

**HIGHLAND FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
2014 PROPOSED BUDGET HEARING
OCTOBER 15, 2013 7 PM
Minutes**

Commissioners: Stephen DiLorenzo, Chairman	(Present)
Benjamin Bragg	(Absent)
John Fraino	(Absent)
Christian Erichsen	(Present)
Dominick Palladino	(Present)
Secretary/Treasurer Jim Passikoff	(Absent)
District Clerk Denise A. Holzberger	(Present)

1. **Opening of Hearing-** *Chairman Dilorenzo called the hearing to order and led the salute to the flag.*

2. **Public Hearing:**

Chairman's statement: This is the public hearing regarding the 2014 Proposed Budget. In accordance with New York State Town law, all fire districts must, prior to the adoption of their Budget; hold a public hearing on their budget. This budget hearing must be held in such a manner to maximize participation in the budget process. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss the contents of the budget. The Board of Fire Commissioners in accordance with legal Requirements, has adopted their proposed budget, on the 10th day of September, 2013, which is 21 days prior to this budget hearing.

The Proposed budget was posted on the Highland Fire District's Website pursuant to the requirement of the Town Law.

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

- The official newspaper of the fire district-
- The official signboard of the Town of Lloyd
- The Fire District's webpage on the website of the Town of Lloyd
- The signboard located at Highland Fire District headquarters

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. In the Treasurer's absence, the Chairman will present the budget.

This budget must be adopted no later than November 4, 2013 and submitted to the Town of Lloyd budget officer by November 7, 2013

3. Presentation of Budget by Chairman DiLorenzo

Chairman DiLorenzo noted that the budget increase is .78%

4. Public Comment- Chairman 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.

Public comment period:

Mr. Robert Pardy made the following comments:

There are no details regarding the proposed new truck purchase.

You have a brush truck you are not servicing due to low usage

\$300,000 was spent on a ladder truck with an additional \$90,000 for repairs

Air packs need replacement; 40 in all with a cost of \$200,000

Consolidation of apparatus should be considered

Nothing has been done to improve ISO

Mr. Pardy also stated the environment is changing; he does risk management for over 1000 fire districts and sees the changes. The fire district cannot operate as it did in 1984. \$1.30 million

has been spent on apparatus; meetings should be recorded (audio tapes) and email addresses are needed.

5. Conclusion of the Public Comment portion of the hearing

There being no further comment, Chairman Diloenzo stated public comment period is now concluded.

6. Questions from the Board-none

7. Close of Public hearing-

MOTION: Commissioner Palladino moved to close the 2014 Proposed Budget Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Erichsen.

Vote: 3 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 2 Absent

Motion was carried. 2013Oct15-172

Respectfully submitted,
Denise A. Holzberger, District Clerk