**PUBLIC HEARING**
**PROPOSED 2027 FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET**
**Monday, October 19, 2026**

Present: Commissioner Paul Fenton, Commissioner Bucky Hathaway, Commissioner Mike Doyle, Commissioner Tim Clark and Commissioner Bill Shave.

Also present were: Linda Wolf, Treasurer and Deb Palmer Secretary.

There was no public in attendance.

Chairman Fenton called the public hearing to order at 7:00 PM with a salute to the flag.

Chairman Fenton read the following: This is the public hearing regarding the 2027 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 14th day of September, 2026, which is 21 days prior to this budget hearing.

Since the Elizabethtown Fire District maintains a website, the proposed budget was posed on that website pursuant to the requirement of the Town Law.

The Secretary of the fire district has filed with this district an affidavit stating that the notice of this 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; the official signboard of the Town where the district is located; on the fire district's website; and on the website of the Town where the district is located.

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

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

The purpose of this public hearing is to allow members of the public to make comments on the budget. Any person may be heard in favor of, or against, the preliminary budget or any item in it. Please note that this is only a proposed budget until the Board of Fire Commissioners adopts the final budget.

Prior to the public comment portion of this budget hearing, we will hear from the Fire District Treasurer who will make a brief presentation about the preliminary budget to the Board of Fire Commissioners and members of the public who are present. The Fire District Treasurer will be asked to submit the proposed budget to the Board of Fire Commissioners and members of the public who are here this evening.

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

Chairman Fenton asked the Treasurer to make a brief summary of the proposed budget. Linda stated that the total appropriations were $168,426.00 with a Real Property

Tax Levy in the amount of $158,151.00 and a 2.21% increase which is under the tax cap. She stated salaries are listed with no increase in the amount of $13,060 which represents $5,000 for the Treasurer position, $3500 for the Secretary position of $4560 for the position of maintenance person. Linda further stated that there is $27,000 in the reserve fund.

Chairman Fenton then stated that the public comment period would begin. As there was no one in attendance from the public the public comment portion of the hearing concluded. Chairman Fenton asked if there were any members from the Board of Fire Commissioners that wished to ask questions.

Commissioner Hathaway brought up the letter received from Hunter Farrell, maintenance person, requesting an increase of $100 per month. There was discussion regarding his letter that stated he occasionally needed to purchase items to replenish supplies using his own money, that he is compensated but that it was inconvenient. Linda stated that he has the Aubuchon credit card that he uses for supplies and if he goes to Family Dollar they have the tax exempt certificate on file.
It was decided that they would put the request in the budget so it was available if they decided to honor his request. Linda stated that it would be an increase of $1200 in the wages line item bringing the total wage line item to $14,260 and FICA would be increased by 7.65%. She further stated that the increase could be taken from transfer to reserve fund so it would reduce that line item by that amount.
It was stated that it would be nice if the Chief was in attendance at these meetings for his input on these items and they asked if Tim could mention at the next fire meeting if someone from the fire department could start attending.

Chairman Fenton stated he felt that it should be mandatory for one Commissioner each year to go to Albany to attend the meetings held down there and that they should be paid for that; he said there is so much going on we need to stay in compliance. Commissioner Hathaway stated that those attending those meetings are probably paid Commissioners and paid fire department members.

Chairman Fenton stated that the public hearing regarding the 2027 proposed budget was declared closed and asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Commissioner Clark made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Shave. The public hearing was closed at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ *Deb Palmer*

Deb Palmer, Secretary