

November 7, 2013

The Town Board of the Town of Warwick held a Public Hearing for the 2014 Special Districts Budget and the 2014 Preliminary Budget. Said public hearing was held on Thursday, November 7, 2013 at the Town Hall, 132 Kings Highway, Town of Warwick. Supervisor Sweeton opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

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

Stephen Brown, Auditor

LEGAL NOTICE: The Clerk read the legal notice, which was duly published in the Warwick Valley Dispatch on October 30, 2013.
(Copy of this legal notice is printed at the end of these minutes.)

Supervisor Sweeton – This is a budget hearing this evening on the preliminary budget which I delivered to the Town Board. The special districts again are districts that only affect those residents living in those districts so if you don't live in the Wickham Water District you don't get charged for that district. We have six water districts now and we have two sewer districts; the Fairgrounds that serves the commercial area on 94 and the main sewer district #1 which serves Wickham Village, Kings Estates, Wickham Knolls, Ridge Homes and Mid Orange Correctional Facility. We have a couple of small lighting districts; one in Kings Estates and the Pine Island area. It does include the Ambulance Corps that provides a service to our Town in Greenwood Lake, Pine Island and Warwick. Then on our budget are included the Fire District budgets even though we do not control those budgets. Those budgets are voted on separately by the Commissioners of the fire district and we simply include them in our budget and pass those through on our new tax bill to you. The preliminary budget that I delivered to the Town Board this evening does stay under the state tax cap. For village residents if you live in a village the portion of your town tax that you will pay to us will be \$6.77 per thousand of assessed value verses \$6.94 last year, so there's a decrease for village residents of \$.16 per thousand roughly. That equates to about for the average home to an \$8.00 decrease on their town tax bill for a village resident. The average house in the village would pay to the town about \$330.00 in taxes. For town residents the rate will be \$18.36 per thousand of assessed value verses \$18.03 so it's a slight increase of \$.33 per thousand or approximately \$16.40 additional for the average house. The average tax bill for a town resident for their town services are about \$918.00 for the average assessed house, so it will see a slight increase of \$16.00. We've done a fairly good job and I say we included all of the management here as

well as the employees in keeping the costs under control once again. I want to thank the employees and the management staff for the job they do for the department heads as well, elected and appointed. Because we have been able to stabilize our budget since the financial crisis of 2007 and 2008 this year through that prudent management we've been able to put in some additional dollars for road work, approximately \$100,000 more for additional roadwork this year. Also additional money to update technology components of our police department so those are the two areas where we've increased spending. Our spending is still at the 2009 level so that's not bad in considering this is 2013 and we've been able to keep it under control. 75% of our costs are payroll and fringed benefit costs and while we've been able to keep through some well negotiated contracts the payroll portion of that fairly stable fringes in New York State continue to climb and that's health costs and retirement costs that are dictated by the State of New York. That is all I really have in the way of introduction to the budget so I will open it for any public questions or comments on the budget.

Tom Lattore – Resident, Town of Warwick, NY 10990 – I want to commend you on a good budget, 2%. Even though this budget deals with a very small amount it just scares me that it's recorded in the Warwick Advertiser that I know the village rate for village residents paying the town tax goes down and the town taxpayers it goes up. Even though it's a small amount it scares me that we might be starting a trend where when it's a larger amount is a larger tax burden unfairly placed on town residents if we get into a trend of reducing the tax rate for village residents?

Supervisor Sweeton – Village residents can only be charged for services that they don't provide themselves. We can't charge them for highway services with an exception of a few things like equipment. They share in the cost of equipment, everybody does, but for plowing and all those expenses associated with highway we can not charge them by state law. It just happened that the components of the portion that they pay didn't have as great effect, because our revenues were up a little bit which we budgeted for; that's why their rate went down. We didn't officially try to drive it down it was just the way because of the components that they are forced to pay worked out.

Tom Lattore – I was just curious. I was able to pick up a budget from Mrs. Quackenbush and I was hoping that there was something broke down what the village pays for. Did I miss that? Is it in here somewhere?

Supervisor Sweeton - The village shares in what's called the A fund so you should have on that budget the A fund charges. That's what they share in. They can not share in the B fund, so in other words we have three villages and the Village of Florida and the Village of Greenwood Lake have their own police departments so they can't pay for police. The Village of Warwick residents through a contract with us and because they dissolved their police do share in our police costs. If you live in the Village of Warwick you have an additional line on your budget for police services and that's for additional service that they only pay so you as a town

resident on Ketchum Road you just pay for the overall. I guess it's not a good example because you don't live in a village that has police. Do you understand what I mean? If you're looking for what village residents pay it's in the A fund.

Tom Lattore – Ok, thank you very much.

Supervisor Sweeton – You're very welcome. Thanks for coming tonight.

Paula Cornine – Resident, Town of Warwick, NY 10990 – You said the fringe percentage is held in retirement for employees.

Supervisor Sweeton – It's the New York State Retirement System and the health plan that's the Empire Plan here in New York NYSHIP.

Paula Cornine - For Warwick employees?

Supervisor Sweeton – For the Town Employees, correct.

Paula Cornine – Ok.

Steven Brown – Auditor, Town of Warwick - Plus statutory social security taxes and workmen's compensation.

Supervisor Sweeton – It's all of that, not just health but its health and retirement that are the ones that are cost drivers. The other fringes are there but they have not historically risen as much as the health and retirement.

Paula Cornine - What's the yellow one for, the other?

Supervisor Sweeton – That's the cost of all the other services of government that we provide so it would be equipment, the cost of running the buildings, the offices, those kind of things.

Councilman Gerstner – I want to thank you for another good job.

Supervisor Sweeton – I want to thank Steve Brown our financial advisor who helped me put this together, I appreciate that very much. Again, I want to thank the departments, the employees who do work hard to continue to deliver the services in tighter budgets every year; I appreciate their work.

Councilman Shuback – Personally I think it's the management that's doing a good Job and the Supervisor.

Supervisor Sweeton – It's a team for sure.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Motion Councilman Shuback, seconded Councilman Gerstner that the public hearing be closed. Motion Carried (5 ayes, 0 nays) 7:25 p.m. 11-07-13 CP.

Marjorie Quackenbush, Town Clerk