

**Special Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners  
2014 Fire Budget Public Hearing  
October 15, 2013**

The Special Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Town of Vestal Fire District, County of Broome and the State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 605 Vestal Parkway W, Vestal, NY on October 15, 2013.

**PRESENT:**           **Fire Commissioner John Schaffer**  
                          **Fire Commissioner Patty Fitzgerald**  
                          **Fire Commissioner Steve Milkovich**  
**ABSENT:**           **Fire Commissioner Fran Majewski**  
                          **Fire Commissioner David Marnicki**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Comptroller Laura McKane, Fire Department President Hugh Reynolds, Fire Station 4 Chief John Paffie, Fire District Secretary Emil Bielecki, Fire Department Secretary Sue Bowen and 7 other members of the Fire Department.

Fire Commissioner Schaffer convened the meeting at **6:00 PM** and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

He noted that Commissioner Fran Majewski is absent because he is attending the Broome NY Rising Communities Public Meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Fire Commissioner Schaffer offered the **Affidavit of Publication** and **Proof of Posting** for the Public Hearing for the **2014 Fire District Budget** and then opened the Public Hearing with a power point display presented by Comptroller Laura McKane (as shown below) highlighting the most significant items of the 2014 proposed budget.



**PROPOSED 2014 VESTAL  
FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET**

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## VESTAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

- 147 Members
- 7 Potential New Members
- Largest Fire Department in Broome County and Surrounding Areas

### 2013 vs. 2014 Budget

	Fire District Appropriations	Tax Levy	Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessment
<b>2014 Budget:</b>	\$ 1,218,231	\$ 1,068,059	.5666
<b>2013 Budget:</b>	<u>\$ 1,223,182</u>	<u>\$1,071,020</u>	<u>.5600</u>
<b>Change:</b>	\$ (4951)	\$ (2961)	.0066

\* slight increase in rate is due to loss of assessed value

## MAJOR ITEMS

• Debt Service	\$ 122,148	- 56%
• Transfer from Fire to LOSAP	\$ 88,000	- 25%
• Workman's Compensation	\$ 140,000	- 11%
• Operational Materials, Supplies, Training	\$ 195,239	- <1%
• Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 150,000	+ 5%
• Fire Equipment	\$ 77,922	+ 65%
• Salary & Benefits – Secretary	\$ 62,682	- <1%
• Additions to Capital Reserve	\$ 185,000	+461%
• Utilities & Building/Grounds	\$ 185,940	+ 7%
• Other Capital Items	\$ 6,200	- 38%
• Misc.	\$ 5,000	0%
	<b>\$ 1,218,231</b>	

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Comptroller McKane noted that there was a significant increase to the capital reserves in order to accumulate funds for the future purchase of equipment without having to go to referendum. The slight increase in the tax rate is the result of a reduced total assessed valuation of the Town. She also noted that the overall spending has remained stable.

A speaker asked about the level of the Town's contributions to the LOSAP retirement benefit program. Comptroller McKane responded that as a result of good investment results in the last few years, the Town has been able to reduce the contributions.

Responding to a question from one of the attendees, Comptroller McKane stated that the Fire Department capital reserve fund now has approximately \$174,000.

A speaker expressed concern about funding for needed work at Station 4. Councilman Milkovich and Comptroller McKane responded that the 2014 budget does have funds for that purpose.

Hearing or seeing no one else wishing to speak, Commissioner Schaffer thanked everyone for the work done in preparing this budget and closed the Public Hearing.

**Adjournment**

On a motion of Fire Commissioner Milkovich, seconded by Fire Commissioner Fitzgerald, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM. Carried unanimously.

**Submitted by:**

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**Fire District Secretary Emil Bielecki**