

**Town of Lexington Public Hearing**  
**April 18, 2023 Ambulance District Formation**

Town Supervisor JoEllen Schermerhorn opened the public hearing at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building located at 3542 Rte 42, Lexington followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

<b>Present:</b>	Supervisor	JoEllen Schermerhorn
	Council Members	Bradley Jenkins
		William Pushman
		Bennett Wine
		Michael Barcone
	Town Clerk	Charlotte Jaeger
	Town Attorney	Tal Rappleyea (zoom)

**Others Present:** Paul & Liza Dwon, Rose & Brian Wilson, Bob Riccardella **Zoom:** Lynn Byrne and Mike Ryan from the Mountain Eagle.

Supervisor Schermerhorn explained that the Town is trying to create an ambulance district and what that means is that you would have a separate line on your tax bill for the ambulance just like you do for the fire district. There would no longer be a line item on the General fund for the ambulance. The expected cost is 86 cents per \$1,000.00 that you are assessed at. An example would be, that if you are assessed at \$200,000.00 you would pay \$139.00 tax for the year. Bennett asked what is the difference between the old and new cost. Bradley said that he had met with the Town of Prattsville Supervisor and it sounded like businesses would pay more than personal properties. Supervisor Schermerhorn said that there would be another public hearing on May 2<sup>nd</sup> before the regular monthly meeting. If the Town Board passes the Resolution then there would be a 30 day waiting period and if there is no petition then the district would go into effect. Rose asked what the ambulance service would look like and Supervisor Schermerhorn said that it would be basically what we already have because this is not the mountain top ambulance service yet. Bob said that when the towns combine then it would be a statutory district that would be more equitable and it would be more fair. Bradley said there should be a representative from each town. Bob thought at least one representative should be involved with EMS so that they would be familiar with how things work. Liza asked about Timberlake Road and Bradley said that they will need to come up with an agreement with the Town of Shandaken. Bradley thinks the far side of Crump Hill should be included too. Charlotte asked if the district members would be elected like the fire district. Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea said that yes the combined districts would probably work like the fire district but he is still working with the Comptroller's Office on this. Bennett asked why we need to have the bigger district. Tal said that it helps with getting reliable employees because the benefits are better. As far as the single town ambulance district it would be like the lighting district under the Town Board. Liza asked if we can find out where Rich (Town of Ashland) will be on June 2nd as far as getting full time employees for full time coverage with the ambulance. The map is the same as the fire district. Bennett asked if we could get an answer for the next meeting regarding full time coverage.

**Close Public Hearing**

On a motion by Council Member William Pushman, seconded by Council Member Bennett Wine and with all in favor the public hearing adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlotte Jaeger, Town Clerk