

**East Greenwich Fire District
284 Main Street
East Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818
Telephone: 401-886-8686 or Fax: 401-886-8692**

Date: May 2, 2013

1. The Pre-Budget meeting of EGFD was called to order on May 2, 2013, by William Daly, Chairman.

a. Chief Henrikson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

2. Members Present

- a. William Daly, Chairman**
- b. Stephen Bartlett, Vice Chairman**
- c. Mark W. Gee, Commissioner - absent**
- d. Mark Schwager, Commissioner**
- e. Philip Higgins, Commissioner**

Other Members Present

- a. Peter Henrikson, Chief**
- b. Russell McGillivray, Deputy Chief-absent**
- c. Kevin Hundley, Treasurer – arrived 6:42p.m.**
- d. Scott Spear, Legal Counsel**
- e. Janice J. Peixinho, Fire District Clerk**

Also Present: William Sequino, Town Manager

3. Commissioner Daly determined a quorum on record.

4. Public Comment - none

5. Business:

a. Public Hearing

1. PreBudget Hearing F/Y 2013/2014 Proposed Budget

Commissioner briefly spoke about the City of Warwick moving ahead to build a fire station in the Potowomut area. He asked that the Chief follow-up with the City of Warwick regarding this issue. Commissioner Higgins stated that it would takes planning, budgeting and timing to build the fire station but what impact would it have on the EG District. The Chief stated it could probably take one to two years but in the meantime the District continues to deduct the rescue billing from the payment that Warwick pays to the District. Commissioner Bartlett stated that the payment is approximatley \$338,000.00 +/- which represents about 3.3% of revenue. The Treasurer has budgeted approximately \$330,000.00. The Commissioners discussed the fund balance, OPEB and should they be pro-active, but they would still need to wait until the audit is done to know what the amount of surplus would be. The Treasurer went over the proposed budget line by line, some of the items were fully discussed regarding salaries; increases showed step increases, the

current arbitration and negotiations is not included in the current budget, overtime coverage; the Treasurer stated that the overtime budget is being budgeted for \$19,800.00, this is the actual dollar amount for overtime but does not include the vacation, holiday, sick because they are separate accounts. Commissioner Higgins asked about the \$100,000.00 +/- in overtime currently spent this fiscal year and the Chief stated it was an unusual time when positions were not filled, injuries, retirement and resignations from the District cause the department to spend money on the overtime to fill positions.

Mr. Vespia asked about the City of Warwick contract. He wanted to know what make up the \$330,000.00. He stated that if the money from Warwick was to go away should the Commissioners begin to budget yearly to make up the decrease. Commissioner Higgins stated that if the City of Warwick amount is removed so would the services for the Potowomut area.

The employee benefits were discussed regarding Health and Dental, life and disability insurance, education allowance and medical exams.

The maintenance account represents the addition of mechanic the Fire District currently pays \$30,000.00 to the Town and the other \$30,000.00 is for the maintenance replacement parts for the vehicles.

The operations were discussed regarding dispatch service. The Chief wants to zero it out and budget \$133,000.00 for in-house dispatch. Commissioner Higgins and Daly briefly spoke about cancelling the

MOU for dispatch with the Local Union. Commissioner Schwager supports the in-house dispatch but would like to know the amount spent on rescues and that the Fire District is committed to making this a success. Commissioner Bartlett suggested that when the Town takes over the Manager can look at the dispatch and staffing and could make a decision then on what would make sense to either continue or not. The Chief stated that the staff receives \$26.00 an hour for dispatch.

Commissioner Bartlett asked about the administrative account and what to budget for Legal Fees. There was no increase for legal fees. The Town Manager stated that the Town's four contracts were settled and that the contracts are good for two (2) years. He stated that the Town was not increasing their legal fees. The Manager suggested leaving \$10,000.00 in the District's budget for legal fees and \$12,000.00 for auditing fees. The Commissioner then spoke briefly about savings in salaries, administrative cost and other miscellaneous account. The Treasurer stated he anticipates approximately \$85,000.00 in revenue expenses.

Mr. Vespia again asked about dispatch and Commissioner Higgins stated that if the Warwick contract ends, then the District would lay people off. Mr. Vespia stated that the District should be prepared and slowly budget over the next year or two, because Warwick could end the agreement June 1st, of next year.

The Treasurer made the deletions and additions to the current pre-budget and the amount of increase was two (2) cents of the tax rate with a proposed rate of \$2.12. The Town Manager asked that the Commissioners add approximately \$100,000.00 to the budget for OPEB, which would generate another four (4) cents to the rate.

No vote or actions were taken on the current pre-budget.

2. Discuss and Vote upon what action, if any, review of available budget decisions regarding financial adjustments until year end.

The Commissioners decided not to take any action or vote on the financial adjustments for year end.

The Clerk stated the next pre-budget meeting would resume on May 16, 2013 at 6:30p.m.

No other public comment.

Commissioner Bartlett 1st moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30p.m., Commissioner Higgins 2nd, Vote 4-0, Bartlett – yes, Daly-yes, Higgin-yes and Schwager-yes, Unanimously Accepted, motion carried.

Attest;

A true copy,

Respectfully submitted,

Janice J. Peixinho

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EGFD Clerk