

**HIGHLAND FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
2022 PROPOSED BUDGET HEARING  
OCTOBER 19, 2021, 7 PM**

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<b>PRESENT:</b> Commissioners	Stephen DiLorenzo	(PRESENT)
	John Fraino	(PRESENT)
	Alan Barone	(PRESENT)
	Chris Erichsen.	(PRESENT)
	Secretary/Treasurer James Passikoff.	(PRESENT)
	District Clerk Denise A. Holzberger.	(PRESENT)
	Chief Peter Miller	(PRESENT)

**1. Opening of Hearing-***Chairman DiLorenzo welcomed everyone, led the salute to the flag and asked for a moment of silence for fallen firefighters.*

**2. Public Hearing:** Chairman DiLorenzo reviewed the following:

Notice of Public Hearing was published or posted at least once at least 5 days before the date specified for the hearing in:

The official newspaper of the fire district-Southern Ulster Times October 14, 2021

The official signboard of the Town of Lloyd -9/30/2021

The Fire District's webpage on the website of the Town of Lloyd- 9/30/2021

The signboard located at Highland Fire District headquarters- could not be posted as the signboard is broken.

The notice of public hearing specified the time, date, and place where the hearing would be held.

Upon its adoption, the Secretary made available for copying and inspection the proposed budget to any interested person during district office hours.

Purpose of hearing is to allow members of the general public to make comments on the budget. Any person may be heard in favor of or against the preliminary budget.

Please note that this is a proposed budget until the Board of Fire Commissioners adopts the final budget.

Prior to the public comment portion of the hearing, The Treasurer will make a brief presentation about the preliminary budget to the Board of Fire Commissioners and members of the public who are present.

This budget must be adopted no later than November 4 ,2021 and submitted to the Town of Lloyd budget officer.

**3. Presentation of Budget-** Chairman DiLorenzo presented the 2022 Proposed Budget and reviewed each budget line. It was noted that the budget is 1.8 % increase from last year's budget. The rate per thousand is \$1.1281. Total Proposed Operating Budget is \$1,267,135. Total to be raised by Real Property Taxes is \$1,188,535.00.

There was a line-by-line review of the Proposed Budget. Chairman DiLorenzo explained that as of this time, the Projected Income of \$78,600 is not a set number yet; \$60,000 is pending The Town of Lloyd's approval of the Police Station Lease. The Approved 2022 Budget must be submitted to the Town of Lloyd by November 4, 2021. If the Town of Lloyd does not approve the Police Lease, we must re-examine the budget and adjust to reflect that decrease in revenue. Chairman DiLorenzo stated that this is a good budget; the assessed valuation increased. We were able to purchase a new SCBA compressor with reserve funds this year to replace the old one. We were able to conduct business despite a commissioner's serious illness.

**4. Public Comment-** the Board requests any person wishing to be heard to come forward so that he may be heard in favor of, or against the proposed budget.

Please raise your hand to be recognized and state your name.

Please limit your comments to five minutes and direct your questions to the Board or Treasurer. Please note that this is not a question-and-answer session. The Board is looking for your opinion on the budget or any part of it, what you are in favor of or what you are against. You may ask questions, but this board will not answer any questions until the conclusion of the public comment period.

**Comments:** Mr. Robert Pardy commented on the proposed new position of Administration Assistant that is in the budget, its status regarding job description and civil service. He commented on the amount in reserves and the amount is about \$1.7 million which could equal the total budget. You have good apparatus. He stated he is not in favor of this budget.

**5. Conclusion of the Public Comment portion of the hearing**

There being no comments, the public comment portion of the hearing was closed.

**6. Questions from the Board**

Chairman DiLorenzo asked for any questions from the Board. There were none.

Chairman DiLorenzo noted that we will not be approving the 2022 Proposed Budget tonight, due to the pending Police Lease approval. We will meet on Monday October 25, 2021, at 7 PM to finalize the budget as the Town of Lloyd will be meeting on October 20, 2021.

**7. Close of Public hearing**

There being no further questions or comments, Chairman DiLorenzo closed the public hearing at 7:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise A. Holzberger, District Clerk

APPROVED BOFC 11/10/2021