



Public Hearing - 2026 Preliminary Budget | 530p  
Public Hearing - Volunteer Firefighter Tax Exemption | 545p  
Regular Town Board Meeting | 6p

AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE UP TO AND INCLUDING THE DAY OF THE MEETING  
*Meeting is not open to the public discussion/opinion until and after "Courtesy of the Floor" unless asked.*

- CALL TO ORDER – **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- Adopt the Agenda
- Warrants / Transfers – Approval of Bills, Bank Reconciliation, Transfers
- Courtesy of the Floor – OPEN TO THE PUBLIC (3-minute limit)
- County Legislator – Rick Perkins
- Town Engineer – Jeff Tubolino
- DEPARTMENT REPORTS
  - Animal Control / Dog Warden
  - Assessor / Bookkeeper
  - BTI
  - Code Enforcement / DPW / Safety
  - Highway Dept.
  - Committee Reports
    - Library
    - Planning / Zoning
    - Trail System (Steve)
    - Hennessey Park (Progress Report)
  - Town Clerk / Tax Collection (Appointments / Resolutions)
- CORRESPONDENCE
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - Waiting for approval of nuisance lighting from the NYS Department
  - Sidewalk is complete!
  - Painting of the library windows is in progress and expected to be done soon.
  - Tax exemption discussion for firefighters - final decision - Supervisor Robert fully supports.
  - 2026 TOC Budget
  - Policy Committee
- NEW BUSINESS
  - Community Solar Consortium
- ADJOURNMENT

**It is not what Colton can do for you, but what you can do for Colton. As a result, Colton can do more for everyone. TEAMWORK!!!!**

**Town of Colton, Town Board Public Hearing on Repeal of Real Property Tax Law 466-a for the Voluntary Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption, October 15, 2025 @ 5:45pm  
County of St. Lawrence, State of New York, 94 Main St., Colton, NY 13625**

Present: Ronald Robert, Town Supervisor - absent  
Kevin Hawley, Highway Supt. - absent  
Darren Richards, Code/Safety/DPW Supt.  
Jennifer Cole, Town Clerk

Councilpersons: Lisa Fisher  
Kevin Beary  
Stephen Knight  
Ed Fuhr

Meeting Attendees: Jeff Tubolino, Shelley Rayner, Brittney Gravlin, Tracy Harcourt, Margaret Zappia, Jim Williams, Rick Perkins, Aaron Johnson, Ed Harcourt  
Online Attendees: Cynthia Hennessy, Dennis Eickhoff, Peggy Shea, Judy Fuhr

[Motion #1](#)

Councilman Beary made the motion to open the public hearing at 5:45pm, seconded by Councilman Knight.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Beary, Knight, Fuhr

Noes 0

Absent 1 Robert

Motion carried

The public hearing is open to the public for comment on the Repeal of Real Property Tax Law 466-a for the Voluntary Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption.

Councilmembers asked volunteer firemen and ambulance workers that were present if the local law was sufficient in their opinion. Both volunteers stated that the updates look good.

No other public comment.

**Adjournment:**

[Motion #2](#)

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Knight made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:00pm, seconded by Councilman Beary.

Ayes 4 Fisher, Beary, Knight, Fuhr

Noes 0

Absent 1 Robert

Motion carried

Meeting minutes by Colton Town Clerk Jennifer Cole.

# ***Town of Colton***

*94 Main Street  
Colton, NY 13625  
(315) 262-2810*

*Ronald Robert  
Supervisor  
Jennifer R. Cole  
Town Clerk*



*Kevin S. Hawley  
Supt. of Highways  
Darren T. Richards  
Supt. of Public Works*

***\*\*\*The below represents a summary of the Colton Board's decisions on implementing the firefighter exemption. Once passed, the law will be submitted in accordance with the Department of State's requirements.***

## **LL 03 – 2025 Repealing Local Law Number 1 of the year 2006 and Providing for a Volunteer Firefighter and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Real Property Tax Exemption.**

Local Law Number 1 for the year 2006 is hereby repealed, except that this repeal shall not affect or prevent any exemptions previously granted to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers prior to the taking effect of this local law; and the following shall be enacted:

### **Section 2. Authority**

Real Property Tax Law §466-a authorizes the Colton Board to adopt a local law providing a real property tax exemption of up to ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of real property owned by qualifying volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers.

