

November 4, 2021

The Town Board of the Town of Warwick held a Public Hearing for the 2022 Preliminary Budget. Said public hearing was held on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at the Town Hall, 132 Kings Highway, Town of Warwick. Supervisor Sweeton opened the public hearing at 7:13 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 27, 2021. (Copy of this legal notice is printed at the end of these minutes.)

Supervisor Sweeton – before I open it for public comment, I will just run down some of the highlights of the general budget for 2022. The total budget for 2022 and we are talking about the main components which are the town wide lines and the town outside lines which includes the Police Department, that total is about \$21,554,642. The Special Districts which we just had the hearing on totals about \$8,742,614 which includes fire district budgets in our budget even though we don't set those, the fire districts do themselves we include them in our budget and the total budget is about \$30,297,256. For residents that aren't aware the town budget is comprised of what we call town wide and then the town outside village amount, so if you're a town resident you pay the total cost of the budget and if you're a village resident that gets services from a village that we would duplicate you don't pay for the duplication of services you're paying the village for those services. When we look at that, that's how we break the budget down and for the town wide line we are looking at an increase this year of about 1% and that equates for the average assessed value home in the Town of Warwick and if you're in a village your portion of that would be \$3.65 per household, so a very modest amount. For the town residents where you are paying for all of the services of the town you are still looking at a 1% increase and you are looking at about \$11 or \$12 increase for your town tax bill coming this January. We think that is a fairly reasonable number for what we were able to do on the budget. I want to go over for the Board just a few of the highlights that you're obviously aware of because you helped craft this budget, but for the public's information we will go through a little bit of it. Comparing last year to this year what we call the A fund which is paid by every resident, is up about 1.5% this is expenses and we've offset some of that with revenue and we'll talk about that in a minute. The B Fund is not paid by all village residents actually decreased by .07% so it's flat. The police portion of the budget is up about 3% and the highway funds which a portion of it is paid by everybody which includes equipment by the way. Expenditure wise it's up about 10% and the bulk of that being equipment not salaries because we're actually flat on salaries because of new hires verses retirees. The outside

budget for the highway department is down again, its flat 6% down, so that's one of the highlights and just again for residents general information the A Fund that every resident pays includes the Supervisor's Office, the Justice Court, Auditors, the Tax Collector, the Assessor, Town Clerk, Town Attorney, the Maintenance of the Town Facility, our Central Garage, our Central Communications, Central Data Processing, Records Management, Insurance, Control of Dogs, which we pay the Warwick Valley Humane Society by law, Traffic Signs & Striping of Roads, Highway Department Administration, our Dial-A-Bus System which is a robust system, SNAP Delivery which are meals delivered to those in need, we do contribute to the Veterans Organizations to offset some of their heating costs, Programs for the Aging our 6 or 7 Senior Clubs in the Town, our Parks Department which is open to all residents, Town Recreation Program, Community Center we support the Doc Fry Center, Town Historian, we are also obligated to contract and support the Wallkill Drainage District, we are 1 of 5 towns that contributes to the maintenance of the Wallkill River to help our farm community, the Greenwood Lake Bistate Commission that Councilman DeAngelo is a co-chair of, Our Shade Tree Commission and Cemeteries. Under New York State Law if a cemetery is abandoned the town has the responsibility to maintain it and we do maintain a few and pay that cost. The B Fund which is not paid by Village Residents because they get those services through their villages includes Planning, and Zoning Attorneys, Engineers, Central Data Processing, Building Department, Vital Statistics, Street Lights, Planning and Zoning Boards, Youth Programs with the villages, so in other words we contribute a share to Florida, Greenwood Lake and Warwick's Recreation Program and we don't charge Village Residents for that because they pay a share through their village taxes. This gives people a sense of what their tax dollars are going to. I will make note that budget by fund the largest budget in the town is the Police Department, policing is not inexpensive but we have a great safe community and it's due in great part from our dedicated Police Department. The next biggest fund for the town is highway obviously, we have 200 miles of road and we're the largest town in Orange County. There's a lot of roads to maintain, to plow and resurface so it's a fair percentage. If you look at percentage the Police is about 43% of the towns budget, highway combined would be about 24% and the rest of town government equates to about 28% of the budget and that's really the highlights. This year we were able to purchase upfront several pieces of highway equipment that we needed in the department to take care of some older equipment. We also were able to supply our Police Department with some vehicles to try and modernize our fleet a little bit, so we were pleased to do that. Also, some other equipment that the police need to do their job in this modern world and that is really it. We kept our recreation contributions flat; we kept our senior funding flat, all of the departments except for all of those added things we wanted to do like a little bit more roadwork, equipment for the police, equipment for DPW were all essentially flat for operating expensive which is a great thing. The amount we needed to raise from taxes we were able to offset by a little bit of sales tax revenue, so again for the public's information the source of revenue for the town is primarily property tax, but we get two other sources. One is sales tax which the county shares with us and while they were telling us that projections for sales tax conservatively should be up 3% it looks like its higher than that, but we wanted to be very conservative in our funding for that, so we did not budget 3% increase in sales tax. Mortgage tax which obviously with the post Covid exodus from


urban areas like New York City that's created a really hot real estate market has benefitted the town by generating a fair amount of mortgage tax which the state gives us a portion of. That will help us for the future years in keeping the tax rate moderate, which is what we are trying to do. We are under the cap and well under the cap with 1% and the cap this year is about 2+% and I think we've done a very good job trying to meet the needs of the departments to provide the services and yet deliver a budget for the public that I think is reasonable, responsible and one that will benefit us going forward. We've got some recreational things we pledged a little money to do. We know the Kutz Camp project is high on our radar for next year getting that open and to work on it in earnest this winter and we look forward to that. The Corporate Park coming on line will also benefit us, those properties out there have never paid taxes before and those taxes are now being generated, job opportunities, activities from people coming there and spending money is going to be a help for us going forward as we try to keep expenses down. I will ask the Board if they have any comments on the budget at this time. Steve did you have anything that I missed that you wanted?

Stephen Brown – Auditor - No, I think you did a good job.

Supervisor Sweeton – Ok, thank you. I will open it up to the public for any comments on the budget that's proposed. I don't see any public comment so we appreciate that hopefully the public recognizes a reasonable and responsible budget and we look to take action on that at our next meeting.

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

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:** Motion Councilman DeAngelo, seconded Councilman Gerstner that the public hearing be closed. Motion Carried (5 ayes, 0 nays) 7:25 p.m.  
11-04-21 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, 2022, will be completed and be on file on October 28, 2021, 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
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 4, 2021 at 7:00 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:

<b>SUPERVISOR</b>	<b>\$68,000.00</b>
<b>TOWN CLERK</b>	<b>\$61,157.00</b>
<b>RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICER</b>	<b>\$2,871.00</b>
<b>COUNCILPERSONS (4)</b>	<b>\$12,000.00 Each</b>
<b>RECEIVER OF TAXES</b>	<b>\$44,198.00</b>
<b>JUSTICES (2)</b>	<b>\$28,750.00 Each</b>

**DATED: 10/27/21**

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