Town of Watson

Resolution No. 30 of 2026

CONCERNING THE EXEMPTION FOR VETERANS WHO ARE 100% PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED (RPTL §458-a(11)

Introduced by Jeffrey Hoch, Supervisor — Town of Watson

Whereas, the commitment to supporting those who have served is well understood and deeply respected, but the current structure and implementation of RPTL 458-a creates significant operational challenges for local governments; and

Whereas, the current law strains municipal assessment systems, creates inconsistencies in eligibility verification, and can cause unexpected budget shortfalls that require higher tax levies or cuts to essential services; and

Whereas, local assessing units must review extensive documentation, monitor eligibility, and maintain ongoing compliance without additional administrative support or funding; and

Whereas, the exemption reduces taxable assessed value and disproportionately shifts the tax burden to other property owners; and

Whereas, inconsistent interpretation and application among municipalities produce inequitable outcomes for applicants and taxpayers; and

Whereas, if the State considers this exemption a priority, it should provide reimbursement or aid to offset its adverse local impacts;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that policymakers are respectfully urged to review RPTL §458-a, with careful attention to its administrative feasibility and fiscal effects; and

Be it further resolved, that a revised approach—through clearer guidance, modernized verification, State-funded reimbursement, or a combination of these measures—should be adopted to uphold the law's intent while reducing undue burdens on local governments.

Motion made by Jeff Hoch and seconded by Jeff Lyng.

DULY ADOPTED, by the Town Board of the Town of Watson at its regular monthly meeting held on September 9, 2026, at which a quorum was present.

Michelle Ward

Michelle Ward, Town Clerk September 9, 2026