### **Section 3. Grant of Real Property Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers.**

The Town of Colton, County of St. Lawrence, hereby provides a real property tax exemption of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of real property for individuals that meet the following qualifications:

- The individual is an enrolled and certified member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or volunteer ambulance service that serves the Town of Colton and has a minimum of two (2) years of service; and,
- The individual resides in the Town of Colton and the property receiving the benefit is the primary residence of the individual and is used exclusively for residential purposes, and any portion of the property not used for residential purposes shall be subject to taxation.

### **Section 6. Effective Date**

This Local Law shall be effective upon the date of filing with the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Thank you.

Jennifer Cole, Town Clerk

The Town of Colton is an equal opportunity employer.

← RPTL Vol FireFight/AmbWork

Edit

Notice ID: RD0ZRSMDKXJnGVjOEMlc

**Publisher**  
North Country This Week

**Confirmation Status**  
Confirmed

**Publication Date**  
Sep 26, 2025

**Billing Status**  
Awaiting Invoice Payment

**Invoice Due**  
Oct 18, 2025

Quick Actions

- VIEW PROOF
- VIEW INVOICE
- PAY INVOICE
- CANCEL NOTICE

Preview Activity

**COLTON  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Town of Colton will be holding a public hearing on October 15th 2025 at 5:45pm regarding Real Property Tax Law for the Voluntary Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption RPTL 466-a. The meeting will take place at the Colton Town Hall, 94 Main St., Colton NY 13625. All are welcome to attend.

**LINER AD**  
55 Words - 6 Lines - 2.56 Total Column Inches

Download

( Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of State.)

Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underlining to indicate new matter.

County

City

Town of -----Colton-----

Village

Local Law No. -----1----- of the year 2006-----

A local law -----TO ALLOW ENROLLED VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND-----

(Insert Title)

-----VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKERS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR-----

-----A REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION UNDER RPTL § 466-f-----

Be it enacted by the -----TOWN BOARD-----of the

(Name of Legislative Body)

County

City

Town of -----COLTON-----as follows:

Village

Section 1. **Legislative intent.** The Colton Town Board recognizes the role of the volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers in securing the safety and well being of our communities. The legislature hereby finds that it is in the best social and economic interests of the Town of Colton to encourage volunteerism for said purposes. To that end, by providing the following exemption it is the intent to so encourage volunteerism for our various fire and ambulance companies.

Section 2. **Exemptions for certain volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers.**

- (a) Real property owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service or such enrolled member and spouse residing in the Town of Colton shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of ten percent of the assessed value of such property for town purposes, exclusive of special assessments, provided however, that such exemption shall in no event exceed \$3,000 multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit in which such real property is located.

(If additional space is needed, attach pages the same size as this sheet, and number each)

- (b) Such exemption shall be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service residing in the Town of Colton:
- (i.) The applicant resides in the town which is served by such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service;
  - (ii.) The property is the primary residence of the applicant;
  - (iii.) The property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this section; and
  - (iv.) The incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department and incorporated voluntary ambulance service has submitted to the St. Lawrence County Director of Emergency Services a complete list of enrolled members, with their respective dates of service for which incorporated voluntary fire company, or fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service. The St. Lawrence County Director of Emergency Services shall then review all potential candidates and certify those that meet the necessary criteria to be eligible for this exemption.
- (c) Application for such exemption shall be filed with the assessor on or before the taxable status date on the form as prescribed by the state board.
- (d) No applicant who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who by reason of such status is receiving any benefit under the provisions of this article on the effective date of this section shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this section.
- (e) Any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, shall be granted the ten percent exemption as authorized by this section for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within this state.

