

HIGHLAND FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
September 23, 2015
7:00 PM St 1

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Commissioners:	Stephen DiLorenzo	(Present)
	Benjamin Bragg	(Present)
	Christian Erichsen	(Present)
	John Fraino	(Present)
	Lindy Palladino	(Present)

Secretary/Treasurer:	James Passikoff	(Present)
District Clerk:	Denise A. Holzberger	(Present)
Chief	Peter Miller	(Present)

1. Opening of meeting- Chairman DiLorenzo called the meeting to order, led the salute to the flag and called for a moment of silence for all fallen firefighters. Chairman DiLorenzo stated that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the 2016 Proposed Budget.

2. Review of Proposed 2016 Budget

Chairman DiLorenzo asked Treasurer Passikoff to review the proposed budget from the beginning.

Treasurer Passikoff reviewed the proposed budget for 2016. He stated that \$6000 was inserted in the revenue section as this is what will be coming annually from Verizon (Microcell tower)

Personnel expenses-would be reviewed in executive sessions (salaries).

Equipment- specifically technology. There is \$4000 in that line item. It was noted that this would include handheld computers (tablets) as well as purchase of new computer for the medical office. Chief Miller noted that we need to look at our infrastructure.

Treasurer Passikoff noted that we could still add \$4000 and still be within the tax cap.

Two way Radios- it was noted that what direction we decide to go is pending Ulster County's decision regarding frequencies. If County goes high bank, our firefighters can use one radio at the scene. Frequencies are being reviewed at this time. We are currently paying \$300 per month for the LTR and this is just a band aid. Chief Miller

stated we don't know what Ulster County's plan is. We must do something with our radios, but need reasonable assurance as to what direction Ulster County will be going.

Ad Valorem- increase \$3140

Snow removal- \$5000

Hydrant Rental-\$12650.00

3. Executive Session-

MOTION: At 8:12 Pm, Commissioner Erichsen moved to go to executive session to discuss personnel salaries, seconded by Commissioner Fraino.

VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan.

4. Return to Regular Session

MOTION: At 8:55 PM, Commissioner Palladino moved to return to the regular session, seconded by Commissioner Bragg.

VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan.

Resolution to Exceed the Tax Cap

MOTION: Commissioner Bragg moved to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Highland Fire District in 2016, pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 3-c, and to allow the Highland Fire District to adopt a budget for 2016 that may require a tax levy in excess of the tax levy limit as defined by General Municipal Law section 3-c, seconded by Commissioner John Fraino.

VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan. *See attached resolution in its entirety.*

Resolution to Adopt Proposed 2016 Budget

MOTION: Commissioner Bragg moved to adopt the Proposed 2016 Budget with a total operating budget of \$1,146,583 with \$1,069,020 to be raised by real property taxes, Seconded by Commissioner Palladino. When the board was polled the vote was as follows:

Commission Bragg	Yes
Commissioner Palladino	Yes
Commissioner DiLorenzo	Yes
Commissioner Fraino	No
Commissioner Erichsen	No

Motion carried.

5. New Business-

Approval of Painting of Doors at St 2

MOTION: Commissioner Palladino moved to approve the painting at Station 2 as per the proposal submitted by George Ottaviano for painting of access doors at a cost of \$1350.00, seconded by Commissioner Fraino.

VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan.

October Regular Meeting-to be held on October 12, 2015 (Monday)

Authorization to pay Hydrant rental

MOTION: Commissioner Erichsen moved to authorize payment of the hydrant rental to the Highland Water District in the amount of \$12,650, seconded by Commissioner Palladino.

VOTE: 4YES 1 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan.

6. Adjournment-

MOTION: There being no further business, Commissioner Bragg moved to adjourn at 9:17pm, seconded by Commissioner Palladino.

VOTE: 5 YES 0 NO 0 Abstain 0 Absent

Motion carried unan.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise A. Holzberger, District Clerk