

**Public Statement of Jennifer Nemeth
Board of Finance Meeting April 24, 2023**

As a result of past BOF meetings I am narrowing my focus back directly to the East Brooklyn Fire Department (EBFD). Although I am disgusted at the spending practices and lack of oversight for the Brooklyn Fire District, I obviously understand that is outside the scope of tonight's board.

Specifically, regarding the EBFD proposed 2023-2024 budget request. Can this Board inquire as to what portion of the budget the EBFD in the past and projected in the future is allocated specifically towards legal fees?

So far, the line item shows zero dollars, yet the EBFD has retained counsel for the case since 2020 and hired a new attorney as of April 18, 2023. I know they are joint plaintiffs with the Brooklyn Fire District. Does this mean the Brooklyn Fire District pays all legal expenses for both parties? Or is the Town of Brooklyn paying for the EBFD under a different line item?

According to the new attorney, Michael Rose, he is only representing the Brooklyn Fire District/EBFD as plaintiffs in this case, and not as defendants in our counter claim. Can anyone from the town address how the funding for representation in our counter suit is being covered?

It is also my opinion that if public funds are being utilized, then a public statement should be issued on why it is being done. What is their justification to continue pushing forward on this?

In summary regarding the EBFD funding:

1. How much money has the EBFD spent so far on the lawsuit against JMN Properties et al?
2. What is the amount they have budgeted towards the lawsuit going forward?
3. Are there any plans to inform the public how/why these funds are being spent?

Because these and many other questions remain unanswered, I am asking that this Board not push forward the 2023-2024 budget request of the EBFD.

I believe this Board is due some answers from both the EBFD and Brooklyn Fire District first. The Brooklyn Fire District is due to have their annual meeting on May 1, 2023 at 7:00pm (or so it states in their bylaws. I cannot find any meeting agendas published anywhere). Perhaps we would have more answers after that meeting takes place and taxpayers of the Brooklyn Fire District have had their chance to voice concerns/receive a better explanation and we can see how that might change the funding directed towards the EBFD.

Thank you all for your time and consideration.

Jenn Nemeth