Section 3. **Effective date.** This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to real property having A taxable status date on or after January 4, 2006 on which date this act shall become a law.

## ***Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers Real Property Tax Exemption Opt In***

In December 2022, Gov. Hochul signed legislation that allows towns in ANY county to adopt, after a public hearing, a local law or resolution offering a real property tax exemption of up to 10 percent for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers in certain situations. Your town may already have a real property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters, and that may continue for 3 years – the purpose of this new law is to grant any town in the state the authority to provide the exemption, and streamline the process and requirements. If your town currently offers this exemption, by 2025, the town will need to adopt a new local law or resolution conforming to the new RPTL section 466-a. The law requires the town to conduct a public hearing on the exemption – even if the town adopts a resolution. AOT recommends adopting a local law, as local laws have the presumption of validity and ensure the town has something clearly on the books. We have posted a sample local law on our [website](#).



The local law / resolution must establish a minimum service requirement between two and five years, so new volunteers do not yet qualify this benefit even if the town opts in. Additionally, the exemption can be up to 10 percent – the town can set the benefit at a lower percentage, but the ceiling is 10 percent. To qualify, the individual must reside in the town that is served by the volunteer entity and certify that they have met the minimum service requirement (as determined by the town), and the property receiving the exemption must be their primary residence used for residential purposes.

***Relevant Annual Meeting Programming: Saving the Volunteer Fire Service (Monday, 10:30 a.m.)***

### **Collecting Officers Virtual Office Hours**

For many collecting officers, the interest-free period is soon expiring, and with that often comes many questions. Katie Hodgdon, counsel with the Association of Towns, will be available via zoom on **Monday, January 30** from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. to assist you with any questions you may have regarding tax collection. This will be on a rolling basis, so you can drop in with questions at your convenience. The zoom link is as follows: [Virtual Office Hours](#)

Please feel free to forward this to your collecting officer and to any other town officials that have questions about the collecting process.

### **New CDL Clearinghouse Requirements to Take Effect**



The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will begin implementing the federal requirements for all commercial driver license (CDL) holders on the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse List, an online database that gives employers and government agencies real-time access to information about CDL driver drug and alcohol violations. The requirements, to be implemented Jan. 6, 2023, will require all FMCSA-regulated employers, including NYS municipalities, to conduct a pre-employment clearinghouse query to investigate a prospective CDL holders' previous drug and alcohol program violations. This includes municipal highway, DPW or other departments where a job position would require the holder to maintain a current CDL. The online clearinghouse gathers information related to drug and alcohol violations occurring over the past three years for CDL holders. Designated municipal employees, usually the highway or DPW superintendent, can register as a clearinghouse administrator to access the information. For more information, visit the FMCSA website at <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/>

Plus, for more information on employee drug and alcohol testing, attend our session at the 2023 Annual Meeting & Training School titled Dazed and Confused about Employee Drug and Alcohol Testing on Tuesday at 11 a.m.

## Real Property Tax

\* § 466-a. Volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers; certain counties. 1. Real property owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service or such enrolled member and spouse residing in any county having a population of more than two hundred sixty-one thousand inhabitants but less than two hundred seventy thousand inhabitants, determined in accordance with the 1990 federal census, or in any county having a population of more than ninety-eight thousand seven hundred inhabitants but less than ninety-nine thousand inhabitants, as determined by the latest federal decennial census, shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of ten percent of the assessed value of such property for city, village, town, part town, special district or county purposes, exclusive of special assessments, provided that the governing body of a city, village, town or county, after a public hearing, adopts a local law, ordinance or resolution providing therefor; provided further, however, that such exemption shall in no event exceed three thousand dollars multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit in which such real property is located.

