

November 12, 2009

The Town Board of the Town of Warwick held a Continuation of a Public Hearing for the Special Districts for the 2010 Budget. Said public hearing was held on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at the Town Hall, 132 Kings Highway, Town of Warwick. Supervisor Sweeton opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Supervisor Michael Sweeton
Councilman Floyd DeAngelo
Councilman Leonard DeBuck
Councilman James Gerstner – Absent
Councilman Mickey Shuback

Stephen Brown, Auditor
Town Attorney, John Hicks

Supervisor Sweeton – Thank you very much for coming out. This is a continued public hearing on the budget. We opened the budget process on November 5th during the day and we are continuing it this evening.

LEGAL NOTICE: The Clerk read the legal notice, which was duly published in the Warwick Valley Dispatch on October 28, 2009. (Copy of this legal notice is printed at the end of these minutes.)

Supervisor Sweeton – For those who don't know special district taxes; they are just that. They are for those individual areas that are served by those services. All of the ones that are in the Towns control, such as the water, sewer districts and the Kings Park district. These are all essentially flat. The recycling dollar amount to be raised is up slightly, but so are the number of households being served, so the rate that people see should be the same as last year. The other special districts consist primarily of the three ambulance districts by which we contract for service with Warwick, Greenwood Lake and Pine Island. Those budgets are up in the case of Warwick and Pine Island. Greenwood Lakes is flat. Warwick's district is up primarily due to their switch in their service award program. They had to make an additional contribution, so that's the difference in their budget. The other four districts would be the fire districts and we do not control their budgets. They present it to us and we pass it onto the taxpayers. The budgets in those four districts Pine Island is up a little bit primarily due to the construction of their new fire house. Florida Fire District is up slightly, about \$10,000. Warwick Fire District #1, which is the Warwick Fire Department, is up \$50,000 and the Greenwood Lake Fire District is up \$47,000 again primarily because they instituted a service award program this year and now they have to fund it. The service award program is designed to encourage more volunteers to stay in the service longer. All of the data that New York State has published is if municipalities have paid fire departments that the costs would be significantly higher than any of these service award

programs. It's a way to encourage volunteerism on a long term basis in those services and I would say the Town of Warwick is blessed by active volunteerism in all of the ambulance corps and fire departments that we have, so we do thank them for that.

Councilman Shuback – I would like to make a point on that service award. You have to be a member for 20 years to get it. The age has to be over 65 and earn 50 points in drills, fires and any activities.

Supervisor Sweeton – You don't just get it if you're a fireman. You have to earn those points every year.

Councilman Shuback – Only 40 or 50% of the firemen end up getting it.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Motion Councilman Shuback, seconded Councilman DeBuck that the public hearing be closed. Motion Carried (4 ayes, 0 nays & 1 absent Councilman Gerstner absent) 7:15 p.m.
11-12-09 cp.**

Marjorie Quackenbush, Town Clerk