

MINUTES
TOWN OF EAST FISHKILL
TOWN BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2023
PUBLIC HEARING SPECIAL BENEFIT UNITS MEETING AT 5:30 PM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Town of East Fishkill's Town Board Meeting on October 26, 2023, was called to order at 5:30 PM by Supervisor D'Alessandro with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: Supervisor D'Alessandro asked Town Clerk Cassidy to call the rolls.

Board Members in attendance were:

Craig	Thomas	Emanuele	Marianne	Nicolas
Arco	Franco	Marinero	Flores	D'Alessandro

Also in attendance were:

Tom Wood, Attorney; Scott Bryant, Engineer; Mark Pozniak, Comptroller.

Public Hearings:

1. Open Public Hearing with respect to the 2024 Town and Special District Budget and Benefit Assessment Roll for Town Districts

Motion to open the Public Hearing with respect to the 2024 Town and Special District Budget and Benefit Assessment Roll for Town Districts: Board Member Franco. Seconded: Board Member Arco. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Comptroller Pozniak stated the benefit units are used in the water, sewer, drainage, and sidewalk districts in lieu of assessed property value. For most districts, one benefit unit is equal to one home or one home is assigned one benefit unit. There are some older water districts where one home is assigned a value of 100 benefit units. Some districts have vacant lots that have a reduced value of .6 or .8 benefit units. Commercial properties are assigned benefit units based on a variety of factors. It is intended to agree to certain flow compared to a typical home flow. For a residential, whether you are in a five-bedroom house or a two-bedroom house, each house gets one benefit unit. It will show up as a separate line item on your tax bill. This represents the values for the 2024 Levy. In Revere Park there are 7700 benefit units. That really equates to 77 homes. They will be paying approximately \$416.88 each. They are represented by red highlight.

All of the remaining districts on his chart assigned one benefit unit per home. The taxes are determined by the benefit units for both commercial and residential. They set rates for usage in these districts, but that is done at a later time. This meeting is an opportunity for someone to dispute or question their benefit unit assignment. For most residents this is a moot point.

Supervisor D'Alessandro stated that people in these districts would have gotten a card asking them to attend tonight's meeting because they would be discussing the benefit unit assessments. Usually anyone with questions on the benefit units would be a large plaza. This is dictated by the Department of Health requiring a specific amount of gallons per day for operation. Based upon that is how they are assessed benefit units. For single-family homes there is no issue. The rates go up every year because the costs go up for each district for testing and improvements. They do try to keep some funds in the district to cover larger repairs that may be necessary. There are still some districts in the red as they are older. It is hard to increase them too much as they have to be cognizant of how much residents can pay. This Public Hearing is just to discuss how your benefit unit is assessed.

Resident #1 stated he lives in the Legends and does not see his rates listed on the spreadsheet. Comptroller Pozniak stated the Legends are listed under the Beekman Water District. Supervisor D'Alessandro asked the Comptroller to show the difference from last year to this year. Comptroller Pozniak stated the Beekman Water District has 301 units and they are raising a levy of 81.010% meaning each home will pay approximately \$269.14. Attorney Wood stated this is a levy they see on their tax bill. It is for the capital cost of the district. They get a quarterly bill based on their usage which is a separate bill with a separate rate system. What they're discussing tonight is just what they are paying towards the capital costs on the tax bill each year. Resident number one asked what the increase for 2024 was and Comptroller Pozniak stated it is a slight decrease. Water is going down by \$1.78 per home and sewer is going down \$2.97 per home.

Supervisor D'Alessandro asked if there were any Town Board members with any questions or comments. There were none.

a. Close Public Hearing

Motion to: Board Member Marinaro. Seconded: Board Member Flores. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Motion for Adjournment: Time: Motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:45 PM: Board Member Marinaro. Seconded: Board Member Arco. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Julie J. Beyer on behalf of Town Clerk Peter Cassidy –
October 30, 2023