



Public Hearing on Special District Agricultural Exemptions
January 3, 2012

A public hearing was held by the Town Board of the Town of Ballston on Tuesday evening, January 3, 2012 at the Town Hall on Charlton Road. Members present were Supervisor Patricia Southworth, Councilman Timothy Szczepaniak and Councilman William Goslin. Also present were Town Attorney Murry Brower and Town Clerk Carol Shemo. Absent were Councilman Knight and Councilwoman Hynes.

Supervisor Southworth opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m.

The Town Clerk read the legal ad for the public hearing.

The purpose of the public hearing was to receive input on Special District Agricultural Exemption.

Ballston Town Assessor, Peter Hotaling, reviewed the qualifications for obtaining agricultural exemptions: 1) Farmer with crops valuing \$10,000 yearly, taking a two year average, proof of income provided yearly 2) Lease land to farmers with 7 acres of useable land with a 5 year commitment in agricultural district and 8 year commitment outside an agricultural district. Once established as a qualified farm land, a soil sample is brought to Cooperative Extension and the State sets value per acre.

The agricultural exemption has been on school, county and town. This proposal would allow agricultural exemption on special districts as the ambulance, fire district, library, lighting district and water districts. This change in special district agricultural exemption would be on the January 2013 tax bill.

If the exemption passes, the impact on an average homeowner with a home assessed at \$200,000. with the following special districts: Ballston Lake Ambulance, Burnt Hills Fire District, Library, Lightning District and Water District #2 would be \$2.31 increase in tax bill.

Supervisor Southworth stated that each special district would get funded to the level of the tax levy. For example, the Fire Protection District will not lose any money; the people with agricultural properties will pay a little less and the people with nonagricultural properties will pay a little more.

No one wished to speak; therefore, the public hearing was declared closed at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Shemo
Town Clerk