

RULES AND ORDINANCES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING – TUESDAY, September 18, 2018 @ 7:00 PM

At approximately 7:00 PM, Chairman Leonard opened the meeting and took attendance. Present were Representatives Anderson, Buchanan, Hentschel, Ingraham, Sullivan & Walker.

1. To consider and, if appropriate, create an ordinance enabling tax exemptions for Gold Star Parents and Spouses. After continued discussion, the committee voted to approve the proposed Ordinance.

Motion to approve the proposed Ordinance passed unanimously.

2. To consider and, if appropriate, create an ordinance enabling tax exemptions for handicap equipped vehicles. After discussion, the committee voted to re-refer, agreeing to solicit input from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and Town officials, for language and definitions that comport with the state's enabling statute.

Motion to re-refer the proposed Ordinance passed unanimously.

By Motion seconded and approved, the order of agenda items 3 and 5 was reversed.

3. To review Branford's Town Dock ordinance and, if appropriate, revise relative to time limits and rights of appeal. The committee has invited the Thimble Islands and Stony Creek Associations to present at its October meeting.

Motion to re-refer the proposed Ordinance passed unanimously.

4. To consider and, if appropriate, approve a Resolution creating an advisory committee on sustainability. After discussion, the committee voted to approve the proposed Resolution.

Motion to approve a Resolution creating an advisory committee passed unanimously.

5. To review Branford's noise ordinance and how it pertains to excessive dog barking in residential neighborhoods. After discussion, the committee agreed to seek input from Town officials.

Motion to re-refer the proposed Ordinance passed unanimously.

R&O's next regularly scheduled meeting: **Tuesday, October 16, 2018.**

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.
Dated this 21st day of September, 2018.

John F. Leonard
Chairman, R & O Committee

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2018 SEP 21 A 10:58
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

Exemption for Gold Star parents and spouses.

[Added]

(a)
Effective October 1, 2018, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2018, and pursuant to Public Act 17- 65, upon application, as set forth in Subsection **(e)** of this section, to the Assessor, any parent whose child was killed in action or the surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces, as defined in Subsection **(a)** of Section 27-103 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which parent or surviving spouse is a resident of the Town of Branford, shall be entitled to an exemption from property tax in the amount of \$10,000, provided that such parent's or surviving spouse's qualifying income does not exceed **(b)** the maximum amount applicable to an unmarried person as provided under section 12-81l of the Connecticut General Statutes plus \$12,500. The exemption shall be applied to the assessed value of any such eligible parent's or surviving spouse's property. The yearly application filing period shall be February 1st thru October 1st each year. Each application shall include a copy of such parent or surviving spouse's federal income tax return or, in the event such a return is not filed, such evidence related to income as may be required by the Assessor for the tax year ending immediately prior to the assessment date with respect to which such additional exemption is claimed.

(b)
If both parents of any such child killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces are domiciled together, only one such parent shall be entitled to an exemption from property tax provided for under this section.

(c)
The exemption provided for under this section shall be in addition to any exemption to which an eligible parent or surviving spouse may be entitled under Section 12-81 of the Connecticut General Statutes. No such eligible parent or surviving spouse entitled to exemption under Section 12-81f or 12-81g of the Connecticut General Statutes and this section shall receive more than one such exemption.

(d)
Any parent whose child was killed in action or the surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces and who claims an exemption from taxation under this section shall give notice to the Branford Town Clerk that he or she is entitled to such exemption.

