

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

9/11/2024

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, and John DePuy; Bob Hawley was absent. Also in attendance were Bob Price, Empire Township Treasurer and ESAC member, and Chief Ferguson. 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 to the public their proposed fiscal year 2025-2026 budget.

Chief Ferguson distributed a 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. Chief Ferguson indicated that the proposed FY 26 budget shows an increase in operations of \$79,000 over last year's budget. There is also an increase in projected income so that the net increase to operations is \$61,000. He reviewed the various line items that account for the increase in operations and also the proposed Capital Expenses. Chief Ferguson stated that ESAC members recommended that the Township Board approve the proposed budget at their September 17th Board meeting. Chief Ferguson took questions on the proposed budget. There was discussion about Capital Expenses. Supervisor Laureto said that for the last 10 years Empire and Glen Arbor Townships have each been contributing \$195,000 per year to the Capital budget. He believes that with the rising costs of equipment and the number of vehicles that will need to be replaced over the next few years that the amount contributed will need to be increased. He plans to have those discussions with Empire Township officials over the next year.

Clerk Laureto asked about the reduction in the defined contribution plan and Ferguson stated that that he had overestimated in the previous budget.

Lewis asked about the application received for a new part-time employee and about current staffing. Ferguson responded that the applicant is currently in EMT school and that the department is at full staff with 16 employees. He said there is room for 1 part-time person each day but currently they only staff a part-time person about 10% of the time. Lewis also asked about call volume and Ferguson said it is up from the previous year and that it seems to be going up each year.

T. Laureto stated that he had met with Chief Ferguson about the proposed budget and that he believes this is a responsible budget. He noted that there is a small cushion in the budget to cover unknown expenses.

Public Comment: none

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Laureto
Glen Arbor Township Clerk