



# LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT

504 Freedom Plains Rd • Poughkeepsie, NY 12603



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**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**Public Hearing – 2022 Proposed Budget**  
**October 19, 2021 – 7pm – Station 2**

ATTENDEES: Chairman Marc Komorsky  
Commissioner Anthony Pignataro (*via Zoom*)  
Commissioner Stephen Piehler  
EMS Administrator Michael Benenati  
Secretary Bria Le  
Commissioner George Burns  
Commissioner Rich Sassi  
Chief Tim O'Connor  
Treasurer Mark Pozniak

At 7:01 pm, Chairman Komorsky called the Board of Fire Commissioners' Public Hearing on the Budget to order for Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. He thanked everyone for attending.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET**

- **Roll Call:** Treasurer Mark Pozniak - Here  
Commissioner Stephen Piehler – Here  
Commissioner Richard Sassi – Here  
Commissioner Anthony Pignataro – Here (*via Zoom*)  
Commissioner George Burns – Here  
Commissioner Marc Komorsky – Present  
Chief Tim O'Connor – Here  
Secretary Bria Le – Here

- **BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

Komorsky read a notice on the budget hearing that noted when and where notice of the hearing was posted (affidavit attached). Treasurer Mark Pozniak reviewed the proposed budget (attached) but noted that there were currently negotiations happening that may affect the proposed budget. He went through projected increases for an individual homeowner over the next few years.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

At 7:28 Komorsky opened the hearing for public comments and reviewed the procedure for an individual to make comments.

- Joseph Luna: "The question I have is the intent to hire more people with or without the grant?"  
Pozniak said that the budget includes nine new hires and the grant and the Board would have to answer that question. Komorsky said it comes down to accepting the grant or not accepting the grant.

Commissioner Pignataro said that if anyone attending via Zoom had any questions at this time they could ask the Board directly then he would read the comments submitted via the chat feature. He then read the following messages that came via chat from Ron Schulz:

- does LaGrange participate in Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) allowed by the state to help retain VOLUNTEERS?

Pignataro said that yes, the District does participate in LOSAP, then read the next comments.

BoFC Budget Hearing 10/19/21

Please note that this meeting was conducted in person at 504 Freedom Plains Road in Poughkeepsie, NY AND open for public viewing and/or listening via the video conferencing platform Zoom,



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- of the \$4.183 Million budgeted for salaries in 2022, how much of that is for expected OVERTIME?
- ...if the SAFER grant is suppose to pay for the 9 additional firefighters for the first three years, why are you creating a Transfer to SAFER Surplus account by appropriating an additional \$100,000 from the taxpayer in 2022?
- The current fire tax rate is \$4.14/\$1K valuation in 2021.....Given the SAFER grant with 9 additional employees, I predict a tax rate of over \$6/\$15 valuation by 2027 at the latest.....corresponding to a \$350K (average ) home in LaGrange paying over \$2100 in Fire tax alone.....Do you agree?.....what would your prediction be?... and don't tell the LaGrange taxpayer that you have not or will not provide an estimate.
- \$300K house is NOT the ave in Dutchess.....much closer to 350K

Pozniak said he could address the questions. He said that the overtime number is based on the overtime that was worked this year with an adjustment up based on the consideration of two additional people per shift creating slightly more overtime. He said that he doesn't have the exact percentage, but it was something in the neighborhood of 30%. He said that the transfer to SAFER grant in the budget was to create operating surpluses in the first three years then draw down in years four through six. He said the purpose is to increase property taxes slowly over a period of six year rather than one huge hit in year four. Short discussion followed regarding the process used for projecting the overtime budget. Pozniak said that the tax rate for 2021 is 4.14 and that he thinks the tax rate at the year 2027 at the 7.875% increases would likely be around 6.30 per thousand, but in the second scenario where the increase is around 6.42%, the number would be 5.82. Pignataro said there was a follow up question from Ron Schulz and read them for the Board.

- so 29% of 4.183MILLION....is that a good guess?
- 9 more employees but \$400K MORE OT.....are you kidding me.....absolutely UNCONSCIONABLE

Pozniak said that the 29% is a good number, but he didn't understand the second question and Sassi said it was more of a statement than a question.

At 7:28, Komorsky declared the public comments portion of the hearing closed and asked if the Commissioners had any further questions. Pozniak added that the six year plan assumes that operations are roughly the same as they are now in every other respect than the nine new firefighters.

