

GRAND ISLAND FIRE DISTRICT FORMATION PRESENTATION



AGENDA

- 01 District Overview
- 02 District Responsibilities
- 03 District Operations
- 04 District Formation Process



01

Introduction

What is a Fire District?

- A fire district is a political subdivision of the state
 - Town Law 174 (7)
- It is the same as a town, village or city
- A district changes the authority having jurisdiction over the fire company from the Town to the District
- A District becomes a new municipal entity responsible for fire protection.

Proposed Grand Island Fire District

- The Grand Island Fire District is a new municipal entity
- The boundaries would be the whole Town of Grand Island
- The Fire District becomes responsible for fire protection, EMS & Dispatch
 - Becomes the “Authority Having Jurisdiction”
 - Liable for operations
 - It is a separate legal entity from the Town AND the Fire Company

Proposed Grand Island Fire District

- The Grand Island Fire District would be responsible
 - Sets the fire protection budget
 - Receives the taxes collected by the Town
 - Pays the district bills
 - Pays workman's compensation for firefighters
 - Administers the LOSAP program
- The Town of Grand Island would be “out of the fire business”

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Fire District Responsibilities



Grand Island Fire District Responsibilities:

- The Grand Island Fire District would provide fire protection, EMS and dispatch for Grand Island
- Fire District sets budget and taxes
 - There is a formal public process
 - Holds budget hearing annually
- Conducts the mandatory public budget process

Grand Island Fire District Responsibilities:

- There is a MANDATORY bond vote for any borrowing
 - There is a public hearing
 - And a public vote
- After the 1st year, the Grand Island residents elect the Fire Commissioners
 - Fire Commissioners are a volunteer position, they are NOT paid.
- Must use the low-bid process
- Must hold open meetings
- Annual financial report required
 - It is filed with the Town and NYS Comptroller

Grand Island Fire District Responsibilities:

- Annual outside audit required
 - It is filed with the Town and NYS Comptroller
- Annual Commissioner elections are held



03

**District
Operations**



Grand Island Fire District Operations:

- The Fire District is operated by a “Board of Fire Commissioners”
 - They are equivalent to a City, Town, or a Village Board
 - Their sole purpose is fire protection and EMS
- The Fire District Officers are as follows:
 - Commissioners
 - Publicly elected municipal officials
 - Treasurer
 - Appointed municipal official
 - Secretary
 - Appointed municipal official

Grand Island Fire District Operations:

- Initial five commissioners are appointed
 - Serve until December 31, 2025
- The first elections are handled as follows:
 - The elections take place in December 2025
 - Take office January 1, 2026
 - The commissioners will serve five-year terms
 - Length of term is determined by the number of votes received
- All commissioners are **REQUIRED** to take Commissioner training within 60 days of their term.



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**District
Formation
Process**

Grand Island Formation Process:

- Obtain majority support from the Grand Island Firefighters at a membership meeting.
- Town Board votes yes for a Public Hearing
- Town Board conducts a Public Hearing
- Town Board approves the formation of the Grand Island Fire District
- The Town Board appoints the initial five commissioners and treasurer
- Town Board dissolves the fire protection district

Qualifications for Commissioner:

- Must be a resident of the District
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Cannot be a Chief or Deputy/Assistant Chief
- No Arson Convictions
- Can be a Fire Company member

How will a Fire District Benefit GI Town Residents?

- **Enhanced Emergency Response:** As mentioned, Fire districts are dedicated organizations focused solely on fire protection, emergency medical services (EMS), and disaster response. By establishing a fire district, taxpayers are ensured that Grand Island continues to provide emergency medical services, hazardous material response, and rescue operations. By supporting a fire district, taxpayers benefit from comprehensive emergency services that go beyond firefighting.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Fire districts are governed by local boards, and taxpayers can have a direct say in how their money is spent. With regular public meetings and clear financial reports, taxpayers can feel confident that their contributions are being used effectively for the safety of their community.

How will a Fire District Benefit GI Town Residents?

- **Cost-Effective Services:** Fire districts often have dedicated funding mechanisms that create stability. They reduce the reliance on fluctuating municipal budgets and spread the cost of fire protection services more equitably among all residents within the district. Taxpayers benefit from consistent, well-planned funding rather than dealing with unexpected costs from town budgets.

In summary, supporting the establishment of the Grand Island Fire District ensures that taxpayers receive cost-effective, professional, and reliable emergency services while improving overall community safety and potentially reducing related costs like insurance premiums.

How is a fire district funded?

- The fire district tax is a tax levied as a separate tax on your tax bill
- The levied tax is across the whole Fire District
- The tax is based on taxable real property in the District

How is a fire district funded?

A3410.1 - Personnel Services			46,668.00
A3410.4 - Contractual Expenses			2,010,901.05
3410.4	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	106,450.00	
3410.4	UTILITY AND WATER EXPENSES	89,049.00	
3410.4	INSURANCE	187,121.30	
3410.4	OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	260,500.00	
3410.41	APPARATUS MAINTENANCE	17,349.75	
3410.41	EQUIPMENT EXPENSES	246,300.00	
3410.41	BUILDING RENT FEES	278,551.00	
3410.41	LOSAP CONTRIBUTIONS	70,000.00	
3410.41	DISPATCH OPERATIONS	755,580.00	
A3410.6 - Lease Payments			267,451.96
A3410.9 - Reserve Funds			562,109.00
A9010.8 - State Retirement System Contributions			90,000.00
A9040.8 - Worker's Deductions			1,045.00
A9950.8 - Unemployment Insurance			1,000.00
		Total Budget:	2,979,175.01
		Revenues:	400.30
		Tax Levy:	(2,978,774.71)