

WEST CORNERS FIRE DISTRICT  
Budget Hearing – October 18, 2022

Attending:

C. Loveland    B. Homa  
R. Boyer        C. Kratochvil  
D. Griffith  
M. Schroedel  
J. Davis

Guests:

D. Thomas  
D. Grinnell  
M. Heide  
R. Wendland  
Dennis Leonard  
J. Singer

Chairman Loveland called the Budget Hearing to order at 6:00 pm.

The Proposed Budget was handed out to all in attendance.

The Capital Improvement Plan was reviewed, regarding the fleet and the station.

The budget was explained in detail by Finance Commissioner Schroedel, as to the process of preparing the budget including why the County may change the rate we submit, due to refunds to individuals and businesses through grievances.

Question: How is the tax rate is obtained, and how much did the town increased our rate last year

Tax Rate is determined by dividing the Proposed Budget (District determines) by the total amount of assessed properties within the district (Town determines) and multiplying by 1000. This is known as the "Tax Rate per mil"

Tax Rate = (Total 2023 Proposed Budget) / (Assessed Valuation) \* 1000

Tax Rate = (\$528,242) / (\$10,290,460) \* 1000

Tax Rate = \$51.33

Broome County increased the district tax rate to \$59.25 for the 2022 fiscal year to pay for a tax reduction judgement for a property within the district.

Question: What is the procedure to fund new apparatus

There are three ways to fund new apparatus:

- Pay cash from a *specified* reserve account. This type of account requires voter approval up front to establish the specific account. For example, a specified reserve account could be established to replace the ladder truck. The specific account is then funded over several years. The district will then be able to purchase the piece of apparatus once there are sufficient funds.
- Pay cash from an *unspecified* reserve account. This type of account is established with voter approval with only general guidelines as to what can be purchased with it. The Board of Commissioners will pass a resolution to purchase a new piece of apparatus subject to *permissive referendum*.
- Establish a bond. Bonding requires a *mandatory referendum* to gain voter approval.

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Question: In 7 years when we need to replace a vehicle, will we have enough money to pay cash?

Answer: No. The options will be to increase yearly contributions to the reserve account or establish a bond.

Question: In regards to inflation increases, we used 2% which could be a revenue loss for us

Question: What is behind the building & grounds improvement budget line, what are we looking at repairing

Answer: Such items as concrete pad repair, kitchen update, etc.

These questions were discussed at length.

The hearing concluded at 6:53 pm

Respectfully submitted,

*Betty J Homa*

Betty J. Homa  
District Secretary