

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF PLACING AN ADDITIONAL TAX
LINE ITEM ON THE TOWN/COUNTY TAX BILL TO FUND AMBULANCE
SERVICES WITHIN THE TOWN OF FORESTPORT**

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 @ 6:30PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilwoman Kardash
Councilwoman Abrial
Councilman Scouten
Supervisor Entwistle
Town Clerk, Tracy Terry

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilman Scott

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Entwistle at 6:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLIENGENCE:

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

LEGAL NOTICE:

Supervisor Entwistle read the legal notice.

COMMENTS:

Supervisor Entwistle gave a recap of the last Public Meeting regarding Ambulance services. STaR Ambulance's revenue is around \$130,000, which includes fundraising. If STaR Ambulance were to go bankrupt, the lower 2/3's of Forestport (Lone Pine Drive South) will be without an Ambulance Service. Boonville will provide mutual aid, but they do not have a certificate of need for Forestport. There's a possibility of claiming an additional tax to fund both services properly.

Currently, if the Board decided to do this, there is a total funding of both ambulances of \$75,000 a year. Below is an example of the projected breakdown ; as numbers are not set in stone and it has not been voted on.

<u>Ambulance</u>	<u>% of Calls</u>	<u># of Calls</u>	<u>Total</u>
STaR	Approx. 70%	Approx. 120	\$52,500
Old Forge	Approx. 30%	Approx. 35-40	\$22,500

Forestport is the only Town Contributing to two Ambulances. The other three Towns are only contributing to STaR Ambulance.

A gentleman from the Gallery asked what the assessment is compared to the other Towns. It was answered:

Contribution to STaR: Trenton: \$75,000 Remsen: \$37,500 Steuben: \$17,500

Cents Per 1,000: Trenton: .37 Remsen: .50 Steuben: .26

Equalization Rates: Forestport: 83 Trenton: 60 Remsen: 50 Steuben: 100

Year Round Population (Approximate):

Forestport: 1,535 Trenton: 4,500 Remsen: 1,900 Steuben: 1,100

Square Miles: Forestport has the largest square miles at around 79. The other three Towns are around 40.

of Parcels(approximate) :

Forestport: 3,465 Trenton: 2,500 Remsen: 1,500 Steuben: 800

Assessed Value:

Forestport- 291 million. Trenton is within 1 million of Forestport

Remsen- 79 million Steuben: 67 million

% of STaR Ambulance Calls:

Forestport: 15% Trenton: 40% Remsen: 22 % Steuben:5%

The Remaining calls are from other Towns.

Supervisor Entwistle stated the Town Board does not want to increase taxes, however the Town cannot afford to not raise taxes. He would like to add it as a Fire/Safety on the taxes. Bob, from the Gallery asked if it was going to be a separate line item than the Fire Department. Supervisor Entwistle said it wouldn't take away from the Fire Department. Bob stated he is not particularly fond of that. It's being presented as a package as percentages and he thinks it should be separate.

Supervisor Entwistle suggested everyone going to the Budget Workshop Meetings on September 28th and October 5th. September 28th, the Board will be going over General, Water and Sewer. October 5th will be Highway. There is very limited public comment. At the October Town Board Meeting the Budget is presented to the public. In November, the Budget is approved and adopted and the Budget is available on the Website and available in the Town Clerk's Office.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Councilwoman Abrial to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the hearing was adjourned by Supervisor Entwistle at 7:20 PM. Roll Call Vote:

Councilwoman Kardash-yes
Councilwoman Abrial-yes
Councilman Scott-absent
Councilman Scouten-yes
Supervisor Entwistle-yes

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy M. Terry
Forestport Town Clerk