Killingly for almost 40 years and chair of Conservation Commission
for 20 years.

I submit my comments on Item 14 b - Chapter 14 Section 14-49 Code of
Ordinances on PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR PUBLIC SAFETY VOLUNTEERS
I do support the other proposed Ordinance changes, but must object to the Tax
Abatement issue.

I propose a reduced \$ dollar amount, not the percentage. The proposed
percentage amount means after 16 years of service one would have to pay NO
tax to the Town of Killingly. I understand this abatement is on home property and
also personal vehicles.

Yes, safety volunteers provide a valuable service in the protection of our
residents and property.

BUT -- our town is run by volunteers, many who provide many hours of
committed service for the good of the town and the quality of life of our citizens.

I understand the original intent for this fire district tax abatement was to attract
and/or retain volunteers, and I would like to know if an evaluation of the
effectiveness of this process was conducted. For example, how many more
volunteers have been engaged? What is the "cost" of this reduction to the town
tax base?

Fire districts have the power to tax the residents, quite a powerful responsibility.
Some of the chiefs, presidents, and other staff get paid a stipend by the district.
Why should they also get such a large tax rebate?

For example, we pay about \$6000 in house and land property taxes to the town,
over \$600 on vehicles plus \$493 to the fire district.

Those eligible would have to pay nothing after 16 years service?

As an aside, I have heard that Killingly has as much fire/emergency equipment
as the City of Baltimore. It appears our town is much over equipped for its size.
Is it time to seriously evaluate these services and consolidate some of the fire
districts? I know this has been a sensitive subject in the past.

How about considering others for tax relief, who also serve the town and
enhance the quality of life here in Killingly?

Some come to mind:
Frank Anastasio, Agriculture

Maggie Weaver, Town Historian
Sandy Eggers, wetlands volunteer for over 25 years
Board of Education
Conservation commission
Youth/scout leaders, etc.
Church leaders the list could go on.....

I do value the commitment, time and training of the fire district volunteers.
We have used emergency services and are very awed with East Killingly's
thoughtful and professional manner in their care for Andy a few years back.

BUT

Time to balance and value other volunteers -- maybe not with tax abatement, but
possibly each organization could recommend a person from their group to be
recognized -- maybe with some publicity and acknowledgement. This could be a
great public relations event honoring our many, many volunteers that run the
town!

It's time to take an overall look at our town services and refine our tax abatement
program.

Thanks for your consideration.....I look forward to in person meetings soon!
Donna Bronwell

Janice Rockwood-Berry

From: lmoyer4199@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Concerns in regards to reopening the town of Killingly.

To whom it may concern,

In times such as these we often find ourselves weighing many options against one another, in hopes of finding a mutually beneficial course of action for all parties involved. This however is an unprecedented emergency that thankfully has kept its grip on our small town loose so far. Every state that has pushed for a resurgence of openings has seen a major spike in confirmed COVID-19 cases. Opening our businesses will result in more people getting sick and dying. One of the large demographics of our area are individuals over the age of 65. These high-risk individuals are those most dangerously impacted by COVID-19 and deserve to feel every bit as safe as young people, most of whom have a strong enough immune system to prevent catastrophic reactions to the virus. I implore you to consider the many negative effects that will accompany a premature reopening of our town.

Regards,
Logan Moyer

Janice Rockwood-Berry

From: Michael Hewko <mjhewko@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2020 11:33 PM
To: Public Comment
Cc: Jason Anderson
Subject: Ordinance 14(b)

My name is Michael Hewko and I live at 20 John St.

I am writing this email to express my support for the above ordinance.

As one of the Chief that assisted in drafting and helping to pass this ordinance I am pleased to see the Town is supporting the men and women that volunteer their time to the community.

There are 2 points I would like to see added to this ordinance.

- 1- No points should be rewarded to any person during the time that person is employed and paid by the organization.
- 2- The period to calculate the points should run from Dec. 1 to Nov. 30 of the following year.

Thank You

Janice Rockwood-Berry

From: Cherie Riabtsev <sunbunny2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 10:15 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Town Council: KMS Project

To the Killingly Town Council Members,

I would like to again express my support for the KMS project. Those of you who have toured the KMS building know the great disrepair that the current modules are in. I would also like to add that every year when the weather gets very warm, parts of KMS frequently lose power because the electrical system cannot even sustain every room having a fan. Waiting on this project would not bring a better reimbursement. Even if the project only replaced the amount of space that would be lost in demolishing the modules, it would exceed the state requirements for maximum reimbursement, and this plan would lack the much needed square footage to ensure adequate classrooms and classroom size for students.

It is imperative that this project begin much sooner than later and I feel that missing the June 30th deadline, causing this project to be further delayed is incomprehensible. It would literally mean the entire process would need to be restarted. This is simply unacceptable.

Another great concern of mine is that IF the Town Council makes the decision to add this question to the referendum in the August Primary, not all members of the community will have the opportunity to participate if they are unaffiliated. Political affiliations should have no bearing on this subject. We need to unite as a community to do what is best for our youngest members.

I URGE the Town Council members to please not delay any further and to move the KMS Project forward with an approval at the June 9, 2020 meeting.

Thank you all for your time and service to our great town.

Cherie Riabtsev (pronounced: Ree-ab-ts-ev)
21 Pequot Circle
Danielson, CT

Sent from my iPhone