

**HOPE VALLEY/WYOMING FIRE DISTRICT
996 MAIN STREET
HOPE VALLEY, RI 02832**

**ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING
JUNE 25, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

Those present: Board Members: Chairman, David Holt, Vice-Chairman, Pasquale DeBernardo, Georgia Ure, Elwood Johnson, Paul Schaarschmidt; District Clerk, Julie Kelley

Those not present: Board Members: Chief, Fred Stanley; Treasurer, Deborah Nictora; Tax Collector, Susan Bok

A final copy of the FY July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 budget was presented to the board.

The meeting commenced and was called to order by Chairman, David Holt at 7:00 p.m. with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

This meeting was called to have the annual budget hearing for FY July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016 and present the proposed budget to the public prior to the Annual meeting. The budget was adopted by the board at the monthly board meeting held on June 11, 2015. This meeting tonight is to present this budget to the public and hear any comments regarding the budget.

There will be some changes to the budget as it has been addressed to add an additional \$5,000.00 to Acct. # 6110 - Truck Maintenance and add \$7,500 to Acct. # 2000 for Verizon which would be six (6) months of income. We received notification that Verizon is now finalizing everything and our confidence level of this project is rising. There may also be a change to the Chief's Salary due to the retirement figures and FICA and FICA Med. The new Chief will not be taking FICA from us so adjustments need to be made. There may be a savings of approximately \$10,000.

The Auditor went up by \$11,500.00 in order to meet the new CPA and GASB standards, which has now been approved by the Auditor General, which will be Nedeau out of Warwick, RI. Also within the budget is an additional \$5,000.00 extra for Bob Civetti to work with our Treasurer to get our accounts to where they can be audited.

Under Acct. # 8300 Heating Fuel there is a savings because of Fuel oil. National Grid will soon have a surcharge because of the Cost of Power.

We now have a new loan for the Chief's vehicle, the vehicle is expected around the first week of July.

The loans have decreased in annual payments because interest has been decreased.

The additional Income from Verizon has been taken out of the budget, as the tower never came to fruition and was withdrawn for a short period of time.

The Zoning and planning board have now approved the Verizon Tower and FAA approval was received as of today. If we were to add back into the budget the Revenue from Verizon in the amount of \$7,500.00 it would decrease our tax rate from 5.5% to around 3% depending on asset valuations.

Mr. Schaarschmidt would like to see Acct. # 6110 Truck Maintenance increased by an additional \$5,000.00. He feels the vehicles are aging and have a tendency to break down and if you divide that by the amount of vehicles it is not a tremendous increase.

It was brought to the board's attention that Engine 915 just barely passed its pump test and probably will not pass next year and that its not a vehicle that can be taken out of service. In recent tests, 500' of Hose failed. Engine 912 needed 1,400' of hose, which was taken from Alton to get it back up to the 1,400'. The district has put in for a grant for this and hopefully we will receive it, which would then allow for the replacement of most of our hoses. We have some short hose, which is good, but it may not last. It's approximately \$625 per truck for new hose for each vehicle or approximately \$8,000 to \$10,000 to replace the hose, which in order to meet NFPA standards the hoses cannot have any pinholes.

The board discussed the need for a new Ladder truck, which would cost approximately \$1,000,000.00. It will take about two years of planning before the actual purchase of the vehicle. This is something the Board of Engineers may want to start to look at to configure the requirements needed on that vehicle.

Mr. DeBernardo motioned to Increase Acct. # 6110 - Truck Maintenance by \$5,000.00 from \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 and Mr. Johnson seconded that motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes; Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

Mr. DeBernardo motioned to Increase Acct. # 7500 – Verizon Tower by \$7,500.00 for this budget and Ms. Ure seconded the motion. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes; Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Lee suggested that he would like to see a small stipend put into the budget for a Training officer. There are a lot of hours put into training and it would help incentivize this position. This district is also down two (2) Captains and training will be required. He would like to see an extra \$250.00 per quarter or \$1,000.00 annually be put into the budget. Both the Carolina and Ashaway districts have payroll for this position at \$2,000.00 annually.

During the July Monthly board meeting the final changes to the following accounts will be finalized:

- Account # 5101 – Gross – Chief
- Account # 5110 – Retirement
- Account # 5300 – Blue Cross
- Account # 5400 – FICA
- Account # TBD – Training Officer

ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. by Mr. DeBernardo and seconded by Mr. Johnson. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Holt-yes; Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes; Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kelley
District Clerk