



## News from Livingston County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **County Looks to Expand Staffing at Veterans Services, Continue Cold War Exemption Strengthens and Sustains Commitment to Those That Served**

Mt. Morris, NY.... In keeping with the long-standing tradition of honoring our county's Veteran population, recent actions by the Board of Supervisors aim to both continue a Veterans tax exemption and strengthen staffing at the county service office. Livingston County, home to 5,000 Veterans, operates the Veterans Services Office out of Building 7 on the historic Murray Hill Campus in Mount Morris.

Mr. Jason Skinner, Director of Livingston County Veterans Services, stated, "With new budget allocations, we will hire an office assistant for greeting Veterans and scheduling appointments. This will enable our current staff to conduct counseling visits within our office or at a claimant's home. We also plan on hiring another Veterans Services Officer to help maximize our services and become more mobile."

The added staff will also be devoted to outreach, education and dissemination of the continuing changes made by the VA at the Federal level. Keeping abreast of current laws and regulations affecting our local Veterans will allow the department to better service those in need.

An example of changing laws and regulations includes the Cold War Veterans exemption. The County first approved the Cold War exemption in 2008. Currently, 295 Veterans receive this exemption. The legislation as written in 2008 was restricted to Town & County taxes and had a 10 year limit. The County Board of Supervisors recently voted to hold a public hearing for a new local law to approve an extension of this exemption at their meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The public hearing and final vote will be held at the December 20<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting.

"The County makes a lot of hard decisions. One of the easier ones is to give back to those that gave so much for us and for the freedoms we enjoy, and that is through the provision of services to Veterans in our County. This expansion of staffing allows for more efficient service delivery for our Veteran population and the proposed continuation of the exemption is a small way of saying thank you to those Cold War Veterans for their dedication to our community and our country," said County Administrator Ian Coyle.

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