2. Such exemption shall not be granted to an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service residing in such county unless:

(a) the applicant resides in the city, town or village which is served by such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service;

(b) the property is the primary residence of the applicant;

(c) the property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this section; and

(d) the applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department as an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company or fire department for at least five years or the applicant has been certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an enrolled member of such incorporated voluntary ambulance service for at least five years. It shall be the duty and responsibility of the municipality which adopts a local law, ordinance or resolution pursuant to this section to determine the procedure for certification.

3. Any enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who accrues more than twenty years of active service and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service, shall be granted the ten percent exemption as authorized by this section for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within such a county provided that the governing body of a village, town or county, after a public hearing, adopts a local law, ordinance or resolution providing therefor.

4. Application for such exemption shall be filed with the assessor or

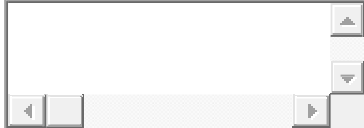
other agency, department or office designated by the municipality offering such exemption on or before the taxable status date on a form as prescribed by the commissioner.

5. No applicant who is a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who by reason of such status is receiving any benefit under the provisions of this article on the effective date of this section shall suffer any diminution of such benefit because of the provisions of this section.

\* NB There are 2 § 466-a's

\* NB Repealed December 9, 2025

### Search Word or Phrase

  
A search input field with a light gray background and a thin border. It contains a search bar with a magnifying glass icon on the right. Below the search bar are two small square buttons with left and right arrow icons.

2025  
**FIREFIGHTER EXEMPTION**

RPTL 466-A

Exemption code: 4163\_

**COUNTY, TOWN, VILLAGE & SCHOOL**  
**03/11/2025**

**JURISDICTION**

**Adopted/Percentage**

**TOWNS**

Brasher	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Canton	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Clare	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Clifton	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Colton	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
DeKalb	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Depeyster	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Edwards	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Fine	10%
Fowler	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Gouverneur	10%
Hammond	10%
Hermon	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Hopkinton	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Lawrence	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Lisbon	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Louisville	10%
Macomb	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Madrid	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Massena	10%
Morristown	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
*Norfolk	10%
Ogdensburg	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Oswegatchie	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Parishville	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Piercefield	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Pierrepoint	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
*Pitcairn	10%
*Potsdam	10%
Rossie	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Russell	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Stockholm	NO 466-A EXEMPTION
Waddington	NO 466-A EXEMPTION

**VILLAGE**

Gouverneur Village	10%
Massena Village	10%

**SCHOOL**

Massena School	10%
*Harrisville School	5%

St. Lawrence County                      NO 466-A EXEMPTION

\*\* Harrisville School adopted at 5%. Pitcairn, Potsdam & Norfolk adopted the 10% exemption

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a webpage.](#)



**Department of  
Taxation and Finance**

## **Weekly Newsletter of the Office of Real Property Tax Services**

### **Simplifying the STAR program and STAR forms**

The 2025-2026 Enacted State Budget included several provisions to simplify the STAR program.

Homeowners will no longer be required to submit an application to the assessor if they had an ownership change or if they *aged into* the Enhanced STAR exemption. ORPTS will notify assessors of Basic STAR recipients who become eligible for Enhanced STAR (rather than requiring seniors to apply to their assessors).

After the last 2025 taxable status date at the end of this month, the following STAR exemption forms will be removed from our website:

- [Form RP-425-B](#), *Application for Basic STAR Exemption*
- [Form RP-425-E](#), *Application for Enhanced STAR Exemption*
- [Form RP-425-IVP](#), *Supplement to Form RP-425-E*

Property owners who have a change of ownership will report it to the Tax Department using the Homeowner Benefit Portal. If they don't have internet access, they can call our representatives.



## Register for the School Tax Relief (STAR) Credit

Congratulations on your new home! If this will be your primary residence, take a few minutes to register for the STAR credit.

Eligible new homeowners will receive their STAR savings in the form of a check or direct deposit directly from New York State.

But you must register with the New York State Tax Department to receive a STAR credit.

You can register 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in the homeowner benefit portal at [www.tax.ny.gov/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star).

