

**Ordinance Amending and Restating the Town of Harwinton  
Emergency Services Volunteers' Benefit Program**

**SECTION 1. AUTHORITY.** This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Revised to 2003, Sections 7-148(c)(4)(B), (D), and 12-81w.

**SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS.** As used in this Ordinance, these terms shall be defined as follows:

(1) "Active Member" means a member in good standing who has applied and has been certified by the chief of the Harwinton Volunteer Fire Department, the Chief of the Harwinton West Side Volunteer Fire Company, the Chief of the Harwinton Ambulance Association, Inc., on or before the certification date, as eligible for benefits under this Ordinance.

(2) "Certification Date" means January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year commencing January 15, 2005, and each fiscal year thereafter, for purposes of this Ordinance.

(3) "Eligible Volunteer" means each individual who volunteers his or her services as an active member in good standing of the Harwinton Volunteer Fire Department, the Harwinton West Side Volunteer Fire Company or the Harwinton Ambulance Association, Inc.

(4) "Benefit" means a cash payment under this Ordinance in lieu of the statutory property tax abatement or exemption described in Connecticut General Statutes, Revised to 2003, Section 12-81w.

(5) "Volunteers' Benefit Program" means the "Town of Harwinton Emergency Services Volunteers' Benefit Program" as established by this Ordinance.

**SECTION 3. BENEFIT.** Each eligible volunteer shall be entitled to a benefit not to exceed \$1,000.00 to be paid by August 1<sup>st</sup> of the fiscal year immediately following the certification date.

**SECTION 4. BENEFIT LIMITATIONS.** The benefit shall be subject to the following limitations:

(1) Volunteers who participate in more than one organization may aggregate their service points, but may not exceed the maximum benefit allowed.

(2) Benefits shall be paid on a maximum of 1000 point system with four benefit bands:

- a. Band 1 shall be the maximum benefit if a volunteer achieves a total amount of points between 1000 and 600 points.
- b. Band 2 shall be 75% of the maximum benefit if a volunteer achieves a total amount of points between 599 and 400 points.

- c. Band 3 shall be 50% of the maximum benefit if a volunteer achieves a total of points between 399 and 200 points.
- d. Band 4 shall be 25% of the maximum benefit if a volunteer achieves a total amount of points between 199 and 100 points.
- e. No benefit shall be provided if a volunteer achieves a total amount of points less than 100 points.

(3) No benefit shall be paid to a delinquent taxpayer until his or her taxes are brought current.

(4) No benefit shall be paid to a volunteer who has not filed a properly completed application by January 15<sup>th</sup> following the close of the benefit year.

(5) Benefits are not transferable, assignable or attachable, and may not be accumulated from year to year.

**SECTION 5. PROCEDURE.** The procedure for certifying eligible volunteers shall be as follows:

(1) The benefit qualifying year shall run annually from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. The respective Chiefs of the Harwinton Ambulance Association, Inc., Harwinton Volunteer Fire Department and the Harwinton West Side Volunteer Fire Company shall, on or before January 15<sup>th</sup> of the following year, submit the certifications of eligible members and their earned points to the Harwinton Emergency Services Committee.

(2) The Harwinton Emergency Services Committee shall submit the certified list of eligible volunteers to the office of the First Selectman on or before February 1<sup>st</sup>. The First Selectman shall submit the certified list to the Tax Collector upon receipt.

(3) The Board of Selectmen shall certify the list of benefit payments to the Board of Finance, Town Treasurer and Tax Collector on or before March 1<sup>st</sup>.

(4) If a deadline falls in a weekend or legal holiday, it shall be extended to the next business day.

(5) The operation of the program shall be subject to annual review and renewal at the meeting of the Emergency Services Committee called for certification of the list of eligible volunteers.

**SECTION 6. ELIGIBILITY.** The Harwinton Volunteer Fire Department, Harwinton West Side Volunteer Fire Company and Harwinton Ambulance Association, Inc., shall determine the criteria for certification of eligibility for their respective members. Eligibility criteria shall be presented for audit by the Harwinton Emergency Services Committee in February during the certification meeting.

**SECTION 7. FISCAL LIMITATIONS.** This Ordinance shall be construed as creating a discretionary benefit and not an entitlement. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Ordinance, if the Town fails to appropriate the funds necessary to fund the benefit program for a given fiscal year, then the benefit program shall be suspended for that fiscal year. If the Town funds the benefit program at less than the full amount, then the benefit shall be reduced in proportion to the actual funding level. Any benefit suspended or reduced shall not accumulate and shall be deemed to have been rescinded.

**SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Ordinance amends and restates the "Ordinance Establishing the Town of Harwinton Emergency Services Volunteers' Benefit Program" (No. 106) upon publication of a summary in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, Revised to 2003, Section 7-157(b), and shall apply to benefit year ending December 31, 2004.

Adopted by Town Meeting: November 30, 2004.

Published in the Republican  
American on December 2, 2004.

Effective date: fifteen (15) days after publication.

Recorded in the Harwinton Town Records, Volume 7, Page 134.

**AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 133**