

**Borough of Newburg  
Cumberland County, Pennsylvania**

**Ordinance No. 2019 - 01**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE BOROUGH OF NEWBURG,  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ESTABLISHING A VOLUNTEER  
SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM; ENACTING TAX CREDITS FOR VOLUNTEER  
MEMBERS OF VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES AND NONPROFIT EMERGENCY  
MEDICAL SERVICE AGENCY; AND ESTABLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE  
PROCEDURES AND APPEALS**

**WHEREAS**, Act 172 of 2016 (the “Act”) provides municipalities with the option to offer a real estate and/or earned income tax credit to active members of the volunteer fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical service agencies through a volunteer service credit program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Newburg, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania (“Borough”), is home to several active volunteers who would qualify for the above referenced tax credits; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough has an interest in providing an incentive for its residents to begin and/or continue service as active volunteers for fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical service agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, it is deemed to be in the best interest of the residents of the Borough for the Borough to provide tax credits to eligible volunteers within the Borough.

**NOW THEREFORE**, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Newburg, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, pursuant to the Act as follows:

**SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.**

The following words and phrases when used in this ordinance shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“**Active Volunteer.**” A volunteer for a volunteer fire company or nonprofit emergency medical service agency listed under Section 2(c) who has complied with, and is certified under, the Volunteer Service Credit Program.

“**Earned Income Tax.**” A tax on earned income and net profits levied under Chapter 3 of the act of December 31, 1965 (P.L.1257, No.511), known as The Local Tax Enabling Act.

**“Eligibility Period.”** The timeframe when volunteers may earn credit under the Volunteer Service Credit Program.

**“Emergency Responder.”** A volunteer who responds to an emergency call with one of the entities listed under Section 2(c).

**“Emergency Response Call.”** Any emergency call to which a volunteer responds, including travel directly from and to a volunteer’s home, place of business or other place where he/she shall have been when the call was received.

**“Qualified Real Property.”** A residential real property owned and occupied as the domicile of an active volunteer.

**“Volunteer.”** A member of a volunteer fire company or a nonprofit emergency medical service agency.

## **SECTION 2. VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM.**

A) **Establishment.** The Borough hereby establishes a Volunteer Service Credit Program. The goal of the program is to encourage membership and service in the community’s volunteer fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical service agencies.

B) **Program Criteria.** The Borough Council shall establish, by resolution, the annual criteria that must be met to qualify for credits under the program based on the following:

- (1) The number of emergency response calls to which a volunteer responds.
- (2) The level of training and participation in formal training and drills for a volunteer.
- (3) The total amount of time expended by a volunteer on administrative and other support services, including but not limited to:
  - (i) fundraising
  - (ii) providing facility or equipment maintenance
  - (iii) financial bookkeeping
- (4) The involvement in other events or projects that aid the financial viability, emergency response or operational readiness of a volunteer fire company or a nonprofit emergency medical service agency.
- (5) The total number of years the volunteer has served.

C) **Eligible Entities.** The Volunteer Service Credit Program is available to residents of the Borough who are volunteers of the following volunteer fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical service agencies that provide service to Borough:

(1) Newburg-Hopewell Volunteer Fire Company, Company No. 51, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

D) **Eligibility Period.** A volunteer must meet the minimum criteria, set by resolution under this section, during the eligibility period to qualify for the tax credits established under Section 3.

(1) For 2019, the eligibility period under the Volunteer Service Credit Program shall run from January 1, 2019 until January 15, 2019.

(2) For 2020, and each subsequent year thereafter, the eligibility period shall run from January 1<sup>st</sup> until January 15<sup>th</sup>.

E) **Recordkeeping.** The chief of each volunteer fire company or the supervisor of the nonprofit emergency medical service agency listed under Section 2(c) shall keep specific records of each volunteer's activities in a service log to establish credits under the Volunteer Service Credit Program. Service logs shall be subject to review by the Borough Council, the State Fire Commissioner and the State Auditor General. The chief, or supervisor, shall annually transmit to the Borough a notarized eligibility list of all volunteers that have met the minimum criteria for the Volunteer Service Credit Program. The notarized eligibility list shall be transmitted to the Borough no later than January 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. The chief or supervisor shall post the notarized eligibility list in an accessible area of the volunteer agency's facilities.

F) **Application.** Volunteers that have met the minimum criteria of the Volunteer Service Credit Program shall sign and submit an application for certification to their chief or supervisor. The chief or supervisor shall sign the application if the volunteer has met the minimum criteria of the Volunteer Service Credit Program, and forward it to the Borough Secretary. Applications shall not be accepted by the Borough after April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

G) **Municipal Review.** The Borough Secretary shall review the applications for credit under the Volunteer Service Credit Program and shall cross reference them with the notarized eligibility list. The Borough Council shall approve all applicants that are on the notarized eligibility list. All applicants approved by the Borough Council shall be issued a tax credit certificate by the Borough Secretary.

H) **Official Tax Credit Register.** The Borough shall keep an official Tax Credit Register of all active volunteers that were issued tax credit certificates. The Borough Secretary shall issue updates, as needed, of the official Tax Credit Register to the following:

- (1) Borough Council;
- (2) Chief of the volunteer fire company(ies);
- (3) Chief or supervisor of the nonprofit emergency medical services agency(ies);
- (4) Tax officer for the Borough Tax Collection District.

