November 5, 2026

The Town Board of the Town of Warwick held a Public Hearing for the 2027 Preliminary Budget. Said public hearing was held on Thursday, November 5, 2026 at the Town Hall, 132 Kings Highway, Town of Warwick. Supervisor Dwyer opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

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

LEGAL NOTICE: The Clerk read the legal notice, which was duly published in the Warwick Valley Dispatch on October 28, 2026. (Copy of this legal notice is printed at the end of these minutes.)

SUPERVISOR DWYER - I just want to make a comment before we go into this. When preparing this budget, our focus was balanced on two critical responsibilities.

Protecting our taxpayers' wallets during an era of significant inflation and ensuring we do not compromise the essential services, infrastructure, and safety that our community relies on every day. The proposed budget carries an overall tax increase of 3.9 percent. To put that into perspective, everyday numbers for our households are affected in this way.

For an average value home in our town, outside of the villages, this represents an increase of $2.88 per month. For homes within our villages, the increase is $2.25 per month. To understand why this adjustment is necessary, we have to look at the constraints of New York State's tax cap alongside the cost pressures we face.

On Warwick's $40 million budget, staying strictly under the statutory tax cap would have allowed an increase of just $357,000 on a $40 million budget. To put that into perspective, mandatory non-negotiable costs alone completely outstripped that figure. Health insurance premiums rose by more than 10 percent.

State retirement costs rose by 10 percent. Electricity and fuel costs rose by nearly 10 percent. Essential materials, specifically road salt and asphalt, rose by nearly 10 percent.

The increases in health insurance and retirement contributions alone drove us above the tax cap before factoring in a single gallon of fuel or a single ton of salt. To keep this tax increase at 3.9 percent, less than $3 a month for the average home, we had to make disciplined, major cuts across department requests to eliminate any potential unnecessary spending. Warwick is not alone in confronting these economic realities.

Municipalities across Orange County are facing unprecedented cost surges and exceeding the cap. The city of Middletown is exceeding the cap for the first time in 18 years. The Town of Blooming Grove is up 6 percent.

Mount Hope, 6 percent. New Windsor, 9.9 percent. Wallkill is projected to be well over 10 percent, and communities like Chester, Monroe, and several others are in a similar position.

While many neighboring towns are seeing increases ranging from 6 to over 10 percent, our targeted 3.9 percent keeps Warwick on solid financial ground without overburdening our families. To keep property taxes low long term, we have aggressively pursued alternative revenue. In 2023, our non-tax revenue stood at $11.6 million.

For 2027, through facility and property rentals, building department fees, Mountain Lake Park revenue, and police department revenues, we are projecting non-tax revenue to reach $15 million. That is nearly $3.4 million in recurring revenue that our property taxpayers do not have to shoulder. Furthermore, we made a commitment to bring outside tax dollars back to Warwick.

Since taking office in 2024, our administration has secured $19,049,500 in total grant awards. These awards directly fund critical community assets that would otherwise fall on local property tax bills. $8 million in direct grants for the Wickham Sewer Project, paired with an additional $8 million in interest-free financing that will save taxpayers millions in interest, $4 million for the Jayne Street Bridge, $3.5 million to acquire the 313 acres surrounding the Warwick Conference Center, $1 million for a new playground and pool upgrades at Mountain Lake Park, $850,000 for a new DPW salt barn, $750,000 for the Arboretum and Amphitheater at Wickham Woodlands Park, $450,000 for police department facility renovations, $357,000 in combined grants for open space preservation, additional targeted grants including $50,000 for our senior center, $35,000 to study police consolidation between the town and our villages, $20,000 for park-wide AEDs, $20,000 for Wickham Woodlands Master Plan, and $17,000 for a town cybersecurity threat analysis.

Looking into 2027, our major capital investments will focus on foundational infrastructure, advancing the much-needed Mountain Lake Park sewer system project and the Town DPW and Humane Society sewer connections, breaking ground on both the Wickham Sewer Project as well as the Jayne Street Bridge project, carrying out necessary capital improvements to our DPW facility, pursuing rooftop solar installations across Town Hall, the DPW, and our Dial-A-Bus facility, pending award notification on grant applications. We must also continue planning for heavy equipment replacements. A standard DPW plow truck that once cost slightly over $200,000 now costs roughly $450,000.

Managing these assets responsibly requires long-term planning and steady execution. Finally, I want to thank our Town Board for your steady guidance and forward-thinking leadership throughout this process. My sincere thanks also go out to our department heads and town staff. They understand the financial pressures we face, yet show up every single day committed to delivering top-tier service to our residents with very limited resources.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with all of you to finalize this budget. That's all I have for comment on that. I'll open it up to the town board for any comments on the 2027 Preliminary Town of Warwick Budget.

COUNCILMAN MATTINGLY - I want to echo what you had to say about our department heads, how hard they worked to have responsible budgets that provide the services to the community that we need. And I also want to say that you did an incredible job working on the budget this year to keep it at 3.9%. I want to say thank you for your hard work as well.

SUPERVISOR DWYER - Thank you, Tom. All right, we'll open it up to the public on any comments for the 2027 Town budget. Then that means you're all here for Introductory Local Law No. 8, except for Michael.

MICHAEL HELME - I just have a general question that I think people from the public might like to hear. This is for you, Jesse, and also the board members and the department heads. It's kind of a broad question, but if you were spending, like, 10% more, what else would we be getting? Or if we were spending 10% less, what would we be getting in rough numbers?

SUPERVISOR DWYER - I would say that generally the first things we would have to either cut or add would be staff. So, if we had to increase the budget by 10%—let's say we could, right? Money just fell out of the sky, and we could increase the budget by 10%. I would say our DPW is very underfunded. Our Parks Department needs additional staff. If we were to make cuts, it would probably be cuts to limit an already stressed staff load. Does that answer your question, I think?

MICHAEL HELME - Yeah, yeah. Okay. Yes, thank you. Any other comments from the board? No.

SUPERVISOR DWYER - Okay. Thank you. Thanks, Michael. Anyone else from the public on the 2027 budget? All right.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Motion Supervisor Dwyer, seconded Councilman Shuback that the public hearing be closed. Motion Carried (5 ayes, 0 nays) 7:12 p.m.
11-5-26 CP

Eileen M. Astorino
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, 2027, will be completed and be on file on October 30, 2026, 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 5, 2026 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:

SUPERVISOR	**$101,650**
TOWN CLERK	**$73,366**
RECORDS MANAGEMENT	**$5,295**
COUNCILPERSONS	**$13,000**
RECEIVER OF TAXES	**$50,467**
JUSTICES	**$31,000**

DATED: 10/28/26

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