

**SERVICE AWARD COMMITTEE
MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2018
(Draft Copy – Subject to Revision)**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman M. Brennan called the Meeting of the Service Award Committee to order at 6:40 P.M.

PRESENT: M. Brennan, E. Grace, P. Brennan, J. Wrenn, M. Bronn, J. Linley

ABSENT: P. Betkoski

Chairman M. Brennan welcomed the two new members: Jamie Linley and Marc Bronn

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes from April 25, 2016.

Motion to approve the Service Award Committee April 25, 2016 meeting minutes: **P. Brennan/J. Wrenn**; *no discussion*; all aye.

J. Linley and M. Bronn abstained as they were not at the April 25, 2016 meeting.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discuss updating and clarifying current point system (schedules A and B) used to qualify for the plan.

M. Brennan stated the appendices A and B for the Service Award Plan point system were undergoing review by town attorney, Fred Stanek, who will propose changes.

M. Brennan noted that First Selectman C. Bielik suggested Schedule A and B sections be a policy which can be edited without changing the whole ordinance.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve list of 2017 participants

The Board reviewed the list of Beacon Hose Company members, submitted by Chief DeGeorge, who have met the qualifications for the Service Award Program for year 2017. He also included a letter with the following request:

"It is my recommendation that Douglas Bousquet and David Rybinski be approved for the 2017 Service Award. I am aware that they did not meet the necessary requirements"

Discussion:

M. Brennan pointed out the two individuals are past Chiefs and both have already amassed enough credited years (23+) to receive the maximum permanent tax abatement and LOSAP(pension) monthly entitlement payment when they reach retirement age. Which is 65 as stated in both ordinances.

E. Grace noted lack of supporting reasons for the waiver request and large shortfall of attendance points.

M. Bronn commented that if these two members were approved, it would set a precedent for shortfalls in qualifications.

P. Brennan added that he felt it was not hard to qualify.

Motion to approve the list as presented with the exception of two members: J. Wrenn/P. Brennan: no discussion, all aye.

B. Miscellaneous

M. Brennan noted the passing of Beacon Hose volunteer, William Gavrish in June 2017. Even though he went inactive, Mr. Gavrish had 10 years of service and would qualify for benefits. M. Brennan researched getting his benefits for his next of kin and they will receive a lump sum actuarial equivalence.

Motion to process the claim for benefits William Gavrish was entitled to: E. Grace/J. Linley; no discussion, all aye.

V. PETITIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

J. Linley noted that many new members who live out of town can't take advantage of the tax abatement benefit and asked if there was there a way to compensate them, perhaps through a 401K program. This would affect 10 members.

M. Bronn commented that a separate program would have to be set up.

E. Grace questioned what if the town members preferred that option.

M. Brennan noted that originally the benefit program from the town was for life insurance policies.

M. Bronn commented that each member could choose the option of a tax abatement or annuity, especially for those who don't have a tax liability, but it would probably be complicated to implement.

P. Brennan noted the tax abatement was intended to be a reward to thank the members.

E. Grace added that there would need to be provisions written to address all cases for who could switch from one program to the other.

VI. PETITIONS FROM PUBLIC – none

VII. PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion to approve the clerk bill as presented: M. Bronn/E. Grace; no discussion: all aye.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM: P. Brennan/M. Bronn; no discussion: all aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Melville, Clerk