

Special Meeting  
**September 22, 2021**  
7:00 PM St 1

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

At 7:00 Pm, Chairman DiLorenzo called the regular meeting to order, led the salute to the flag, and called for a moment of silence for fallen firefighters.

Chairman DiLorenzo welcomed everyone. There was discussion regarding the Commissioner vacancy. Chairman DiLorenzo explained the because the vacancy occurred prior to October 1, 2021, a candidate for the position would have to run in the election in December 2021 for the remainder of Commissioner Bragg's term which is one year, expiring December 31, 2022. The Ballot this year would be for a commissioner 5-year term and a commissioner for a one-year term. We would also have the referendum for the SCBA Reserve. We can increase the Election hours as well.

Chairman DiLorenzo stated we received a letter from Red Truck Sales and sent an email out to them about our two trucks for sale.

Audit 2020- Chairman DiLorenzo inquired about the status of the Audit. Treasurer Passikoff explained that they requested more information.

New Trucks- Chairman DiLorenzo stated he spoke with Ken Finke. Ken Finke told him that a letter of intent could be sent to him to hold the price. A permissive referendum would be needed to move money. Commissioner Barone requested reason for the delay from E-One be sent to us in writing before deciding to order a new truck.

Chief Miller spoke with Alan Koenig as to when the 2 pumpers would be completed. There are no chassis complete dates from Ford and Freightliner. Chairman DiLorenzo reported that Ken would fight for us. Should he come to our Oct.12 2021 meeting? Regarding purchasing a new truck, increases in cost will be significant; double digit increase yielding about \$200,000 cost for a 20-year life span. There was a 9% increase, that is \$118,000, for waiting a year to purchase a ladder. Cost is approximately \$670,000 for a new truck and if we wait it could increase \$97,00 or more. Is it hype? We don't know.

Chairman DiLorenzo asked if we agree to purchase another engine? Would the Board like to hear from Premier first?

Commissioner Fraino stated he would like to hear from Premier.

Commissioner Alan Barone stated:

1. In 3.5 months the Board could change
2. \$100,000 plus could be the increase. Even if its only a 5% increase.

Commissioner Barone asked if we have an estimated delivery date. Chief Miller stated that he spoke with Ken Finke and there is nothing solid.

2022 Proposed Budget- Commissioner Fraino stated that the Police Station rental should be \$60,000.

Treasurer Passikoff stated the 2022 Proposed Budget must be to the Town by September 30,2021 . He then began reviewing the budget.

Income -\$78,600

Salaries-2% increase

Administrative Assistant- \$26,000.

Equipment- \$30,000

Association Dues- increased to \$100

Travel Expense-same

Buildings & Grounds -increased \$9600 windows and floors increased

Snow Removal-increased by \$3000

Major repairs \$increased to \$15,000

Building Reserve-\$24500 permissive referendum needed to move funds.

Repair Reserve- when you use funds , they must be replaced in two years.

It was noted that turn out gear was ordered; cost is approximately \$30,000 with a 90-day lead time.

Four -gas meters ae needed. Hoses and nozzles -\$18,000. Hose testing is done every 3-4 years.

Portable lights and fans are needed. Equipment ages out .

2020 Unexpended Funds- after purchasing the compressor, we have \$171,000 left over.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Barone move to allocate \$100,000 from the 2020 unexpended funds to the Apparatus Reserve Fund and allocate \$71,000 from the 2020 Unexpended funds to the Building Reserve fund, seconded by Commissioner John Fraino.

When the Board was polled the vote was as follows:

Alan Barone Aye

John Fraino Aye

Steve DiLorenzo Aye

Chris Erichsen No

Motion carried.

Adoption of 2022 Proposed Budget

**MOTION:** Commissioner John Fraino moved to approve the 2022 Proposed Budget for Highland Fire District with a total Proposed Operating Budget of \$1,267,135, and \$1,188,535 to be raised by Real Estate Taxes. The Percent of Operation Budget increase is 1.8% and the rate per thousand is \$1.281. Seconded by Alan Barone.

When the Board was polled the vote was as follows:

Alan Barone      Aye

Steve DiLorenzo   Aye

John Fraino        Aye

Chris Erichsen     Aye

Motion carried unan.

**Adjournment-**

**MOTION:** There being no further business, Commissioner John Fraino moved to adjourn at 9:22 PM  
Seconded by Alan Barone.

VOTE:    4 YES    0 NO    0 Abstain   0 Absent

Motion carried unan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise A. Holzberger, District Clerk

APPROVED BOFC mtg 10/12/2021