

GLEN ARBOR TOWNSHIP

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Tom Laureto, Supervisor

Pam Laureto, Clerk

Don Lewis, Treasurer

Bob Hawley, Trustee

John DePuy, Trustee

GLFD Public Budget Hearing

9/13/2023

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Laureto at 7:00 PM at the Glen Lake Fire Department meeting room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. T. Laureto called roll. In attendance were Glen Arbor Township Board Members Tom Laureto, Pam Laureto, Don Lewis, Bob Hawley and John DePuy. Also in attendance were Bucky Noonan, Empire Township Supervisor, Bob Price, Empire Township Treasurer and ESAC member; Chief Ferguson, three members of the GLFD and two members the Emergency Services Advisory Commission. No members of the public were present.

Public Comment: None

Supervisor Laureto thanked people for attending and stated that the purpose of the meeting was for the Glen Lake Fire Department, represented by Chief Bryan Ferguson, to present the proposed fiscal year 2024-2025 budget to the public.

Chief Ferguson distributed the 2nd draft of the budget to all present. He indicated that he had reviewed the proposed draft budget with the Emergency Services Advisory Commission (ESAC) on two separate occasions and also with the Glen Arbor Township Board at their August meeting. Chief Ferguson indicated that the proposed FY 25 budget shows an increase in operations of \$142,000 over last year's budget with income that is a net increase of \$111,000. He reviewed the various line items that account for the increase. The increase to income is primarily due to the increase in interest rates and income from the ambulance billing service. He is asking to spend Capital on a new turnout gear washer and dryer and hydraulic jaws of life tools. He has applied for a grant to cover the washer and dryer but if the grant is not received the Department will have to purchase the appliances. Chief Ferguson stated that the budget includes hiring one additional full-time employee and stated that the ESAC recommended approval at a Special Meeting on August 29th. Ferguson took questions on the proposed budget.

Lewis asked about the income for Fire and Ambulance billing which is the same in the proposed budget as the previous year's budget. Ferguson stated that they anticipate there will be additional income.

Price asked about why Paid-Time-Off showed an increase and Ferguson said that per the union contract, many of the employees are increasing to the next step due to their years of service. Price also asked why FICA had stayed the same while the proposed wages have increased. Ferguson said that in the prior budget he had overestimated and put too much into FICA.

T. Laureto noted that at the ESAC meeting held this morning the committee voted to recommend that the proposed budget be adopted by the Glen Arbor Township Board at their next meeting to be held 9/19/2023.

Public Comment: none

Supervisor Comment: T. Laureto said he has been observing and working with the Fire Department for the last three years and he believes we have established a predictability with the expenses. He also believes that each year teamwork, training, response times and overall performance have improved. People that have interactions with the Fire Department generously commend the GLFD employees.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Laureto, Glen Arbor Township Clerk