Barnard Fire District

COMMISSIONERS
Michael Hayes
John Norris
David Williams
Vice Chairman Daniel Cappon
Chairman Norman Gerhard II

ADMINISTRATION
Fire Chief - Stephen Andrews
Secretary/Treasurer - Sandy Ballou
Assistant Treasurer - Andy Hinds

Public Hearing on 2027 Proposed Budget
October 19, 2026

Chairman Gerhard presiding, Commissioner's, Cappon, Hayes, Norris, Williams, Chief Stephen Andrews, Secretary/Treasurer Sandy Ballou, Assistant Treasurer Andy Hinds

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief Andrews

Chairman Gerhard asked to join him in a moment of silence for all the people who were part of the Barnard family and those who were touched by the Barnard family that are no longer with us. Keeping in our thoughts and prayers all our men and women first responders who do battle every day. Also, please keep in your prayers the family of Mrs. Coddington.

Public Hearing on the Budget

Chairman Gerhard -

1. This is a public hearing regarding the 2027 preliminary proposed District budget. In accordance with New York State Town Law, all Fire Districts must, prior to the adoption of their budget, hold a public hearing on their budget. The budget hearing must be held in such a manner to maximize participation in the budget process. The purpose of this hearing is to disclose the contents of the budget. The Board of Fire Commissioners, in accordance with legal requirements, has adopted their preliminary proposed budget on the 24th day of September 2026, which is at least 21 days prior to this budget hearing.
2. The Secretary of the Fire District has filed an affidavit stating that the notice of this public hearing was published or posted at least once at least five days before the date specified for the hearing in:
    a. The official newspaper of the Fire District – 10/06/2026
    b. The official signboard of the Fire District – 10/3-10/19/2026
    c. The Town of Greece Clerk – Preliminary Budget 09/25/2026, Legal Notice 10/1/2026
    d. The Barnard Fire District Website – 08/31/2026 -10/20/2026
3. The notice of the public hearing specified the time, date and where this public hearing would be held.
4. Upon its adoption, the Fire District Secretary also made available the preliminary proposed budget for any interested person during the district hours.

5. The purpose of this public hearing is to allow members of the public to make comments on the preliminary budget. Any person may be heard in favor of, or against, the preliminary proposed budget or any item in it. Please note that this is only a preliminary budget proposed until the Board of Fire Commissioners adopts the final budget.
6. Prior to the public comment portion of this budget hearing, we will hear from the Fire District Office of the Treasurer who will make a brief presentation about the preliminary budget to the Board of Fire Commissioners and members of the public who are present. The Office of the Treasurer will be asked to submit the proposed budget to the Board of Fire Commissioners and members of the public who are here this evening.
7. This budget must be adopted no later than November 4th and submitted to the Town Budget Officer by November 7th.

2027 Proposed Barnard Fire District Budget
Office of the Treasurer

We would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight for our public hearing regarding the Barnard Fire District's 2027 budget. The Board of Fire Commissioners and the staff at the Barnard Fire District take budget matters very seriously. The preliminary proposed budget is $9,412,212 which means the budget increase is approximately 19.1%.

Chairman Gerhard -

The public comment period begins. I will now ask any person present wishing to be heard on this proposed budget to come forward so that the person may be heard in favor of, or against, the proposed budget or any item in it. I request that if you wish to address the Board on the proposed budget, you come to the podium directly in front of us or raise your hand to be recognized. Clearly state your name and address for the record. Please limit your comments to three minutes. Please direct all your questions to the Board or the Treasurer. This is **not** a question-and-answer session. Your question will **not** be answered when asked. The Board is looking for your opinion on the budget or any part of it, whether favorable or not. Please tell us what you are in favor of regarding this budget or what you are against. You may ask questions, but this board and Treasurer will **not** answer any questions until the conclusion of the public comments period.

1. The Public now makes comments on the budget – There was no one from the public in attendance.

Chairman Gerhard stated that the Board is cognizant of the times we are in; and is proud of the Board and the staff for budgeting what we need rather than what we want for the District. With the tax cap for our district being under 2% it is next to impossible to stay under such a number.

2. Conclusion of the public comment portion of the hearing
    a. The chairman noted that the public comments period of this annual budget hearing has now concluded.
3. The members of the Board of Fire Commissioners can ask questions.
4. The Office of the Treasurer, if able to do so, will now answer questions discussed during the public comments period and fire commissioners questioning period.
5. Hearing is closed
    a. Chairman Gerhard states the public hearing regarding the 2027 preliminary budget is declared closed; may I receive a motion from a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners?

MOTION: By Commissioner Norris seconded by Commissioner Cappon to close the 2026 Public Hearing for the 2027 Preliminary Proposed Budget.

All Commissioners approved. Motion carried.

Hearing ended at 6:19 pm
Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Ballou
Secretary/Treasurer

Andy Hinds
Assistant Treasurer

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2027 Proposed Budget

APPROPRIATIONS		
PAYROLL AND BENEFITS		
A3410.1	Payroll	$4,527,134
A9030.8	FICA Taxes	$346,325
A9010.8	NYS Retirement	$1,498,111
A9060.8	Health Insurance	$1,269,830
A9040.8	Workers Comp	$130,000
A3410.8	Other Benefits	$9,000
CONTRACTUAL		
A3410.4	Contractual	$778,950
MULTIYEAR CAPITAL PLAN		
A3410.2	Equipment or Capital Outlay	$232,487
A962	Funding Capital Reserve	$268,498
DEBT SERVICE		
A9710.6	Principal on Bond	$145,000
A9710.7	Interest on Bond	$79,800
OTHER APPROPRIATIONS		
A1990.4	Contingency	$350,000
A962	2028 UFB Increase Needed	$122,077
Total Appropriations		**$9,757,212**
REVENUES		
OTHER REVENUES		
A2401	Interest Earned	$150,000
A1081	Payments in Lieu of Taxes	$45,000
TAX LEVY		
A1001	Real Property Taxes	$9,412,212
Total Revenues		**$9,607,212**
2027 Budgeted Surplus / (Deficit)		($150,000)
2026 Year End Estimated Fund Balance		
Restricted	Reserves	$600,000
Assigned	Assigned to 2027 (unused contigency)	$150,000
Unrestricted	Unassigned Fund Balance	$1,450,000
Total 2026 Year End Estimated Fund Balance		**$2,200,000**

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