(e)
Any such parent or surviving spouse submitting a claim for such exemption shall be required to file an application, on a form prepared for such purpose by the Assessor, not later than the assessment date with respect to which such

exemption is claimed, which application shall include at least two affidavits of disinterested persons showing that the deceased child or person was performing such active military duty, that such deceased child or person was killed in action while performing such active military duty and the relationship of such deceased child to such parent, or such deceased person to such surviving spouse, provided that the Assessor may further require such parent or surviving spouse to be examined by such Assessor under oath concerning such facts. The Branford Town Clerk shall record each such affidavit in full and shall list the name of such parent or surviving spouse claimant, and such service shall be performed by the Branford Town Clerk without remuneration. The Assessor, Board of Assessment Appeals or other official of Branford shall not allow any such claim for exemption unless evidence as herein specified has been filed in the office of the Branford Town Clerk. When any such parent or surviving spouse has filed for such exemption and received approval for the first time, such parent or surviving spouse shall be required to file for such exemption biennially thereafter, subject to the provisions of Subsection **(h)** of this section.

(f)
The Assessor shall annually make a certified list of all such parents or surviving spouses who are found to be entitled to exemption under the provisions of this section, which list shall be filed in the Branford Town Clerk's office, and shall be prima facie evidence that such parents or surviving spouses whose names appear thereon are entitled to such exemption as long as they continue to reside in such municipality and as long as the legislative body of such municipality continues to provide for such exemption, subject to the provisions of Subsection **(h)** of this section. The Assessor may, at any time, require any such parent or surviving spouse to appear before such Assessor for the purpose of furnishing additional evidence, provided that any such parent or surviving spouse who by reason of disability is unable to so appear may furnish a statement from such parent's or surviving spouse's attending physician or an advanced practice registered nurse certifying that such parent or surviving spouse is totally disabled and is unable to make a personal appearance and such other evidence of total disability as the Assessor may deem appropriate.

(g)
No such parent or surviving spouse may receive such exemption until such parent or surviving spouse has proven his or her right to such exemption in accordance with the provisions of this section, together with such further proof as may be necessary under said provisions. Exemptions so proven shall take effect on the next succeeding assessment day.

(h)
Any such parent or surviving spouse who has submitted an application and been approved in any year for the exemption provided in this section shall, in

the year immediately following approval, be presumed to be qualified for such exemption. During the year immediately following such approval, the Assessor shall notify, in writing, each parent or surviving spouse presumed to be qualified pursuant to this subsection. If any such parent or surviving spouse has qualifying income in excess of the maximum allowed under Subsection **(a)** of this section, such parent or surviving spouse shall notify the Assessor on or before the next filing date for such exemption and shall be denied such exemption for the assessment year immediately following and for any subsequent year until such parent or surviving spouse has reapplied and again qualified for such exemption. Any such parent or surviving spouse who fails to notify the Assessor of such disqualification shall make payment to the Town of Branford in the amount of property tax loss related to such exemption improperly taken.

Resolution Supporting the Town of Branford's Participation In the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is a comprehensive, statewide, action-oriented voluntary certification program, built by and for municipalities, with the vision that: *Sustainable CT communities strive to be thriving, resilient, collaborative, and forward-looking. They build community and local economy. They equitably promote the health and well-being of current and future residents. And they respect the finite capacity of the natural environment.*

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is designed to boost local economies, help municipal operations become more efficient, reduce operating costs, and provide grants and additional support to municipalities.

WHEREAS, The Town of Branford embraces an ongoing process of working toward greater sustainability, selecting which actions it chooses to pursue from the voluntary menu of actions provided by Sustainable CT.

RESOLVED, by the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Branford that we do hereby authorize the First Selectman or his designee to serve as the Town of Branford's Sustainable CT contact person for the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification process and authorize [him/her] to complete Municipal Registration on behalf of the Town of Branford.

RESOLVED, that to focus attention and effort within the Town of Branford on matters of sustainability, and in order to promote the Town of Branford's local initiatives and actions toward Sustainable CT Municipal Certification, the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Branford establishes an advisory Sustainability Team.

RESOLVED, that the first meeting of the Sustainability Team must be held within 90 days of passing this resolution and that the Sustainability Team shall meet as frequently as needed, but no less than quarterly.

RESOLVED, that the Sustainability Team shall report annually to the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Branford on the progress of its activities toward Sustainable CT certification, with reports and presentations made publicly available.