

Lawyer fighting against proposed business district

BY ASHLEY KELLY
Times Herald-Record

TOWN OF WALLKILL – A local attorney has decided to lead the fight against a \$2.5 million proposed business district.

In a mass e-mail last week, Michael Blustein urged business owners to submit letters objecting to the proposed Wallkill Commercial Center Business Improvement District.

His campaign follows an Oct. 9 public hearing where business people spoke against the

district, citing the weakening economy.

“Our only vote is to file this objection letter,” said Blustein, referring to property owners who are not residents of the town. “We pay taxes and don’t use the schools and a whole lot of the town services.”

The proposed district would create a separate police force for businesses in the town’s commercial areas.

The police department would have 19 police officers, two dis-

patchers and an administrator.

To stop the district, 51 percent of property owners must send in objection letters to the town.

The other option is letters from owners of properties representing 51 percent of the district’s assessed valuation.

Blustein chose the assessed valuation route. So far, he’s received 54 objection letters from owners representing more than \$30 million in assessed valuation, he said. The assessed val-

uation of all property in the district is \$212.3 million.

The Wallkill Town Board can shelve the business district idea without the required objections if board members choose to.

About 22 objection letters are on file at the town clerk’s office, but it’s unclear if they’re all property owners.

“If the response continues, it’s going to be defeated, but I can’t do this without the help of other landowners,” Blustein said.