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Proposed voting wards moving forward in Mamakating

By Sharon MacGregor

WURTSBORO — Six voter wards are being proposed for the Town of Mamakating and a public information meeting was held on January 26 to answer questions about them. David Schaefer of Skyline Demographic Consulting projected a map while explaining the rationale for the divisions. The primary source is the 2010 Census map, and the total allowed deviation among all wards is 10% to keep the number of voters as equal as possible within each district. The village boundaries for Bloomingburg and Wurtsboro were maintained. In order to preserve the county legislative borders, districts 1, 2, 3 and 6 are between 2-3% above the ideal margin, but this division remains under the required 10% deviation limit.

"The process was fairly simple," Schaefer said. "This is a small

population and although the census blocks are odd shapes, divisions were made based on streets." Supervisor William Herrmann told attendees it is quite possible in some cases that next-door neighbors may be in one district while a home across the street could be in a different district.

Mamakating resident, Christian Leser asked how often the wards should be re-evaluated to which Schaefer replied, "The next census is the guide for re-examining boundaries," to ensure any growth or changes which may require revisions of the districts.

Once the Town Board is satisfied with Schaefer's plan the next step would be for the Sullivan County Board of Elections to approve the new election district boundaries.

Complete descriptions of each of the six wards and full maps are available at the Town of Mamakating website on the Supervisor's page at www.mamakating.org.



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David Schaefer and Supervisor William Herrmann with Sullivan County Legislator Cathy Owens examine the proposed voting ward map.

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