

HORICON TOWN BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED HORICON AMBULANCE DISTRICT
AUGUST 4, 2022 AT 6:00 PM

Present at meeting:	Michael Geraci	Supervisor
	Robert Olson	Councilman
	Peter Palmer	Councilman
	Krista Wood	Town Clerk
Absent:	Frank Hill	Councilman
	Rob Hill	Councilman

Also in attendance: Bob and Sylvia Smith, Nancy Jefts, Rob Smith, Ed Sim, Craig Leggett, Assessor Christine Hayes, Janet Early, Jim and Sarah Hayes, and Izzy and Kathleen Modert.

Supervisor Geraci opened the meeting at 6:00 pm and asked for a motion to open the public hearing. Motion made by Councilman Olson, seconded by Councilman Palmer, to open the public hearing at 6:00 pm.

Supervisor Geraci noted the public hearing notice has been published and posted as required. He then explained the reason, as stated in the Map, Plan and Report, for the proposed ambulance district is as follow:

“The purpose of establishing the Horicon Ambulance District is to ensure the health and safety of those in Horicon who may find themselves in need of emergency medical care. This is a crucial and potentially lifesaving endeavor which will benefit the people of the Town in any event that emergency medical services are required.

Establishing an Ambulance District helps to clarify the use of tax dollars paid by the townspeople, meaning that tax dollars acquired through the Horicon Ambulance District shall only be used by that District going forward. This would make it clear to the citizens of the Town of Horicon exactly where their tax dollars are being used and for what purpose. The Town feels that adding a specific budget item to designate funds toward the newly established Ambulance District is paramount in terms of transparency and accessibility of such information to the people of the Town of Horicon and to provide the funds necessary to be able to continue to provide these services.”

Supervisor Geraci further explained that there is a need to fund the North Warren EMS on a sustainable basis. He said the Town is funding the NWEMS at \$128,000.00 this year and noted that Chester also funds the squad.

Supervisor Geraci asked for comments from the public.

Nancy Jefts asked what the cents per \$1,000 would be. Supervisor Geraci said the rate is \$0.24/\$1,000 which is factored into the amount suggested to fund the EMS and that amount is \$200,000.00. He asked Assessor Hayes to explain how this rate was determined. Assessor Hayes said it is based on the assessed value of a typical home in Horicon, and she said the typical home is assessed at \$485,000.00. Supervisor Geraci said that for an average \$485,000.00 home the amount of tax would be \$117.00 per year, so, based on the assessed home value that number could be higher or lower. Ms. Jefts said she thinks \$0.24/\$1,000 is very reasonable and feels the Town should move forward with the district.

Janet Early asked what the process will be with this new tax district for reviewing and commenting on the annual budget. Supervisor Geraci explained that it will be part of the Town’s budget as a separate line item so it will be included in the overall budget discussions. Ms. Early said it will follow the normal review process then; Supervisor Geraci said it will.

Supervisor Geraci asked everyone to realize the Town is currently funding the EMS at \$128,000 so people are paying a certain amount of tax already and this will be an increase over that amount. He then explained how the Town arrived at the \$200,000.00. He said the trend over time shows approximately 20% of the EMS calls are in the Town of Horicon. Supervisor Geraci said the proposed budget provided by the NWEMS for 2023 is

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\$927,000.00 and 20% of that is close to \$200,000. He said the concept of an ambulance district is not new and many communities are moving in this direction in order to be able to fund emergency services. He said this has been researched and discussed many times and now the Board has to make a decision to move forward with it or look at another way to fund the EMS, and they are not sure what that would be.

Ed Sim, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NWEMS, thanked the Board for considering this. He has been working closely with both towns on this. Mr. Sim said it is important for both towns to have transparency so residents can see the costs and this tax district will allow that. Mr. Geraci thanked Mr. Sim and expressed his gratitude for all the NWEMS does.

There being no further comment, Motion made by Councilman Olson, seconded by Councilman Palmer to close the public hearing. Public hearing was closed at 6:15 pm

Supervisor Geraci asked for a decision by the Board.

RESOLUTION #138-2022

Councilman Olson and Councilman Palmer introduced Res. No. 138 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION APPROVING ESTABLISHMENT OF HORICON AMBULANCE DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Horicon Town Board is considering forming a Horicon Ambulance District in accordance with Article 12-A of New York Town Law for the purpose of providing emergency medical and ambulance services within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board adopted a Resolution authorizing the preparation of a Map, Plan and Report for the purpose of analyzing the formation of the District; and

WHEREAS, a Map, Plan and Report was prepared concerning the proposed District and was filed in the Town Clerk's Office and made available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, the Map, Plan and Report describes the boundaries of the proposed District, the proposed method of operation, the maximum amount proposed to be expended for the ambulance services and the cost of the proposed District to the typical property and, if different, the typical one or two family home; and

WHEREAS, on July 21st, 2022, subsequent to the filing of the Map, Plan and Report with the Town Clerk, the Town Board adopted an Order reciting (a) the boundaries of the proposed District; (b) the proposed services and proposed method of operation; (c) the maximum amount proposed to be expended for the services; (d) the cost of the District to the typical property and the typical one or two family home (if not the typical property); (e) that no capital improvements are anticipated for the proposed District and, therefore, no financing will be employed; (f) the fact that a Map, Plan and Report describing the proposed District, services and capital improvements is on file in the Town Clerk's Office; and (g) the time and place of a public hearing on the proposed District; and

WHEREAS, copies of the Public Hearing Order were duly published and posted and were filed with the Office of the State Comptroller, all as required by law; and

WHEREAS, prior to publication of the Public Hearing Order, a detailed explanation of how the estimated costs of the District to the typical property and typical one or two family home (if not the typical property) were computed was filed with the Town Clerk for public inspection as part of the Map, Plan and Report; and

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WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed Horicon Ambulance District was duly held on August 4th, 2022 and the Town Board has considered the evidence given together with other information, and

WHEREAS, establishment of the proposed District was determined not to be an Action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby determines that:

1. Notice of the Public Hearing was published and posted as required by law and is otherwise sufficient;
2. All of the property and property owners within the District are benefited thereby;
3. All of the property and property owners benefited are included within the limits of the District;
4. It is in the public interest to establish the District as described in the Map, Plan and Report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby approves the establishment of the District in accordance with the boundaries and descriptions set forth in the Map, Plan and Report, and providing of the services described in the Map, Plan and Report, subject to the following:

1. Permissive referendum in the manner provided in Town Law Article 7; and
2. Adoption of a Final Order by the Town Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution is subject to permissive referendum in accordance with the provisions of Town Law Articles 7 and 12-A and the Town Board authorizes and directs the Town Clerk to file, post and publish such Notice of this Resolution as may be required by law and if no Petition is duly filed within 30 days after adoption of this Resolution to file a Certificate to that effect in the Office of the County Clerk.

Ayes: 3 (Olson, Palmer, Geraci) Nays: 0 Absent: 2 (F. Hill, R. Hill)

Other Business...

RESOLUTION #139-2022

Councilman Olson and Councilman Palmer introduced Res. No. 139 and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION TO HIRE LIFEGUARD

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby hire Angelo Willette as lifeguard, effective immediately, to cover the Brant Lake beach for the remainder of the 2022 summer season at a pay rate of \$14.93 per hour as set forth in the 2022 budget.

Ayes: 3 (Olson, Palmer, Geraci) Nays: 0 Absent: 2 (F. Hill, R. Hill)

Adjourn... There being no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM by MOTION of Councilman Palmer and Councilman Olson, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.