

# **WAWATAM TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION FOR PROPERTY TAX POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES**

**Adjusted to Federal Poverty Standards for 2024 assessments**

**JANUARY 9, 2024**

**WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the Township of Wawatam, Emmet County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but are not 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 Resolution to Adopt 2024 Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test**

**WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the Township of Wawatam, 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 the current or immediately preceding year:**

**RESOLUTION GUIDELINES: To be eligible for a Poverty Exemption? The applicant must:**

- 1. File Form 5737 Application for MCL. 211.7u Poverty Exemption.**
- 2. File Form 5739 Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty.**
- 3. Own and occupy the property as a principal residence. Provide federal and state income tax returns for the current or immediately preceding year, including any property tax credits, for all persons residing in the principal residence. (Disclosure of the income of an owner who is not residing in the principal residence is not required.) Federal and state income tax returns are required for a person residing in the principal residence if that person was not required to file a federal or state income tax return. Instead, Form 4988, Poverty Exemption Affidavit may be filed for all persons residing in the residence who were not required to file federal or state income tax returns in the current or immediately preceding year.**
- 4. Produce a valid drivers license or other form of identification, if requested.**
- 5. Produce a deed, land contract or other evidence of ownership of the property, if requested.**
- 6. Meet the income guidelines of this policy.**
- 7. Meet the asset level test of this policy.**

# WAWATAM TOWNSHIP

JANUARY 9, 2024

## Resolution to Adopt 2024 Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test

### Income Test

- **Total Annual Household Income shall not exceed the following amount applicable to the number of persons living in the household:**

<b>Number of Persons</b>	<b>Federal Poverty Income</b>	<b>Township Income Level (+20%)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>\$14,580</b>	<b>\$17,496</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>\$19,720</b>	<b>\$23,364</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>\$24,860</b>	<b>\$29,832</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$36,000</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>\$35,140</b>	<b>\$42,168</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>\$40,280</b>	<b>\$48,336</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>\$45,420</b>	<b>\$54,504</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>\$50,560</b>	<b>\$60,672</b>
<b>Each additional person</b>	<b>\$5,140</b>	<b>\$6,168</b>

- **Total Annual Household Income shall be based on Federal Poverty income Guidelines and will be adjusted annually to agree to the federal established amount.**

### **Potential income and asset sources are (non-inclusive):**

<b>Income from all sources</b>	<b>Interest and dividends</b>
<b>Salaries &amp; wages before deductions</b>	<b>Pensions</b>
<b>Net receipts from self-employment</b>	<b>Supplemental Security income</b>
<b>Veteran Payments</b>	<b>Net rental income</b>
<b>Royalties</b>	<b>Scholarships &amp; grants</b>
<b>Unemployment compensation</b>	<b>Insurance</b>

**Workers' compensation**

**Retirement accounts**

**Alimony**

**Child support**

**General assistance**

**IRA/Keogh annuities**

**Social Security**

**New or reverse mortgages**

**Cash**

**Stocks & bonds**

**Checking & Savings accounts**

**Investments**

**Money market accounts**

**Gifts**

**Assets in trust accounts**

**Deferred compensation**

### **Asset Test**

- 1. Things of value that a person can own and are exempt from consideration in determining eligibility for a poverty exemption.**
  - a. Applicant's principal residence**
  - b. One motor vehicle per working adult**
  - c. Essential household goods**
  - d. Personal assets of any nature with a total value up to \$15,000.**
- 2. Things of value that the Board of Review can consider in determining what percent exemption to grant:**
  - a. Real estate other than the principal residence**
  - b. Personal property**
  - c. Motor vehicles in excess of one per working adult**
  - d. Recreational vehicles and equipment**
  - e. Certificate of deposits, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, and retirement funds, etc.,**
- 3. The Board of Review shall consider the value of the assets, or indebtedness otherwise owned by the applicant. Assets (except those exempt from consideration as listed above, must not exceed \$15,000.**

### **Evaluation Procedures**

- 1. The Board of Review shall follow the above policy and guidelines when making poverty exemption decisions.**
- 2. The applicant should be prepared to answer questions regarding their financial affairs, health, status of people living in the household, and any other questions relevant to the exemption request.**
- 3. All information is subject to verification.**



**Granting full or partial poverty exemptions. MCL 211.7u(5) states that if a person claiming poverty exemption meets all eligibility requirements, the Board of Review shall grant the poverty exemption in whole or in part as follows:**

- a. A full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted: or**
- b. A partial exemption equal to a 50% reduction in taxable flue for the year in which the exemption is granted: or**
- c. A partial exemption equal to a 25% reduction in taxable value for the year in which the exemption is granted.**

**No other method of calculating taxable value may be utilized, except for those percentage reductions specifically authorized by statute.**

**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.**

**The foregoing resolution offered by Wawatam Township Board Member Roger Moore**

**Supported by Wawatam Township Board Member Roy Cole**

**Upon roll call vote, the following voted:**

**Aye: Roy Cole, Elaine Desy, Robert Desy, Meghan Michalak, Roger Moore**

**Nay: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Supervisor Roger Moore declared the resolution adopted.**

**I, Meghan Michalak, the duly appointed and Clerk of Wawatam Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the township board of said township at the regular meeting of said board held on January 9, 2024 at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth: that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.**

**Clerk Meghan Michalak**

**Date January 9, 2024**