

4-9 Tax Abatement for Canine Search & Rescue Volunteers

The property taxes of each Canine Search & Rescue Volunteer living in the Town of Stafford who has served as a volunteer with a certified non-profit search & rescue organization for not less than one (1) immediately preceding calendar year shall be eligible to receive a tax abatement up to the total Stafford Town Taxes owed (not to exceed \$1,000.00).

Eligibility: In order to receive an abatement from the Town of Stafford, such active, certified volunteer must annually attend a minimum of 60% of the events as required by the certifying organization. These events include, but are not limited to, the following: Training, drills, meetings, callouts and educational seminars. Such volunteer members must be strictly volunteer and may not be paid a salary to respond to calls or to attend required events.

Said volunteer must provide to the Town of Stafford a copy of their official membership identification proving they are indeed active, certified members of a Canine Search & Rescue organization. In addition, said volunteer must provide verification to the organization that they have met the requirements for certification. The organization must review the accuracy of this information and certify that said volunteer has met the requirements by providing a letter to the Stafford Town Tax Collector stating the volunteer is active, in good standing and has completed the requirements for such certification and is entitled to such abatement.

No waivers or exceptions can be made to this abatement ordinance.

The abatement shall be deducted from the Town taxes due and not from the Service District or the Sewer User fees.

No stipend shall be given to a volunteer who does not own property in the Town of Stafford and no inter local agreements will be entered into for non-residents. Volunteers who qualify but are not current in their taxes shall have the abatement credited to the oldest tax liability outstanding. Property must be owned by the eligible volunteer and not by a corporation, LLC, partnership or another family member.

By majority vote, the Board of Selectmen may make minor revisions to this ordinance without the need for a Town Meeting.

This ordinance shall take effect and shall be applicable to taxes owed beginning on the Grand List of October 1, 2005, due and payable July 1, 2006.

Adopted at Town Meeting: November 3, 2005

Date Published: November 19, 2005