

November 8, 2012

The Town Board of the Town of Warwick held a Public Hearing for the 2013 Preliminary Budget. Said public hearing was held on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at the Town Hall, 132 Kings Highway, Town of Warwick. Supervisor Sweeton opened the public hearing at 7:23 p.m.

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

Stephen Brown, Auditor
Town Attorney, John Hicks

LEGAL NOTICE: The Clerk read the legal notice, which was duly published in the Warwick Valley Dispatch on October 31, 2012. (Copy of this legal notice is printed at the end of these minutes.)

Supervisor Sweeton – I will note that those published elected salaries are the same as last year and I believe two or three years prior to that. We've successfully put together a budget that comes in at 1.63% which is under the 2% tax levy cap instituted by the State. I'm grateful for the work that was done by the Board, by our budget advisor Steve Brown, and by the department heads that we conferred with as we put this budget together. Town residents outside the village, so if you live in the town outside the village you'll pay on average on an average home \$4.43 more than you paid last year, certainly a modest increase. Village residents for their town tax bill will pay on an average \$11.66 more than last year for the average home, so again a fairly modest increase. I want to thank all of the department heads, the elected and appointed officials who continue to tighten their belts and who have become very creative providing outstanding service more efficiently and economically. I especially want to thank our CSEA Local for their spirit of cooperation and shared sacrifice in concluding a reasonable contract with the town that allowed us to bring this budget in under the state 2% tax cap. Some notes of interest in the budget, I did hand out to the press some graphics I'd like the public to be aware of the fact that expenses are less this year than they were in 2008 and only modestly higher than they were last year. All of those expense increases are coming primarily from fringe benefits health increases and pension cost increases both mandated by the State of New York. You can see that pretty clearly on the second page of the handout which shows you that our payroll costs are down, but our fringe costs are up from 2008 to 2013 they're up by almost \$900,000. Costs that we do not control and the State of New York fails year after year to address. Our debt services are flat and our other items which would be our contractual items in the budget hard costs supplies and equipment is less also than previous years. We've done a fairly good job in keeping those on a downward trend which is what

we know we need to do. You can see again the total spending is pretty flat. It continues to trend down in the general government and the highway, it is up somewhat in the police and that is all again a direct result of fringe benefit cost. The Police Department is no larger than it was 20 years ago and yet it's busier than it was 20 years ago, so they continue to do good things with a controlled budget as does the Highway who continue to keep our roads in good shape, keeps them open in storms and they do it very efficiently and very economically. That's all I have on the budget and I will open it up to the Board for any comments or questions they have on it.

Councilman Gerstner – I would like to also thank the Board, yourself and Steve for working so hard to get this down from where it was because when this first started it was ugly and everybody did a great job again.

Supervisor Sweeton – Thank you I appreciate that.

Councilman DeAngelo – Thank you for your hard work.

Supervisor Sweeton – I will open it up to the public now for any questions on the budget. Once we close the hearing the budget can be reduced further but can't be increased and at this point it stands at 1.63% and it's probably where it will remain.

Councilman Shuback – You're spending less in the highway going down from 27 and you're going to have a day of reckoning when these roads are going to be in bad shape. We have to start doing something in the foreseeable future to improve these roads and it could come back to bite us back really bad.

Supervisor Sweeton – Well let's pray for a recovery in the economy then Councilman and we'll see what we can do. I want to thank again Steve Brown for his hard work on helping me get this together, so thank you Steve.

There were no public comments for or against this public hearing.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Motion Councilman DeAngelo, seconded Councilman Gerstner that the public hearing be closed. Motion Carried (5 ayes, 0 nays) 7:30 p.m. 11-08-12

Marjorie Quackenbush, Town Clerk