

TOWN OF MILLIS

WARRANT ARTICLE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of section 5 N of Chapter 59 of the Massachusetts General Laws; create a veterans' volunteer services/real property tax obligation program; determine whether said program shall include approved representative of disabled veterans and determine whether the maximum of the tax obligation reduction shall be based on 100 hours or eight-hundred dollars (\$800.00); and raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of the program; or take any action relative thereto.

See attachment



TOWN OF MILLIS

Lawrence R. Bouret, *Chairman*
Stephanie M. Bravoco
David M. O'Brien

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

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September 9, 2013

To: Board of Selectmen
Charles Aspinwall, Town Administrator
Kathleen LaPlant, Finance / Accountant

From: Lawrence R. Bouret, Chair
Board of Assessors

RE: Veterans' volunteer services/real property tax obligation program.

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Assessors held on Monday, September 9, 2013 the Board discussed the proposal to accept the provisions of section 5 N of Chapter 59 of the Massachusetts General Laws; create a Veterans' volunteer service/real property tax obligation program.

On a motion made by _____ Lawrence R. Bouret, Chair _____, seconded by _____ David O'Brien _____, it was voted to recommend the attached warrant article for the November Town Meeting.

This program shall include approved representative of disabled veterans and determine whether the maximum of the tax obligation reduction shall be based on 100 hours or eight-hundred dollars (\$800.00); and raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of the program; or take any action relative thereto.

This program is similar to the senior work-off program, 100 hours or \$800.00. This is limited on a first come first serve basis and limited to only _____ 18 _____ applicants.

LAW PROVIDES FOR VETERANS TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM

July 16, 2012

A law signed in May aimed at supporting Massachusetts veterans and their families includes a new local option (M.G.L. Ch. 59, Sec. 5N) allowing cities and towns to create a work-off tax abatement program for veterans.

The program works the same way as one that many communities have established for seniors. It allows veterans to earn abatements on their property taxes by working for the community.

Each community sets its own program and eligibility requirements, but the taxpayer's hourly earnings may not exceed the state minimum wage and the earned abatement may not exceed \$1,000 – or, if voted by the local legislative body, 125 hours of service.

A vote of the municipality's legislative body is required for acceptance of the provision in the new law.

Chapter 59, Section 5N

“Approved representative for persons physically unable to provide such services to the city or town; or (i) allowing the maximum reduction of the real property tax bill to be based on 100 volunteer service hours in a given tax year, rather than \$1,000.”