### **CLOSING:**

At 7:29 pm, upon a MOTION made by Sassi and SECONDED by Pignataro, the Board RESOLVED close the hearing. Burns – Aye, Piehler – Aye, Pignataro – Aye, Sassi – Aye, Komorsky – Aye. **Motion Carried.**

Komorsky stated that the public hearing regarding the 2022 proposed budget is declared closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bria Le – District Secretary

***Approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners on 11/9/21***

BoFC Budget Hearing 10/19/21

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State of New York )  
County of Dutchess )  
Town of LaGrange )

Bria Le, Secretary of the LaGrange Fire District, located in the Town of LaGrange, being duly sworn deposes and says:

The attached Notice of Public Hearing on the Budget, at least once five days before the date specified for the hearing.

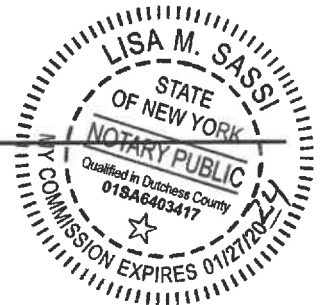
- 1) Was published in the Poughkeepsie Journal the official newspaper of the Fire District on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021;
- 2) Was posted on the official signboard of the Town or Towns where the district is located;
- 3) Was posted on the website of the LaGrange Fire District.
- 4) Was posted on the website of the Town of LaGrange. The Fire District is located in the Town of LaGrange;
- 5) The Notice of Public Hearing specified the time when and the place where this public hearing would be held;
- 6) The Fire District Secretary also made available for inspection by any interested person during office hours copies of the proposed budget on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021, which is at least five days before the public hearing.

Dated: 10/19/21

Bria P. Le  
Fire District Secretary

Sworn to me this 19 day of October, 2021

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(Attached to this notice is the Notice of Public Hearing on the Budget)



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
LAGRANGE FIRE DISTRICT  
2022 BUDGET

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Proposed Budget of the LaGrange Fire District of the Town of LaGrange, State of New York, will be presented to the Board of Fire Commissioners of the LaGrange Fire District, for its consideration.

A PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 7 PM at Firehouse # 2, located at 504 Freedom Plains Road, Town of LaGrange, NY, on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021 and available for remote attendance through the video conferencing platform Zoom. Any member of the public who wishing to attend via computer, tablet, or smartphone can use this link - [LaGrange Fire District 2022 Budget Hearing](#). Access is also available directly through the Zoom website (<https://zoom.us/join>) or by dialing in by telephone (1-929-205-6099) and using the following information: Meeting ID - 858 9366 8192 Passcode – 809031 .

Pursuant to Town Law §181.3(a), the Board of Fire Commissioners must hold a public hearing on the budget, make the proposed budget available to the public prior to the public hearing , and allow the public to comment on the budget at the public hearing. This public hearing must be held to allow maximum public participation in the hearing.

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow any person to be heard in favor of, or against, the proposed budget as it is submitted, or for, or against, any item or items contained in the proposed budget, and hearing all persons interested in the subject concerning same.

A copy of the proposed budget is available at the office of the Lagrange Fire District Secretary at LaGrange Firehouse #2, located at 504 Freedom Plains Road, where it may be reviewed by any interested person during office hours 9:00 AM to 5 PM. A copy may also be obtained by emailing a request to [secretary@lagrangefireny.us](mailto:secretary@lagrangefireny.us).

Dated: September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Board of Fire Commissioners  
Lagrange Fire District  
504 Freedom Plains Road  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

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LaGrange Fire District  
2022 Budget

	Adopted	Proposed		Adopted
	2021	2022		2022

**Estimated Revenues**

1001 · Real Property Taxes	8,037,641	8,668,596	7.85%	-100.00%
2401 · Interest and Earnings	35,000	15,000	-57.14%	-100.00%
2705 · Gifts and Donations	1,000	1,000	0.00%	-100.00%
3210 · Insurance Dividends	80,000	75,000	-6.25%	-100.00%
3500 · Reimbursement Income	25,000	50,000	100.00%	-100.00%
3524 · Ref of Exp - Personnel Services	5,000	7,500	50.00%	-100.00%
4389 · Federal Grant (SAFER)	0	1,163,988	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>	<b>8,183,641</b>	<b>9,981,084</b>	21.96%	<b>0</b> -100.00%

