

November 7, 2024

The Town Board of the Town of Warwick held a Public Hearing for the 2025 Preliminary Budget and the 2025 Special Districts Budget. Said public hearing was held on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at the Town Hall, 132 Kings Highway, Town of Warwick. Supervisor Dwyer opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Supervisor Jesse Dwyer  
Councilman Floyd DeAngelo  
Councilman Russell Kowal  
Councilman Kevin Shuback – Absent  
Councilman Thomas Mattingly

Stephen Brown, Auditor – Absent  
Attorney for the Town, John Buckheit

**LEGAL NOTICE:** The Clerk read the legal notice, which was duly published in the Warwick Valley Dispatch on October 30, 2024. (Copy of this legal notice is printed at the end of these minutes.)

**SUPERVISOR DWYER** – Thank you very much for reading all of that. Okay. First and foremost, I would like to thank the Town Board, and all of our staff members and department heads that helped contribute to putting together a very responsible budget.

The overview and summary of the budget will be read by me, but as the Clerk mentioned, it has been available both in the Clerk's office as well as online and throughout the entire town at public libraries, municipal buildings, etc. The proposed tax rate townwide in the A Fund for 2025 will be \$7.37. This is an increase of \$0.28 per thousand, or roughly \$13.94 increase for the average home on their tax bill. This equals a 3.93% increase.

In the B Fund, which is the town outside portion, the tax rate will be \$17.00 per thousand, which is an increase of \$0.80 per thousand, and this is roughly a 4.94% increase. Combined, which is paid by residents outside of the villages, will be \$24.30 per thousand. This is an increase of approximately \$1.08. The average increase per household will be \$53.98 per year, or roughly \$4.50 per month. This is a total tax rate increase of 4.63%.

The challenges we face this year, first and foremost, facing a tax cap of 2%, health insurance costs, as well as fringe benefit increases alone, forced us to increase and exceed the tax cap. Inflation costs and the cost of goods and services have increased nearly 20% over the last four years. We had a substantial Dial-a-Bus revenue loss as a result of post-COVID federal funding, and there was a budget gap of roughly \$250,000 from the years 23 through 24, which we made up in the year 2025 budget.

The Town Board took a different approach to utilizing our fund balance, where we found it was most responsible to reduce the allocation of fund balance, which is essentially our savings account. The A fund has a usage obligation of \$765,000 this year, which is a reduction of

\$60,000 year over year. The B fund usage is down \$25,000, which will be \$650,000 from \$675,000 the year before.

Working with our department heads and the Town Board, we worked very hard to find increased sources of revenue to offset the cost of our taxpayers that they have to contribute toward the bill, and these sources of revenue are coming from film permits, a policy change that the Town Board has adopted, short-term rental fines, tenant rentals, Mountain Lake Park events, a new cell tower, which is going to be located on the tech property, and I've recently come into conversation with another cell tower company that will look to pay additional rents, interests on our investments, as well as other adjustments.

The 2025 highlighted services that we plan with not only this budget, but also opportunities we've received from grants that will save us taxpayer dollars. We intend to begin the Jayne Street Bridge design and replacement project in 2025.

We've allocated more than \$1.5 million in parks upgrades, the redevelopment of a town-wide park master plan, infrastructure improvements including paving software and mapping, nearly \$900,000 in paving and road work planned, more than \$6 million for bridge and culvert replacements town-wide. We will be initiating a grant writing service company that will be shared with the three villages within the Town of Warwick. We have public safety technology enhancements within the Police Department, upgraded building department technology, which will improve efficiency and public access.

We have set aside reserve funds for anticipated recycling challenges, which will be coming up in 2026. We intend to begin the Pine Island Water Rehabilitation Project and the Wickham Sewer Rehabilitation Project. We have increased funds and services for Dial-A-Bus, which serves mostly seniors and disabled residents.

We increased youth funding town-wide. We'll begin the lead service line project implementation town-wide, and we'll also continue meeting the MS-4 stormwater compliance mandates. And finally, the Town Board and I have all agreed to taking a 0% pay increase year over year.