Property owners without access to a computer can register by phone at 518-457-2036 weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

### Are you eligible for STAR?

If you own your home, it's your primary residence, and your income is \$500,000 or less, you're eligible for the Basic STAR credit.

In addition, if you're 65 or older with an income of \$107,300 or less, you may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR credit.

In your first year at your new home, you may receive the prior owner's STAR exemption. In future years, as long as you're eligible, you'll receive a STAR credit payment. You don't need to register again.

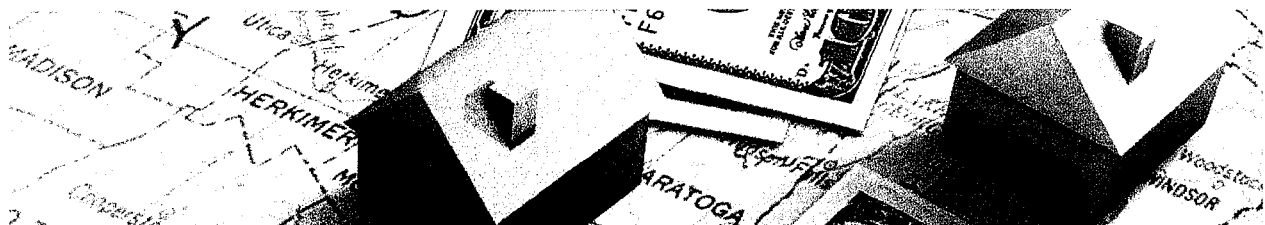
### Before you register, have this information available:

- names and social security numbers for all owners of the property and their spouses
- the name of the school district where your primary residence is located
- approximate date you purchased the property, and the name of the sellers
- the most recent school tax bill, if you received one
- address of any residential property owned in another state
- if the property is owned in trust, the legal name of the trust
- 2023 federal or state income tax returns for all owners (if you didn't file a 2023 income tax return, you'll be asked to provide financial information for all property owners)

*Our new Homeowner Benefit Portal is available to help you receive the property tax benefits you're eligible for!*

*As a New York State homeowner, use our new portal to:*

- register for the STAR credit
- enroll in STAR Credit Direct Deposit
- check the status of your property tax registrations
- view, edit, or close your registrations
- ensure your information is accurate and complete
- take action to resolve issues





100%

# Firefighter tax exemption public hearing

1 message

**Ed Harcourt**

Sun, Oct 12, 2025 at 11:42 AM

To: Steve Knight, Ronald Robert, Lisa Fisher, Kevin Beary, Ed Fuhr

Dear Supervisor Roberts and town of Colton council members,

I might not be able to be at the public hearing for the firefighter exemption on Wednesday but I would like to call out one aspect of the law that the town can allow for members who have completed at least 20 years of service in the fire department.

Here's a link to the law with the summary cut-and-pasted below from the state website.

[https://www.tax.ny.gov/research/property/assess/manuals/vol4/pt1/sec4\\_01/sec466\\_a\\_2022.htm](https://www.tax.ny.gov/research/property/assess/manuals/vol4/pt1/sec4_01/sec466_a_2022.htm)

*If allowed by local option, the primary residence owned by an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or ambulance service is partially exempt from general municipal taxes and special ad valorem levies so long as the property owner has been such a member for a minimum of two to five years, depending on the policy. **At further local option, the exemption may be granted for the life of an enrolled member who has accrued more than 20 years of active service.** Local option to extend the exemption to the un-remarried spouse of a deceased member of a volunteer fire company or ambulance company having at least 20 years of active service is allowed, with an additional local option to extend the exemption to the un-remarried spouse of a member of a volunteer fire company or volunteer ambulance service killed in the line of duty. No exemption is allowed for special assessments. The amount of exemption is up to 10 percent of the assessed value of the property. The exemption may be granted in addition to any other exemption authorized by law.*

I am in favor of this local option.

Sincerely,

Ed Harcourt

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Ed Harcourt