BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP

198 East Bear Lake Road, Kalkaska, Michigan 49646, Telephone: 231-258-4871
FAX: 231-258-0860 - www.bearlaketownship.org

HARDSHIP (POVERTY) EXEMPTION POLICY

Public Act 390 of 1994 was passed by the Michigan Legislature and signed by the Governor on December 29, 1994, and said Public Act makes significant changes to the poverty exemption policy found in MCL 211.7u, as amended.

Public Act 390 states that the governing body of the local assessing unit shall determine and make available to the public, the policy and guidelines the local assessing unit uses for granting hardship (Poverty) exemptions.

RESOLUTION # 1 OF 2026
Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test

WHEREAS the homestead of people who, in the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under the General Property Tax Act. A partial exemption shall be equal to either a 75%, 50% or 25% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted, or as approved by the State Tax Commission, any other reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted; and

WHREAS the township board is required by Section 7u of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893 (MCL 211.7u), to adopt guidelines for poverty exemptions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to MCL 211.7u, that Bear Lake Township, Kalkaska County, adopts the following guidelines for the supervisor and 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 board of review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all people residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year. Federal and state income tax returns are not required for a person residing in the principal residence if that person was not required to file a federal or state income tax return in the tax yar in which the exemption under this section is claimed or in the immediately preceding tax year. If a person was not required to file a federal or state income tax return in the tax year in which the exemption under this section is claimed or in the immediately preceding tax year, an affidavit in a form prescribed by the State Tax Commission may be accepted in place of the federal or state income tax return. The filing of a claim under this subsection constitutes an appearance before the board of review for the purpose of preserving the claimant's right to appeal the decision of the board of review regarding the claim.
3. Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested
4. Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested, if requested.
5. Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget and published annually by the State Tax Commission Bulletin.
6. Meet additional requirements as determined by the township board, including Maximum value of assets shall not exceed: $ 12,000.

ASSETS TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS MAXIMUM VALUE IS AS FOLLOWS:

A second home; land; vehicles; recreational vehicles (campers, motor homes, boats, ATV's, etc); buildings other than residences; jewelry; antiques; artwork; equipment; bank accounts; stocks; money received from the sale of property such as stocks, bonds, a house, or a car, unless a person is in the business of selling such property; withdrawals of bank deposits and borrowed money; tax refunds; gifts; loans; lump-sum inheritance; one-time insurance payments; food or housing received in lieu of wages and the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms; federal non-cash benefits such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps and school lunches; and any other personal property of value.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the board of review shall follow the above stated policy and guidelines in granting or denying an exemption.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member Dixon
Supported by Redmond.

Upon a roll call vote, the following voted:

Aye: Banker, Redmond, Dannenberg, Knight, Dixon
Nay:
Absent: None

The Supervisor declares the resolution was adopted.

BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP

George Banker

George Banker, Township Supervisor

I, Dawn Dannenburg, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Bear Lake Township hereby certify the foregoing resolution was adopted by the township board of said township at the regular meeting of said board held on 1/13/20 at which meeting a quorum was present by roll call vote of said members as herein set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

Dawn Dannenburg

Dawn Dannenburg, Township Clerk