**Appropriations**

<b>1 · Personal Services</b>				
7322 · Payroll	3,674,813	4,813,000	30.97%	-100.00%
Total 7322 · Payroll	3,674,813	4,813,000	30.97%	0 -100.00%
<b>Total 1 · Personal Services</b>	<b>3,674,813</b>	<b>4,813,000</b>	30.97%	<b>0</b> -100.00%
<b>2 · Equipment &amp; Capital Expenditures</b>				
7000 · Equipment				
7010 · Equipment - Fire & Rescue	100,000	190,000	90.00%	-100.00%
7019 · Equipment - IT and Admin	30,000	30,000	0.00%	-100.00%
Total 7000 · Equipment	130,000	220,000	69.23%	0 -100.00%
7020 · Capital Expenditures				
7021 · Land	0	0	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
7022 · Buildings	0	95,000	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
7023 · Apparatus	150,000	120,000	-20.00%	-100.00%
Total 7020 · Capital Expenditures	150,000	215,000	43.33%	0 -100.00%
7030 · Transfers to Reserves				
7031 · Transfer to Land and Building Reserve	0	0	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
7032 · Transfer to Apparatus Reserve	400,000	200,000	-50.00%	
7032 · Transfer to Equipment Reserve	0	0	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Total 7020 · Transfers to Reserves	400,000	200,000	-50.00%	0 -100.00%
<b>Total 2 · Equipment &amp; Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>680,000</b>	<b>635,000</b>	-6.62%	<b>0</b> -100.00%
<b>4 · Contractual &amp; Other Expenses</b>				
5000 · Blanket Accident Ins	100,000	100,000	0.00%	-100.00%
5500 · Contingency	100,000	25,000	-75.00%	-100.00%
6000 · Buildings & Ground				
6020 · Fuel	15,000	15,000	0.00%	-100.00%
6030 · Electricity	50,000	50,000	0.00%	-100.00%
6040 · R & S Buildings and Grounds	130,000	130,000	0.00%	-100.00%
Total 6000 · Buildings & Ground	195,000	195,000	0.00%	0 -100.00%
6010 · Travel and Training	25,000	25,000	0.00%	-100.00%
6100 · R & S Apparatus	160,000	160,000	0.00%	-100.00%
6200 · R & S Equipment	20,000	29,385	46.93%	-100.00%

LaGrange Fire District  
2022 Budget

	Adopted 2020	Proposed 2021		Adopted 2021
6220 · Gas, Diesel, Oil	35,000	35,000	0.00%	-100.00%
6250 · Telephone	21,000	21,000	0.00%	-100.00%
6330 · Office Supplies, Postage	15,000	15,000	0.00%	-100.00%
6350 · Association Dues	3,000	3,000	0.00%	-100.00%
6360 · Uniforms, Badges	15,000	15,000	0.00%	-100.00%
6380 · Awards	500	500	0.0%	-100.0%
6400 · Public Events	12,000	12,000	0.00%	-100.00%
6420 · Publications of Notice	750	750	0.00%	-100.00%
6430 · Maint Fire Alarm Systems	1,500	1,500	0.00%	-100.00%
6510 · Payroll Fees	10,750	8,000	-25.58%	-100.00%
6511 · Legal	73,000	100,000	36.99%	-100.00%
6512 · Audit & Accounting	16,000	16,000	0.00%	-100.00%
6520 · IT Services	35,000	35,000	0.00%	-100.00%
6530 · Professional Services	0	0	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
6540 · Physical exams	35,000	40,000	14.29%	-100.00%
6560 · Miscellaneous	4,500	4,500	0.00%	-100.00%
6600 · Expendable Supplies	40,000	40,000	0.00%	-100.00%
6700 · Service Charge	250	250	0.00%	-100.00%
6999 · Uncategorized Expenses	2,500	2,500	0.00%	-100.00%
<b>Total 4 · Contractual &amp; Other Expenses</b>	<b>920,750</b>	<b>884,385</b>	-3.95%	<b>0</b> -100.00%
<b>8 · Benefits</b>				
6270 · Life Ins.Career	14,000	24,000	71.43%	-100.00%
6280 · Life insur.Volunteers	9,000	20,000	122.22%	-100.00%
7120 · Dental Ins Career	77,000	108,000	40.26%	-100.00%
7130 · Vision Ins.-Career	12,000	16,000	33.33%	-100.00%
7140 · Hospitalization	1,150,000	1,387,750	20.67%	-100.00%
7210 · MTA	10,500	16,364	55.85%	-100.00%
7500 · State Retirement System	881,955	1,036,130	17.48%	-100.00%
7600 · Service Awards	65,000	80,000	23.08%	-100.00%
7700 · Social Security	281,123	368,195	30.97%	-100.00%
7800 · Workers Comp/VFBL	400,000	492,260	23.07%	-100.00%
7850 · Transfer to Retirement Reserve	7,500	0	-100.00%	-100.00%
7900 · Transfer to SAFER Surplus	0	100,000	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
<b>Total 8 · Benefits</b>	<b>2,908,078</b>	<b>3,648,699</b>	25.47%	<b>0</b> -100.00%
<b>9 · Debt Service</b>				
BAN Principal	0	0		0
BAN Interest	0	0		0
<b>Total 9 · Debt Service</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	#DIV/0!	<b>0</b> #DIV/0!
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>8,183,641</b>	<b>9,981,084</b>	21.96%	<b>0</b> -100.00%
Appropriations Less Estimated Revenues	0	0		0
<b>Appropriated Fund Balance</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>