



BARNARD FIRE DISTRICT

GREECE, NY



John Norris
Commissioner

Daniel Cappon
Commissioner

David Williams
Vice Chairman

Norman Gerhard
Chairman

Robert Diederich
Commissioner

Patricia Morris
Secretary/Treasurer

Andy Hinds
Assistant Treasurer

Sandra Ballou
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

Stephen Andrews
Chief

Public Hearing on 2026 Proposed Budget October 22, 2025

Chairman Gerhard presiding, Commissioner's, Cappon, Norris, Williams, Chief Stephen Andrews, Secretary/Treasurer Pattie Morris, Assistant Treasurer Andy Hinds, Secretary/Deputy Treasurer Sandy Ballou, Absent- Comm Diederich

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chief Andrews

Chairman Gerhard would like a moment of silence for Barnard's family members who have gone before us, service personnel, and first responders who are keeping us safe tonight.

Public Hearing on the Budget

Chairman Gerhard -

- 1. This is a public hearing regarding the 2026 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 25th day of September 2025, 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*
 - b. *The official signboard of the Fire District*
 - c. *The Town of Greece Clerk**
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 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 Fire District 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 5th.*

*2026 Proposed Barnard Fire District Budget
District Treasurer*

I would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight for our public hearing regarding the Barnard Fire District's 2026 budget. The Board of Fire Commissioners and the staff at the Barnard Fire District take budget matters very seriously. The budget increase on the preliminary proposed budget is \$564,839 which means the budget increase is approximately 7.7%.

- *Healthcare budget costs have increased by approximately 30% due to Excellus increasing the costs, as well as adding employees. We have to increase our preliminary budget to reflect all these increases.*

- *The district honors two union contracts, one for firefighters which is a 5-year contract which is still being negotiated. The Officer's Union is a 5-year contract through December of 2026.*
- *Being a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners is an unpaid position, which means all the hours that they work for the taxpayers are not being paid*
- *Also, all the Board members, secretary and treasurer are residents of the Barnard Fire District so the increases in taxes affects them as well.*
- *Fire Districts do NOT receive any state aid, federal aid, or sales tax money as towns, cities, counties, and school districts receive.*
- *Barnard also is the ONLY district in Monroe County that offers its residents paramedic services. We feel that is an important part of why the Barnard Fire District is the best fire district in the county.*

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 in attendance from the public.*

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 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 2026 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 2025 Public Hearing for the 2026 Preliminary Proposed Budget.

All Commissioners approved. Motion carried.

*Hearing ended at 6:10pm
Respectfully submitted,*

*Patricia Morris
Secretary/Treasurer
Andy Hinds
Assistant Treasurer
Sandy Ballou
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer
Barnard Fire District*