

Fire District No. 3

TOWNSHIP OF HANOVER, COUNTY OF MORRIS

FIRE DISTRICT LEVY CAP REFERENDUM RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FIRE DISTRICT #3 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HANOVER IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY TAX CAP LEVY REFERENDUM ON

DECEMBER 7, 2023

RESOLUTION 23-12-07-130

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 (2.0%) 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 amount to be raised by taxation by a percentage rate greater than two percent (2.0%) where said increase is approved by referendum; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Fire District Number #3 in The Township of Hanover, in the County of Morris has called for a referendum question pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.46(b) to be held on the third Saturday in February because it finds it advisable and necessary to increase its 2024 amount to be raised by taxation budget by more than two percent (2.0%) over the 2023 amount to be raised by taxation, to provide and maintain essential district services for the residents of the district; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Fire District Number #3 in the Township of Hanover, hereby determines that a 12.8% increase in the amount to be raised by taxation or \$203,600 in excess of the increase in the amount to be raised by taxation otherwise permitted by a two (2.0%) 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 and,

WHEREAS, this additional amount will be appropriated for the purposes set forth below, increasing the total appropriation for each such purpose from what would otherwise be provided under the limitations of a two percent (2.0%) tax levy cap, as set forth below:

Line item name	Amount for referendum
S&W (Enables the District to retain the Per Diem and Part-Time staff hired in the latter part of 2023, catering to the surge in emergency service demands. This approach enhances emergency service delivery while circumventing the expenses related to full-time hires and their associated costs and benefits.)	\$62,800
Operation and Maintenance (Enhanced training, replace older PPE & uniforms, maintenance/repair of aging facilities, equipment & apparatus, IT software upgrades, expand incentive program to enhance volunteer membership).	\$75,800

4. **Expanded Services or Coverage:** The district has sought to expand our services to better ensure a more effective and efficient response to requests for emergency response services (such as fire and emergency medical services), or comply with updated safety standards and regulations. Expanding services requires additional resources and funding.
5. **Inflation and Economic Factors:** Inflation impacts the cost of goods, services, and wages, affecting the overall budget of fire districts. If the cost of living or operating expenses in the area rises, the fire district might require additional funds to maintain its current level of service.

These factors, individually or in combination, contribute to the need for increased funding through fire district taxes. The aim is to ensure that emergency services can continue to effectively respond to crises, safeguard the community, and adapt to evolving challenges and demands. The District has always acted in the most financially prudent way to contain costs, however, inevitably, such as in the past year, costs will escalate faster than anticipated.

A "no" vote means that the Board of Commissioners must adopt the budget within the increase limits otherwise set forth by the law. In this instance the District would need to scale back staffing and costs associated with effective services, possibly eliminating some services and personnel, consequently negatively affecting our response capabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said referendum be, and the same is scheduled for February 17, 2024, between the hours of 2:00 and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, in the manner provided by statute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the budget of the Board of Commissioners of Fire District #3 of The Township of Hanover for 2024 is hereby authorized to be published in the Daily Record of Morris County, December 8, 2023

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing on the budget will be held at the 82 Ridgedale Ave, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927, on January 4, 2023 at 7:30PM 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.

It is hereby certified that this resolution is adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners on the 7th day of December, 2023.

MaryLou DeSimone, Secretary

Fire District No. 3

TOWNSHIP OF HANOVER, COUNTY OF MORRIS

Certification

I, **MaryLou DeSimone**, Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire District No. 3, Township of Hanover, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, hereby certify that the Commissioners at a meeting held on the 7th day of **December, 2023** duly adopted the attached resolution;

23-12-07-130 FIRE DISTRICT LEVY CAP REFERENDUM RESOLUTION

This resolution was introduced by Commissioner:

X Cornine **DeSimone** **Dugan, Jr.** **Waldron** **Keyser**

and was seconded by Commissioner

Cornine **DeSimone** **Dugan, Jr.** **X Waldron** **Keyser**

Record of the Vote

	Cornine	DeSimone	Dugan, Jr.	Waldron	Keyser
Yes	X	X	X	X	X
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

MaryLou DeSimone, Secretary