

EAST GLENVILLE FIRE DISTRICT #3

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE BUDGET OF 2020

October 20, 2020

Present: Commissioner Dave Costello

Commissioner Beth Larson

Commissioner Suzanne Pohl

Commissioner Ross Thornhill

District Treasurer Jeffrey Prescott

Fire Chief Clem Schimikowski

The hearing was called to order by the Chairman of the Board, Dave Costello at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

There were 6 people in attendance.

This is a public hearing regarding the 2021 proposed Budget. In accordance with New York State Law, all fire districts must, prior to the adoption of their budget, hold a public hearing on the district's budget. This budget hearing must be held in such a manner as 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 September 21, 2020, which is at least 21 days prior to this budget hearing.

The district secretary sent a notice of hearing to the Daily Gazette, the Town of Glenville website and signboard and the East Glenville Fire District signboard. Copies of the proposed budget were made available to interested residents five days before the hearing. The notice specified the time, date and place where this public hearing would be held.

The District Treasurer Jeffrey Prescott presented the proposed budget for 2021. He stated that he is happy to report that East Glenville FD is financially secure enough to leave the tax levy stable and impose no tax increase for the 2021 budget.

Commissioner Costello explained the procedure for any person wishing to be heard on the proposed budget.

Commissioner Costello stated that the public comment period of this annual budget hearing is now concluded. The members of the Board of Commissioners are now allowed to ask questions.

The treasurer will now, if able, address the issues raised during the public comments period. Treasurer Prescott stated that annually he contacts VFIS and asks for recommendation keeping with current trends and makes sure adequate funding is available for member benefits.

Commissioner Larson asked if now was the time to add the 1% for cost of living increase. Treasurer Prescott indicated that that was to be in the general meeting.

Commissioner Pohl asked Treasurer Prescott for information about the \$300,000 decline to \$260,000 on the apparatus reserve estimate of expenditure worksheets. It was explained as part of the long-term apparatus reserve plan.

Commissioner Costello asked Treasurer Prescott what would happen if we have a surplus after selling equipment. The treasurer indicated that it would be up to the board. His recommendation is to always place into reserve.

Commissioner Thornhill asked Treasurer Prescott what effect not increasing the budget has on the tax cap in the future. Treasurer Prescott indicated that yes, money is left on the table and that there are limited amount that can be increased in the future, but yes there is some carryover.

Chief Schimikowski asked Treasurer Prescott how our tax levy rate compares to other departments throughout the county. Treasurer Prescott indicates that it would be difficult due to equalization rate.

Commissioner Costello stated that the public hearing regarding the 2021 proposed budget is now closed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pohl, seconded by Commissioner Larson and unanimously passed at 7:32 pm to adjourn the budget hearing for the 2021 proposed budget.

Before adopting the annual budget and after passing any resolutions necessary to override the tax cap levy, a form to the New York State Comptroller's Office now has to be submitted by the treasurer.

A special meeting has been scheduled immediately following the Commissioner meeting to approve the budget for the year 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross Thornhill
Acting Secretary
Commissioner