Highland Fire District
Board of Fire Commissioners
2027 PROPOSED BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
October 20, 2026
7:00 PM – St #1

Commissioners:	Kevin Rizzo	(PRESENT)
	James Anzalone, Jr.	(PRESENT)
	Alan Barone	(PRESENT)
	Charly Long	(ABSENT)
	Gina Hansut	(ABSENT)
District Secretary	Leslie B. Benson	(PRESENT)
Treasurer	Fred DeMaio	(PRESENT)
Chief	Jeffrey DiMetro	(ABSENT)
Assistant Chief	John Gallagher	(PRESENT)

1. **Opening of Hearing** – Chairman Rizzo called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, led the salute to the flag and asked for a moment of silence. Chairman Rizzo welcomed everyone to the Board of Fire Commissioners 2027 Proposed Budget Public Hearing. We are required by the State to hold a hearing this week to read the budget.

2. **Public Hearing**: Chairman Rizzo reviewed the following:
   Notice of Public Hearing was published or posted at least 5 days before the date of the specified hearing in:
   Secretary Leslie Benson advised the dates:
   The official newspaper of the Fire district – Southern Ulster Times – October 8, 2026
   The official signboard of the Town of Lloyd at Town Clerk – October 14, 2026
   The Fire District's webpage on the website of the Town of Lloyd – October 14, 2026
   The signboard located at Highland Fire District Headquarters – September 30, 2026
   Posted on entrance of the firehouse – September 30, 2026

   The notice of the public hearing specified the time, date, and place where the hearing would be held.
   Upon its adoption, the Secretary made available for copying and inspection of the proposed budget to any interested person during district office hours, Monday – Friday from 9AM – 4:30PM

   The purpose of the hearing is to allow members of the general public to make comments on the Budget.
   Any person may be heard in favor of or against the preliminary budget.

   Please note that this is a proposed budget until the Board of Fire Commissioners adopt the final budget.

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3. **Presentation of Budget:** Treasurer DeMaio presented the 2027 Proposed Budget. The total Proposed Operating Budget is $1,471,706.00, less Projected Income of $128,908.00 total to be raised by Real Property Taxes is $1,342,798.00.

   The Proposed budget will be presented to the Board for approval.

4. **Public Comment:** The Board requests any person wishing to be heard to come forward so that he or she may be heard in favor of, or against the proposed budget.

   Please raise your hand to be recognized and state your name.
   Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes and direct your questions to the Board or Treasurer.
   Please note that this is not a question-and-answer session. The Board is looking for your opinion on the budget or any part of it, what you are in favor of, or what you are against. You may ask questions, but this board will not answer any questions until the conclusion of the public comment period

   Peter Miller asked about LOSAP Funding for $148,000.00, this is 100% funded. We have members maxed out and still serving and if the State allows to increase, it will build up the account.

What's under 2%	
2026 Tax levy	$1,314,107.00
X tax base growth factor	1.0064
Equals	$1,322,517.28
X allowable levy growth 1.02 (2%)	$1,348,967.63
No carry over used	0.00
Total allowable	$1,348.967.63
Board's decision under 2% cap	$1,342,798.00

   The rate per 1000 is 1.2300

5. **Conclusion of the Public Comment portion of the hearing**
   The public comment portion of the hearing was closed.

6. **Questions from the Board**
   No questions.

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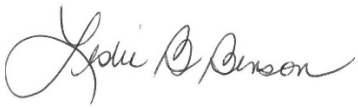
7. <u>Close of Public Hearing</u>

There being no further questions or comments, Chairman Rizzo asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion: Commissioner Anzalone moved to close the Public Hearing at 7:12 PM seconded by Commissioner Barone

VOTE: 3 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain 2 Absent (Commissioner Long & Hansut)

Respectfully submitted,



Leslie B. Benson, District Secretary

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