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TOWN OF EVANS

Tax break for Cold War vets OK'd

By Steve Brachmann SOUTHTOWNS CORRESPONDENT Updated: 04/03/08 6:32 AM

Proposed tax exemptions for military veterans of the Cold War and senior citizens were adopted by the Evans Town Board on Wednesday night.

Those who served in the armed forces during the Cold War are entitled to a 10 percent property tax exemption per \$ 1,000 of assessed valuation.

Meanwhile, more senior citizens will be eligible for the same tax exemption with the raising of the annual income limit to \$23,000, from \$15,000.

Public hearings were held on both laws before the board adopted them.

Speaking in favor of the Cold War tax exemption was Anthony LaRusso, chairman of the Town of Evans Veterans Committee, who noted that veterans of other wars, including Vietnam and Korea, already enjoy this exemption.

Only one town resident, who was not at the meeting but forwarded a letter, opposed the tax exemptions.

No one spoke in favor of the change in the senior citizen tax exemption.

"They are two of our most valuable resources in this community," said Councilman Keith Dash, adding that both Cold War veterans and senior citizens have paid their dues to the community.

"It's the least that we can do, and really not enough," Supervisor Francis Pordum added.

After the meeting was adjourned, the board heard a presentation by regional activist Kevin Gaughan.

In his 21st stop in a countywide tour of municipalities, Gaughan asked the board to consider embracing his plan of reducing the size of government. Gaughan pointed to the number of Buffalo residents who have left the area



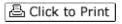
because of opportunities lost due to the cost of local government.

Asked if he could guarantee that his plan would improve the region's fortunes, Gaughan said, "I can't guarantee that, but I can guarantee that, without change, this death spiral will continue."

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