# HARTSDALE FIRE DISTRICT
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**BUDGET HEARING MINUTES**
**OCTOBER 20, 2026**

The Public Hearing for the 2027 Budget of the Hartsdale Fire District was held at Fire Station 2, 300 West Hartsdale Avenue, Hartsdale, New York, on Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

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| **Members present:** | Chairperson | Vallarelli |
| | Commissioners | Iamonico, Maguire |
| | Chief | Maseda |
| | Secretary | Kane |
| | Treasurer | Barahona |
| **Members absent:** | Commissioner | Muldoon (with notice) |

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   - Chairperson Vallarelli called the Public Hearing to order at 8:08 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
   - Chairman Vallarelli led the pledge of allegiance

3. **PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET**
   - **Statement by Chairman Vallarelli**
     - Chairman Vallarelli read the following notice:
       *"This is the public hearing regarding the 2027 proposed budget. In accordance with New York State Town Law, all Fire Districts must, before the adoption of their budget, hold a public hearing on their budget. This budget hearing must be held in a manner that maximizes participation in the budget process. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss the contents of the budget. The Board of Fire Commissioners, in accordance with legal requirements, has adopted its proposed budget on the 14th day of September, 2026, which is more than 21 days before this budget hearing.*

       *Since the Hartsdale Fire District maintains a website, the proposed budget was posted on that website pursuant to the requirements of the Town Law.*

       *The Secretary of the Fire District has filed with this district a certificate of posting stating that the notice of this public hearing was submitted to the Town Clerk for posting on the Town of Greenburgh signboard and website, and was published or posted at least once at least 5 days before the date specified for the hearing, in the following locations:*
       *The official newspaper of the Hartsdale Fire District (The Journal News) and*
       *The Hartsdale Fire District's website*

       *The notice of public hearing specified the time and date when, and the place where, this public hearing would be held.*

       *Upon its adoption, the fire district secretary also made available copies of the proposed budget to any interested person during district office hours.*

*The purpose of this public hearing is to allow members of the public to make comments on the budget. Any person may be heard in favor of, or against, the preliminary budget or any item in it. Please note that this is only a proposed budget until the Board of Fire Commissioners adopts the final budget.*

*Before 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.*

*This budget must be adopted no later than November 4 and submitted to the Town budget officer by November 7."*

- **Presentation by Treasurer Barahona**
  - Treasurer Barahona presented a line-by-line review of the proposed budget. The presentation included a PowerPoint presentation that was delivered to both the public and the Board of Fire Commissioners. One member of the public was in attendance.

- **Public Comment Period**
  - **Opening Statement**
    - Chairman Vallarelli stated that the public comment period was open and invited any person present to speak in favor of or against the proposed budget or any item within it. Attendees were asked to stand to be recognized, clearly state their name and address for the record, and limit comments to five minutes. All comments were to be directed to the Board or the Treasurer and would be addressed after the conclusion of the public comment period.

  - Freddy Victoria of 7 Holland Place asked two questions:
    - Mr. Victoria asked why the year-to-year budget increase for health benefits appeared to be approximately 2% when the presentation cited projected increases of roughly 8.5% for health premiums and 3.5% for dental.
    - Mr. Victoria also asked whether the assigned appropriated fund balance would have been higher if the approximately $368,000 allocation to the tax stabilization reserve had not been made.

  - **Conclusion of Public Comment Period**
    - Chairman Vallarelli asked if there were any further comments or questions from the public. Hearing none, he announced that the public comment portion of the annual budget hearing was concluded. He then invited the members of the Board of Fire Commissioners to ask any questions. No questions were raised by the Board members.

- **Treasurer's Response to Public Comments**
  - **Health Benefits Budget Estimates**
    - In response to Mr. Victoria's question, Treasurer Barahona explained that the budget estimates were based on actual costs and that prior budgets included a cushion; the District's goal was to use tighter estimates.

  - **Appropriated Fund Balance vs. Tax Stabilization Reserve:**

- In response to Mr. Victoria's second question, Treasurer Barahona clarified that the tax stabilization reserve and the appropriated fund balance are separate. The appropriated fund balance did not fund the tax stabilization reserve.

## 4. HEARING CLOSURE

- Chairman Vallarelli stated:
  *"This public hearing regarding the 2026 proposed budget is now concluded. All public comments and questions received during this hearing will be taken into consideration. A final budget for 2027 will be adopted during the Special Meeting that follows immediately after this hearing. May I have a motion from a member of the Board to formally close the public budget hearing?"*

- A motion was made by Commissioner Iamonico, seconded by Commissioner Nanko, to close the Public Budget Hearing. Motion carried. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine K. Kane, Fire District Secretary