This budget reduces the town's reliance on using our savings account to balance the budget and enhances every aspect of quality-of-life measures for all our residents across the Town of Warwick. This public hearing will be obviously open to the public, but we intend to keep the public hearing open until our November 14th Town Board Meeting. Any public comment that wishes to be heard by the town board, you can send it to [clerk@townofwarwick.org](mailto:clerk@townofwarwick.org), and not only will the Town Board receive and consider that information, but it will also be made public.

At this time, I'll open it up to the board for any comment before we go to the public. No comments from the board? Open it up to the public. Anyone? Okay.

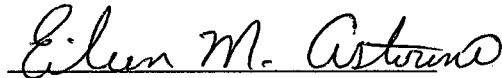
We're not closing this public hearing. Again, the public hearing will continue until the November 14th Town Board Meeting where we will review any public comment that is received, and then the board may consider adopting this budget for the year 2025.

The next meeting will be November 14th. The workshop will be at 6 p.m. right here. It's always open to the public, and our Town Board Meeting and the continuation of this public hearing will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.

Thank you very much for everybody who joined us.

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

**ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING:** Motion Councilman DeAngelo, seconded Councilman Mattingly that the public hearing be adjourned until the November 14<sup>th</sup> Town Board Meeting. Motion Carried (4 ayes, 0 nays & 1 absent – Councilman Shuback absent)  
6:10 p.m.  
11-07-24 CP

  
Eileen Astorino, Town Clerk

## LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the preliminary budget of the Town of Warwick for fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, will be completed and be on file on October 30, 2024, in the following locations where it will be available for inspection by any interested person at all reasonable hours:

1. Office of the Town Clerk, 132 Kings Highway, Town of Warwick,
2. Town of Warwick Website, [townofwarwick.org](http://townofwarwick.org)
3. New York Florida Village Hall, 33 S. Main St., Village of Florida, New York
4. Albert Wisner Public Library, One McFarland Dr., Village of Warwick, New York
5. Greenwood Lake Public Library, Waterstone Road, Village of Greenwood Lake, New York
6. Pine Island Post Office, 665 County Rt. 1, Pine Island, New York

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Warwick, will meet and review the preliminary budget and hold a public hearing thereon at the Town Hall, 132 Kings Highway, Warwick, New York, on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard in favor or against the preliminary budget as compiled or for or against any item or items therein contained.

PURSUANT TO SECTION 112 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the following elected officers are hereby specified as follows:

SUPERVISOR	\$80,000.00
TOWN CLERK	\$67,016.25
RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICER	\$4,150.00
COUNCILPERSONS (4)	\$12,250.00 Each
RECEIVER OF TAXES	\$46,660.00
JUSTICES (2)	\$30,000.00 Each

DATED: 10/30/24

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF  
THE TOWN OF WARWICK  
Eileen Astorino, Town Clerk

## **LEGAL NOTICE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Town Board of the Town of Warwick, Orange County, New York, has completed the Assessment Roll for the purpose of raising funds for the operation and maintenance of the following Special Districts of the Town of Warwick:

- 1. Wickham Village Water District**
- 2. Eurich Heights Water District**
- 3. Bellvale Park Water District**
- 4. West Side Greenwood Lake Water District**
- 5. Pine Island Water District**
- 6. WVOTCP Water District**
- 7. Hillside Water District**
- 8. Warwick Fairgrounds Water District**
- 9. WVOTCP Lighting District**
- 10. Warwick Sewer District #1**
- 11. Warwick Sewer District #2 (Fairgrounds)**
- 12. Garbage District**
- 13. Warwick Ambulance District #1 (Warwick)**
- 14. Warwick Ambulance District #2 (Greenwood Lake)**
- 15. Warwick Ambulance District #3 (Pine Island)**
- 16. Warwick Ambulance District #4 (Florida)**
- 17. Kings Estates Park District**

That the Town Board has completed the Assessment Roll for the purpose of paying the cost of electricity for the lighting system in the Pine Island Lighting District and the Kings Estates Lighting District and that said Assessment Roll is on file in the Office of the Assessor at the Town Hall and that the Town Board will meet at the Town Hall, 132 Kings Highway, Town of Warwick, Orange County, New York on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard for the purpose of hearing and considering any objections which may be made to said Assessment Roll.

**DATED: 10/30/24**

**BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF  
THE TOWN OF WARWICK  
Eileen Astorino, Town Clerk**