



**Town of West Hartford
Commission on Veterans' Affairs**

September 3, 2024

West Hartford Town Hall, Room 407

Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – Chairman Knoll called the meeting to order at 1900 hrs. (7:00 PM).

Committee members Inga Bowes, Matt Hart, Rolf Knoll, and John Mele were recorded as present. Joseph Dakers, Sr., Heidi-Anne Mooney, and Steven Gorss attended as guests.

2. Public Comment – none.
3. Approval of Minutes from June 10, 2024 – Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Mele. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Reports
 - a. American Legion – Ms. Mooney reported on the Legion's recent activities.
5. Business Items
 - a. Discussion with West Hartford Director of Assessment – Mr. Joseph Dakers, Sr., provided an overview of the tax relief programs provided by the State and the Town for eligible veterans.

The list of tax relief programs provided by the Town include:

- Standard Veteran's Exemption per Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 12-81(19)
- Additional Veteran's Exemption per C.G.S. Sec. 12-81f

The Town has not adopted a handful of other local option tax exemptions (see attached spreadsheet). Mr. Knoll and Mr. Hart will review the list of remaining local option exemptions and provide a recommendation for the Commission's consideration. The members thanked Mr. Dakers for his informative presentation and the assistance that his office provides to the local veterans' community.

- b. Status of Commission Vacancies – Mr. Knoll reported that Steve Gorss has applied to become a member and will likely succeed John Keleher, who is no longer a resident. Mr. Hart will discuss the status of inactive members with the Town Clerk's Office.

- c. Sterling Field Memorial – Mr. Knoll reviewed the images for the proposed memorial. Mr. Harrell will continue to keep the commission informed of his conversations with the Town.
- 6. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Mr. Knoll asked the members to come prepared to the December 10th meeting to discuss goals and objectives for 2025, including a list of guest speakers.
- 7. Correspondence – none.
- 8. Adjournment – Mr. Knoll adjourned the meeting at 2000 hrs. (8:00 PM).

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew W. Hart, Secretary

Municipal Options Adopted by the Town of West Hartford

CGS	
§12-62c	Municipal option to phase in assessment increases resulting from revaluation of real property
§12-81b	Establishment by ordinance of effective date for exemption of property acquired by certain institutions
§12-81c	Municipal option to exempt certain motor vehicles
§12-81f	Municipal option to provide additional exemption for veterans or spouses eligible for exemption under section 12-81
§12-81g(b)	Municipal option for exemption in lieu of exemption in subsection (a)
§12-81i	Municipal option to provide additional exemption for persons totally disabled and eligible for exemption under section 12-81
§12-81j	Municipal option to provide additional exemption for blind persons eligible for exemption under section 12-81
§12-129n	Municipal property tax relief program for certain homeowners age 65 or over or permanently and totally disabled
§12-170v	Municipal option to provide real property tax relief to certain elderly homeowners (tax freeze program)
Municipal Option Statutes Not Adopted by Town of West Hartford	
12-81(21)c	M/O to allow total exemption for residence with respect to which veteran has received assistance for special housing under Title 38
§12-81h	Municipal option to allow exemption applicable to assessed value of MV specially equipped for disabled veteran
§12-81ii	Municipal option to provide exemption for parent or surviving spouse of person killed in action while performing active military duty
§12-81jj	Municipal option to provide exemption for veterans no eligible for certain other exemptions
§12-81kk	Municipal option to provide exemption for certain veterans

Municipal Options Adopted by the Town of West Hartford

Standard Statewide Veterans Benefits		Exempt Amount
		factor
§12-62g	Increase in certain veteran's exemptions upon revaluation	100%
§12-81(18)	Property of veterans's organizations	1,000
§12-81(19)	Property of veterans	10%-100%
§12-81(20)	Property of servicemen and veterans having disability ratings	10,000 or prorata share
12-18(21)a,b	Property of disabled veterans with severe disability (does not include subsection c)	1,000
§12-81(22)	Property of surviving spouse or minor child of serviceman or veteran	1,000
§12-81(23)	Property of serviceman's surviving spouse receiving federal benefits	3,000
§12-81(24)	Property of surviving spouse or minor child of veteran receiving compensation from USDVA	1,000
§12-81(25)	Property of surviving parent of deceased serviceman or veteran	1,000
§12-81(26)	Property of parents of veterans	100%
§12-81(27)	Property of Grand Army Post	1,000
§12-81(28)	Property of United States Army instructors	100%
12-81(45)	Property of units of Connecticut National Guard	100%
§12-81(53)	Motor vehicle of member of armed forces	intrastate
§12-81cc	Portability of certain veterans' property tax exemptions	1,000
§12-82	Exemptions of veterans of allied services of First World War	document
§12-93	Veterans' exemptions; proof of claim	RP & MV
§12-93a,b	Allowance of veterans' property tax exemptions in relation to a residential dwelling on leased land and certain vehicles	2-towns
§12-94	Exemptions of servicemen, veterans and their relatives, blind and totally disabled persons, here made, List exemptions	document
§12-95	Exemption only on submission of evidence	