

EAST CLINTON FIRE DISTRICT

October 20, 2020

COMMISSIONERS MEETING – FINAL

Public Hearing – Proposed 2021 Budget

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephen Forschler, Chairman
Kevin Fierro
Russell Tompkins
Robert Trzcinski

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Michael DiGiacomio

Chairman Forschler called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and put the budget up on the screen. Eliot Werner was present and asked about computer support which is budgeted for \$4,300. He asked why the internet expense was zero. Chairman Forschler said that he believes the internet expense is part of the cable bill which includes phone and internet. Mr. Werner asked if the accounting fees are what cover the accountant's salary. He said the town, who has Hoolihan as their accountant, pays much less than \$20,000. Chairman Forschler said one of the things they liked about Mr. Passikoff is that he has relationships with several fire districts. Commissioner Trzcinski said there are some peculiarities with fire district accounting so it's helpful to have someone with experience in that area. Mr. Werner said overall, the budget numbers look reasonable and couldn't be much lower. Chairman Forschler said the numbers are realistic. This is a strong budget because we are doing what we can to stoke the reserve funds. Our goal is not to have to borrow to buy trucks and to get the capital improvement fund up to a level where we would at least have the initial cost covered for a new structure and would only have to borrow on the structure itself. We are making good contributions to those reserve funds without increasing the budget. 2022 is the last payment on the apparatus loan we do have. If we can avoid borrowing money for equipment, there is that much more money to pay off a bond for a structure. Mr. Werner asked if residents will see a decrease in their tax assessments. Commissioner Trzcinski said the mil rate is 1.523 off of 1.6. It's not a big drop but it's very nicely controlled. He said we as a group have been saving a good amount of money. We have the new LOSAP plan. All officers are very fiscally responsible. Mr. Werner suggested the board may want to put out a press release to the residents about how fiscally responsible the board is. Commissioner Trzcinski suggested as part of the financial discussion at the regular meetings, it is pointed out that the officers staff, the district officers, the commissioners, and the rescue squad officers are fiscally responsible and for over two years, the total tax decrease has been 1.5 percent. Commissioner Trzcinski also said we need to make sure Supervisor Oberly puts the correct number in the budget that goes to the county. November 5 is the public hearing on the town's budget.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Trzcinski that the board accept the final budget of \$540,025 in expenses of which \$539,875 will be raised by real

estate taxes which is a 1.5% decrease with a total decrease of \$8,160 and authorizes the secretary to file it with the town.

Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye	Commissioner DiGiacomio	Absent
Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner Fierro	Aye		

Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Chairman Forschler and seconded by Commissioner Fierro that the board designate the Valley Community Church on Salt Point Turnpike as the East Clinton Fire District's election site on December 8 and authorizes the secretary to publish the election notice.

Commissioner Fierro	Aye	Commissioner DiGiacomio	Absent
Commissioner Tompkins	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye		

Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trzcinski and seconded by Commissioner Tompkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Commissioner Trzcinski	Aye	Commissioner DiGiacomio	Absent
Commissioner Fierro	Aye	Chairman Forschler	Aye
Commissioner Tompkins	Aye		

Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Buechele, Secretary
East Clinton Fire District