

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
HOPEWELL BOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1**

RESOLUTION 2024-35

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY TAX CAP LEVY REFERENDUM

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.45 provides that in preparation of its budget a fire district shall limit any increase in its property tax levy to two percent (2%) over the previous year's amount to be raised by taxation, subject to certain exceptions and additions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.46(b), permits a fire district to increase the amount to be raised by taxation by a percentage rate greater than two percent (2%) where said increase is approved by referendum; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1 in the County of Mercer has called for a referendum question pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.46(b) to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November because it finds it advisable and necessary to increase its 2025 budget amount to be raised by taxation, to provide and maintain essential district services for the residents of the district; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of Hopewell Borough Fire District No. 1 hereby determines that an 11% increase in the amount to be raised by taxation or \$57,558.00 in excess of the increase in the amount to be raised by taxation otherwise permitted by a two percent (2%) tax levy cap, will only become effective upon authorization by an affirmative vote of in excess of fifty percent (50%) of the voters casting a ballot at the referendum. According to the shared services agreement between Hopewell Borough and Hopewell Township Fire Districts, Hopewell Borough residents are only responsible for 30% or \$17,267.40; and,

WHEREAS, this additional amount will be appropriated for the purposed set forth below, increasing the total appropriation for each such purpose from what would otherwise be provided under the limitations of a two percent (2%) tax levy cap, as set forth below:

LINE-ITEM NAME	AMOUNT FOR REFERENDUM
VEHICLE REPAIR	\$13,000.00
INSURANCE	\$12,000.00
TRAINING	\$12,000.00
UNIFORMS/TURN OUT GEAR	\$8,000.00
FIRE EQUIPMENT	\$6,400.00
BUILDING RENT	\$4,000.00
COMPUTER/IT	\$2,000.00
LEGAL FEES	\$500.00

owned equipment like firetrucks and ambulances. This line had not increased in over five years. The Department is asking for an increase in rent further stretching the operating costs. Computer and IT costs have increased, as new technology changes every day, and equipment no longer lasts as long as it used it. The environment that some our equipment is subjected to can be harsh and shortens lifespan. Finally, our legal fee line went up as a annual cost increase.

The annual budget is quite small compared to surrounding municipalities as a two percent cap equates to just \$10,000 a year that we are allowed to increase the total budget by State law, less LOSAP and capital expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said referendum be, and the same is scheduled for November 5th, 2024, between the hours of 6:00 am to 8:00 pm, prevailing time, in the manner provided by statute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget of the Board of Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 of Hopewell Borough for 2025 is hereby authorized to be published in the Times of Trenton and the Hopewell Valley News.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing on the budget will be held at the Hopewell Fire Department, 2nd floor meeting room, 4 Columbia Ave, Hopewell, NJ 08525, 7:00 pm January 8th, 2025, pending Department of Community Affairs Local Government Services approval at which time and place objections to said budget may be presented by taxpayers or other interested parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, within 3 days after adoption with the recorded vote included thereon.

RECORD OF BOARD VOTE ON PASSAGE

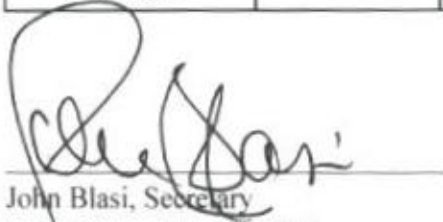
Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Evans						
Davies						
Blasi						
Myers						
Morehouse						

John Blasi, Secretary
Wednesday, July 10, 2024

A CERTIFIED COPY

RECORD OF BOARD VOTE ON PASSAGE

Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Evans			✓			
Davies	✓		✓			
Blasi		✓	✓			
Myers			•	✓		
Morehouse			✓			



John Blasi, Secretary
Wednesday, July 10, 2024

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