**I) Injured Volunteers.**

(1) An emergency responder that is injured during an emergency response call may be eligible for future tax credits. The injury must have occurred while responding to, participating in, or returning from an emergency response call with one of the entities listed under Section 2(c).

(2) An injured emergency responder shall provide documentation from a licensed physician with the application required under Section 2 stating that their injury prevents them from performing duties to qualify as an active volunteer. In such a case, the injured emergency responder shall be deemed an active volunteer for that tax year.

(3) An injured emergency responder shall annually submit the application required under Section 2, along with updated documentation from a licensed physician stating that the injury still exists and prevents them from qualifying as an active volunteer. The injured emergency responder shall again be deemed an active volunteer for that tax year. An injured emergency responder shall only be deemed an active volunteer for a maximum of five (5) consecutive tax years.

**SECTION 3. EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT.**

A) **Tax Credit.** Each active volunteer who has been certified under the Borough Volunteer Service Credit Program shall be eligible to receive a tax credit of up to twenty dollars (\$20.00) of the Earned Income Tax levied by the Borough. When an active volunteer's earned income tax liability is less than the amount of the tax credit, the tax credit shall equal the individual's tax liability.

**B) Claim.**

(1) An active volunteer with a tax credit certificate may file a claim for the tax credit on their municipality's earned income tax liability. When filing a final return for the preceding calendar year with the tax officer for the Borough's Tax Collection District.

**B) Rejection of Tax Credit Claim.**

- (1) The tax officer shall reject a claim for a tax credit if the taxpayer is not on the official Tax Credit Register issued by the Borough Secretary.
- (2) If the tax officer rejects the claim, the taxpayer shall be notified in writing of the decision. The notice shall include the reasons for the rejection and provide the method of appealing the decision pursuant to Section 5.
- (3) Taxpayers shall have 30 days to appeal the decision of the tax officer.

**SECTION 4. REAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT.**

A) **Tax Credit.** Each active volunteer who has been certified under the Borough Volunteer Service Credit Program shall be eligible to receive a real property tax credit of five percent (5%) of the municipal tax liability on qualified real property. If the tax is paid in the penalty period, the tax credit shall only apply to the base tax year liability.

**B) Claim.**

(1) An active volunteer with a tax credit certificate may file a claim for the tax credit on their qualified real property tax liability for the municipality's real estate tax levy. The tax credit shall be administered as a refund by the Borough Treasurer. An active volunteer shall file the following with the Borough Secretary:

(i) A true and correct receipt from the municipal real estate tax collector of the paid municipal real property taxes for the tax year which the claim is being filed.

(ii) The tax credit certificate.

(iii) Photo identification.

(iv) Documentation that the tax paid was for qualified real property as defined in this ordinance.

(2) If the active volunteer provides all documents required under this subsection, the Borough treasurer shall issue the tax refund to the active volunteer.

**C) Rejection of the Tax Credit Claim.**

(1) The Borough Secretary shall reject the claim for a municipal real property tax credit if the taxpayer fails to provide the documents required under subsection (B)(1).

(2) If the Borough Secretary rejects the claim, the taxpayer shall be notified in writing of the decision. The notice shall include the reasons for the rejection and provide the method of appealing the decision pursuant to Section 5.

(3) Taxpayers shall have 30 days to appeal the decision of the Borough Secretary.

## **SECTION 5. APPEALS.**

### **A) Earned Income Tax Credit Appeals.**

(1) Any taxpayer aggrieved by a decision under Section 3 shall have a right to appeal said decision.

(2) A taxpayer shall have 30 days to appeal a decision or rejection of claim.

(3) All appeals of decisions under Section 3 shall follow the provisions of the Act of May 5, 1998, P.L.301, No. 50, known as the Local Taxpayers Bill of Rights.

(4) All appeals shall follow the procedures set forth in Newburg Borough Taxpayers Bill of Rights, adopted by resolution in March of 1999, attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A."

### **B) Real Property Tax Credit Appeals.**

(1) Any taxpayer aggrieved by a decision under Section 4 shall have a right to appeal said decision.

(2) A taxpayer shall have 30 days to appeal a decision or rejection of claim.

(3) All appeals under Section 4 shall follow the provisions of 2 Pa.C.S. Chapter 5, Subchapter B (relating to practice and procedure of local agencies), and 2 Pa.C.S. Chapter 7, Subchapter B (relating to judicial review of local agency action), also known as the "Local Agency Law."

## **SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY.**

In the event that any provision, section, sentence, clause, or part of this Ordinance is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect or impair any remaining provision, section, sentence,

clause or part of the Ordinance, it being the intent of the Borough that such remainder shall be and shall remain in full force and effect and for this purpose the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.


**SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

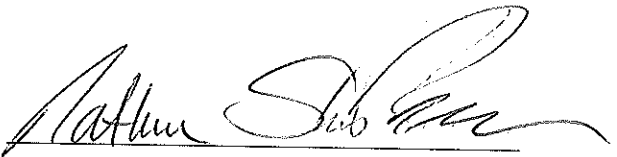
This ordinance shall be effective on January 7, 2019.

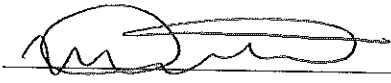
**ENACTED AND ORDAINED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Newburg into law this 7 day of January, 2019.

ATTEST:

**NEWBURG BOROUGH**

  
Secretary

By:   
Name: Nathan Shoemaker  
Council President

By:   
Name: Melissa Negley  
Borough Mayor