

February 2, 2012

The Town Board of the Town of Warwick held a Public Hearing for the Warwick Inter-Municipal Transportation Service Fare Increase. Said public hearing was held on Thursday, February 2, 2012 at the Town Hall, 132 Kings Highway, Town of Warwick. Supervisor opened the public hearing at 7:38 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE: Supervisor Michael Sweeton
Councilman Floyd DeAngelo
Councilman Russell Kowal
Councilman James Gerstner
Councilman Mickey Shuback**

**Supervisor Public Transportation, Kurt Wickham
Town Attorney, John Hicks – Absent**

LEGAL NOTICE: The Clerk read the legal notice, which was duly published in the Warwick Valley Dispatch on January 25, 2012. (Copy of this legal notice is printed at the end of these minutes.)

Supervisor Sweeton – You read last year the various towns discontinuing their service for seniors and Dial-A-Bus riders due to financial issues. We’ve been very fortunate in the way we operate our system and I credit the previous manager of the system and the current manager of the system Kurt Wickam who is here this evening for tapping into all sorts of funding sources available for transportation systems. It’s a vital service for the Town of Warwick and its residents. I believe and you can give me the numbers but I think when we first started we had 4,000 riders a year and now we’re up to?

Kurt Wickham – Supervisor, Public Transportation – 3,000 a month.

Supervisor Sweeton – 3,000 a month. It’s wildly successful and it’s been a great bargain all these years and similar to the dog ordinance the rates haven’t changed since its inception. We think it’s a vital service and we want to continue it. Ours has managed again through good management through providing service to other municipalities we’ve been able to keep the cost to our taxpayers fairly constant over the course of the history of the system even though we’ve expanded the service tremendously and increased ridership and again that’s tribute to the way it’s managed. This will just make it an even more solid financial footing and I think it’s still the biggest bargain that you can get today to take a one way trip pretty much to most municipalities in the County of Orange for in this case either a dollar or two dollars one way. We think it’s a very great service and this should be a modest increase. I will open it to public comment at this point. Kurt do you have anything you want to add?

Kurt Wickham – No that was fine.

Councilman Shuback – I think a lot of this thanks should go to Mr. Sweeton for the work he’s done to keep this running. I’m sure the people can figure it out that you can’t even buy insurance for what it costs to run a vehicle. It will cost you three or four dollars a day to own a vehicle just in insurance much less use it. I think the people in this town should be very thankful for this service.

Supervisor Sweeton – What’s nice about this service is you can’t go more then a few days without finding someone who does use it and actually uses it as a lifeline. Many of our seniors don’t have vehicles or can’t drive anymore and this is their avenue to get out and around and enjoy our community, so we’re really happy about keeping the service going. We will not entertain that increase tonight. We’ll keep public comment open for 10 days and then we will entertain the motion increase at the February 16th meeting.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Motion Councilman DeAngelo, seconded Councilman Gerstner that the public hearing be closed. Motion Carried (5 ayes, 0 nays) 7:41 p.m.
02-02-12**

Carolyn Purta, Deputy Town Clerk