

ALBION FIRE DISTRICT, INC.

38 School Street

P.O. Box 579

Albion, RI 02802

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING – BUDGET REVIEW**

Meeting Date: September 22, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioner Michael Allen Commissioner Michael Napolitano

**Commissioner Sharon Remillard Commissioner Daniel Adamski
Commissioner Anthony Leone Chief Richard Andrews
Deputy Chief Robert Valentine Treasurer Raymond Neves**

ABSENT: Attorney Louis DeSimone, Tax Collector David Almond

Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Michael Allen at 7:00 p.m.

Chief Andrews presented the Proposed 2015/2016 Budget, which represents a budget increase of 1.9%. Chief Andrews review each line item which had a variance from last year's budget.

The major increase was Full Time Personnel which increased \$18,963.

This covers an increase mandated by Union Contract and includes Salary, Longevity and Holiday Pay. It was noted that these

employees worked last year under their previous contract and thus received no increase in salary.

Health Insurance increased \$5,500 representing an increase in the Blue Cross Contract.

Payroll Expense increased \$1,000 representing an increase in fees

Pension decreased \$4,546 per contract

Computers and Software increased \$3,000. Chief Andrews advised that it has become extremely difficult to find Independent Contractors to respond quickly to problems with our computer system. Presently when our system goes down it is necessary to file required reports manually which is extremely time-consuming. Following discussion it was agreed that it was necessary to contract with a company to be available to service our system but that this contract would be put out to bid.

Association dues increased \$400 – covers cost for professional memberships

District Meeting decreased \$500 based on review of costs for previous years meetings

Vehicle Fuel decreased \$1000 based on projected fuel costs

Fire Alarm/Communications increased \$1500 based on projected cost for system usage and maintenance

Insurance (VFIS) increased \$1500 for projected increase in insurance costs

Legal and Accounting decreased \$2000 projected costs

Ladder 20 Loan decreased \$3521 based on Squad 21 loan which is now paid off.

Following discussion it was unanimously decided that the tax rates for 2015/2016 would be set at \$1.51 Residential and \$1.78 Commercial to cover the proposed budget. This will be the tax rate proposed on October 13, 2015 at the Annual Meeting. The taxpayers will then vote on whether or not to accept this proposed tax rate.

Commissioner Allen suggested that we formally thank the Cumberland Fire District for use of their reserve Ladder Truck while waiting for our new Ladder to be delivered. The Chief will write a letter in this regard.

Commissioner Napolitano asked if it would be wise to reduce the maintenance budget line item based on receipt of the new Ladder Truck. It was decided that based on the age of both S-21 and E-24 it would not be prudent at this time to reduce this line item.

Under Public Comment Colonel Rene Remillard stated that based on his experience he felt it necessary to have someone who would respond quickly to computer system problems and he suggested a contract with a company which would require a monthly retainer plus an hourly rate when it was necessary for them to be on site.

Commissioner Napolitano made a Motion to close the budget hearing

at 7:32 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Remillard. Motion passed 5-0.

Lois E. Moore

District Clerk