

GUIDELINE RESOLUTION FOR POVERTY EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the Township Board; and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the 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

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the Township of Merritt, Bay County adopts the following guidelines for the 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 supervisor/assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year or a signed **State Tax Commission Form 5737 Poverty Exemption Affidavit and Form 5739 Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty**. (Claim may be file for March, July or December Board of Review)
- 3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed the current guidelines. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- 4) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
- 5) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.
- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

The following are the federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2024 Assessments

Size of Family Unit	Poverty Guidelines
1	\$14,850
2	\$19,720
3	\$24,860
4	\$30,000
5	\$35,140
6	\$40,280
7	\$45,240
8	\$50,560
For each additional person	\$5,140

Asset Test

The value of the property in excess of what is considered to be part of the original homestead shall be considered as asset.

Assets include, but are not limited to:

Real estate other than the principal residence, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposits, saving and checking accounts stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, ext. For purposes of this sections, the Board of Review shall consider the value of the assets and the assets shall not be reduced by any amount of indebtedness owed on such assets or indebtedness otherwise owed by applicant(s).

Assets excluding the original homestead shall not exceed \$5,000 for individual applicant and /or \$10,000 per household if more than one financial contributor.

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 Township Board Member Parrent
and supported by Township Board Member Lynch III

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

“Aye”: Kathy Parrent, Tina Fleischmann, Cindy Mead & Tom Lynch III

“Nay”: NONE

The Township Clerk declared the resolution Passed.

Kathy Parrent 12.12.23
Kathy Parrent, Clerk Date