

RESOLUTION NO: 2022- 06-14

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the Township of Montague Board; and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Supervisor/Assessor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the Township of Montague, Muskegon County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year.

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

1. Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
2. File a claim with the supervisor/assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year or a signed State Tax Commission Form 5737, Poverty Exemption Affidavit.
3. File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed the current guidelines. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
4. Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
5. Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
6. Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines. The total taxable value reduction to the homestead from any hardship exemption shall not exceed the largest allowable income listed on the published Poverty Guidelines.

7. Meet the Montague Township Asset Test:

A hardship exemption shall not be granted to any applicant whose total liquid assets exceed \$1,000.

Under no circumstances shall a hardship exemption be granted to any applicant who owns any interest in marketable real estate in addition to their principal residence.

Under no circumstances shall a hardship exemption be granted to any applicant who owns any interest in a recreational vehicle.

8. INCOME FROM OTHER SOURCES TEST:

If the Board of Review determines that the applicant has or should have income from other sources, such as relatives, dependents, friends, they may add this income to the applicant's reported income and if the resulting sum of these incomes is greater than the Federal Poverty

Income Standards, then a hardship exemption will be denied. If the amount of the income added to the applicant's reported income and the resulting sum is less than the Federal Poverty Income Standards, then a hardship exemption may be granted.

9. Granting of a hardship exemption does not relieve the tax payer of the burden of special assessments levied against the property. Special Assessments will still be due and payable.

10. The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the supervisor/assessor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption.

At a regular meeting of the Township of Montague, held at the Montague Township Hall 8915 Whitbeck Rd Montague Mi. on the 14th day of June 2022, the foregoing resolution was moved for adoption by Council Member Jay Goodrich . The motion was supported by Council Member Tracy Korthase

Ayes: Wes Weesies, Jeff King, Jay Goodrich, Jake Seaver, Tracy Korthase

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted

Wes Weesies , Township Clerk