

November 6, 2014

The Town Board of the Town of Warwick held a Public Hearing for the 2015 Special Districts Budget. Said public hearing was held on Thursday, November 6, 2014 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
Attorney for the Town, Jay Myrow

LEGAL NOTICE: The Clerk read the legal notice, which was duly published in the Warwick Valley Dispatch on October 29, 2014.
(Copy of this legal notice is printed at the end of these minutes.)

Supervisor Sweeton – The special district portion of the budget is generally items that are fixed and I will just go through them. The Clerk read the ones that the town controls which are the water and sewer districts. We have a new water district which is the former Mid-Orange Correctional Facility District and that was created this year and users will be added to that district to bear the cost. Special districts are districts that only benefit those served by the district, so general town residents do not pay those costs unless you live within one of the districts. It's all of the water and sewer districts and all of those were generally flat, zero or slightly less than last year's budget. We have no issues with those and they are run very well. We have an independent contractor, Environmental Consultants, that manages our water and sewer systems. The other portions of that district that come to us as a budget request are the ambulance districts and they submit a budget. We have the Warwick Ambulance District, Pine Island Ambulance District, the Greenwood Lake Ambulance District, and we newly created a Florida Ambulance District because the Florida Fire Department had notified us back in July that they no longer intended to provide ambulance service to their residents. The Town Board took action and created a mechanism by which residents of the district in that area of our town would be able to be served by an ambulance. Now Warwick Ambulance submitted a budget to us to provide that service. Initially in conversations with the State Controllers Office we were under the impression that we would get a credit for that transfer but when the Florida Fire District put their budget together they didn't reduce their budget by the same amount as was being proposed by Warwick Ambulance to provide the service. We have been in conversations with the Controllers Office, we've asked Warwick Ambulance to reduce their budget request, which they have and it now stands at about \$65,000. The controllers office had a meeting with the fire district and they have adjusted their budget but the

controller has to verify in fact that that's the cost, so we will not be able to make a decision on the special district budget this evening and we didn't intend to in any event, but that question still remains. If we can't come to an agreement if the controllers office does not grant a cap waiver for that portion of the budget we would not be able to engage Warwick Ambulance for that service as they have suggested it. There may have to be alternatives looked at as to how to provide ambulance service in the Florida area. We're hopeful that the controller's office will see in fact that our number is very, very competitive. We believe the intent of the transfer is to make the residents that will bear the cost come out of it neutral so in other words their fire budget will go down by the amount that the ambulance district cost goes up, so they will see no net increase. We believe that the controller's office agrees with that then we will have the ability to provide the service and we won't know that for a week or so. The other portions of the special districts are the fire districts and we do not control their budget. They have elected commissioners who approve a budget and just simply submit it to us and it gets attached to our budget. That's the special districts and I will open for public comment on any special district charge.

There were no comments for or against this public hearing from the Town Board or the public.

Supervisor Sweeton – The hearing on the special district budget will remain open until November 20, 2014 which is the last day to adopt the budget under New York State Law.

ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING: Motion Councilman Shuback, seconded Councilman Gerstner that the public hearing be adjourned. Motion Carried (5 ayes, 0 nays) 7:15 p.m. 11-06-14 CP.

Marjorie Quackenbush, Town Clerk