

### **BUDGET HEARING, JANUARY 2, 2013**

Chairman Raymond Equils called the meeting to order at 20:00 hours, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Eadicicco, Equils, Kelly, Scarlato, and Stalling were present. Also present were five (5) fire officers and/or firefighters. It is noted that there was zero (0) members of the public in attendance when the meeting was called to order.

Chairman Equils read the Public Notice for this hearing, as advertised in the Asbury Park Press on Wednesday, December 16, 2012, and also posted on two municipal public bulletin boards and on the firehouse bulletin board.

The Clerk also made note that the Annual Notice of Meetings, including this Hearing, was advertised in the Asbury Park Press on Sunday, December 30, 2012, and also posted on two municipal bulleting boards and on the firehouse bulletin board.

The Clerk noted that in the event any residents or taxpayers wished to review the budget, it was available for Public Inspection in the Fire Prevention Bureau Office during business hours for at least the past week. Additionally, he was present in the district office from 10:00 to 12:00 hours on Saturday, December 29, and today from 17:00 hours until the start of this meeting, for review of the budget by any interested resident or taxpayer.

He reported that no citizens or taxpayers nor any of the district's firefighters requested to review the budget at the district office.

The Clerk reported the budget document was sent to the Dept of Community Affairs in Trenton, and was received back from them in today's mail, signed and approved. The Clerk also stated he contacted the district auditor (Mr. Barry J. Osborn) and received no negative response, regarding any problem with the budget as submitted.

Chairman Equils stated that the sole purpose of this meeting is to conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed Budget for 2013; and to then adopt same with or without any changes.

Commissioners Scarlato and Eadicicco made a motion to open the Public Hearing, which was passed unanimously by the board.

Clerk Kelly went on to state that there were three (3) minor changes made by the auditor prior to submission of the documents to Trenton; following the Certification by the Municipal Tax Assessor or Collector, of Increased Values of Additional or Improved Properties in the fire district.

This increase, totaling \$2,100.00 was applied by the auditor to two (2) specific Line Accounts, and added to the Total Proposed Budget.

The Clerk then reviewed the budget including the changes. He reported the Line Account for Payroll Tax was increased by \$100.00 to a new total of \$13,100.00. And the Line Account for Length of Services Award Program was increased by \$2,000.00, to a

new total of \$67,000.00. This resulted in a recalculated Sub-Total of \$634,267.00 for the Proposed Budget; and a new Total Proposed Budget of \$1,584,267.00 for the 2013 year.

The Clerk further reported the proposed budget remains under the 2% Cap Levy, as mandated by state statute/regulation.

Clerk Kelly noted the proposed budget will utilize \$81,255.00 from Unreserved Funds and \$750,000.00 from Reserved Funds for Capital Projects. The Board will also utilize \$9,000.00 in Anticipate Revenue, generated by an interest bearing savings account.

The use of these various funds total \$840,255.00; leaving a balance of \$744,012.00 as the amount to be raised through general taxation, to support the proposed budget. Clerk Kelly reported the budget proposes a Tax Rate of \$0.082 per \$100.00 of Assessed Valuation. This concluded the Clerk's review of the proposed budget

It was noted for the record that at no time during these discussions had any person, citizen or firefighter, arrived to participate in the public hearing. It was further noted that the fire personnel present at the opening of the meeting left the meeting room, of their own accord, during the time the review and hearing were taking place.

Even though the meeting room was empty, except for the elected members of the commission; Chairman Equils went through the formality of asking three (3) times if there were any questions or comments to be made on the Proposed 2013 Budget.

Hearing no response to Chairman Equils' calling; a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Commissioners Eadicicco and Scarlato. This motion was passed unanimously by the board.

A motion was then made by Commissioners Scarlato and Stalling; **TO ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR 2013, WITH A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$1,584,267.00; WITH A TAX LEVY TOTALING \$744,012.00.**

This motion was passed unanimously by the Board on a **Roll Call Vote**; with Commissioners Eadicicco, Equils, Kelly, Scarlato, and Stalling all voting AYE. There were no NAY votes cast.

This concluded the business of the Public Hearing and Adoption of the 2013 Budget. So with no citizens, firefighters, or other members of the public in the audience, Commissioners Kelly and Stalling made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was passed unanimously by the Board. The meeting closed at 20:18 hours.  
Respectfully Submitted,

Robert J. Kelly  
Clerk of the Board

RJK/rjk

01/02/2013