

Town of Lewis

Public Hearing Establishment of an EMS District

May 14th, 2024

Lewis Town Hall – 6:00 PM

Present: Counselors Lanita Canavan, Terry Pulsifer, John Blades and Steve Denton, Supervisor James Monty and William Tansey – Assistant County Attorney

Public Present: Gerald Spooner, Glen and Donna Crowningshield, Charli Lewis, Tom Cross, Phil Arsenault, Darren Dickerson, Janice and Frank Rock, Sheri Morris, Jeff and Kathy Scott, Leta Pierce, Patty Bashaw, Charmaine and Mike Flynn

Called to Order: The Public Hearing was called to order by Supervisor Monty at 6:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Monty opened the Public Hearing stating this will be the 3rd and final Public Hearing on the proposal of the establishment of an EMS District. The Town will have a Public Referendum allowing the public of the Town of Lewis to vote on the proposed establishment of an EMS District. **The public vote will be June 25, 2024 from 12:00PM to 8:00 PM.**

Supervisor Monty was asked a couple questions from the outside public. What if Elizabethtown doesn't participate in forming an EMS District in their Town? Supervisor Monty said that doesn't concern the Town of Lewis. Mr. Tansey stated, as per NYS Law, it is only in the Town of Lewis boundaries.

The other question was pertaining to the establishment of a Board of Directors for the EMS District. It will be established by the Lewis Town Board one of three ways. The Board of Lewis can be the Board of Directors, or the Town Board can appoint a Board of Directors, or the Town Board can choose to have them elected. If EMS is established, the Town Board would like to be the Board of Directors for the first year to see how it goes.

Supervisor Monty opened the meeting up for public comment.

Jeff Scott asked if the EMS District is formed would the Line item amount be removed from the Budget. Jim stated it would be removed and put in the General fund to be allocated in other areas.

Charli Lewis talked about and had questions pertaining to the tax roll sheet, that EMS supplied, and the figures for the 2024 Tax Roll and Tentative Tax Roll for 2025.

Supervisor Monty would like a more definite figure for the Public to decide on before the vote. He would also like a 5 year projection from EMS.

Other public questions:

Would exemptions go away? Senior Citizens and Veterans exemptions don't apply for the Ambulance district if one is to be formed. Not for Profit is still exempt.

How will the Town advertise for the vote as some Town people aren't aware? Some suggested, the big sign boards to be put in Town, a mass mailing, as some people don't have computers to see it on the Town Website.

What percentage of voters is it needed to pass? Supervisor Monty stated simple majority.

A lot of other questions and concerns were asked to Patty Bashaw, as she is with EMS. She answered thoroughly and helped the public understand what was being asked.

Mr. Tansey pointed out that when the Town filed the Resolution to consider the EMS District, the EMS Budget for 2024 was estimated at \$428,411.00. That figure came from the EMS attorney's map plan which is filed with the Town Clerk.

There were no other public comments.

Supervisor Monty asked the Town Board for any questions or concerns they may have. There were no concerns or comments from the Town Board.

A motion was made to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM by Terry Pulsifer and seconded by John Blades, 0 opposed, motion carried.

Supervisor Monty closed the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM and continued to the Regular Board Meeting at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Williams
Town Clerk