

# Board of Fire Commissioners

Fire District #2

Township of South Brunswick

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Regular Meeting  
Third Monday at 7:00 P.M.  
Monmouth Junction Fire House

P.O. Box 114  
Monmouth Junction, N.J. 08852

## PRESS RELEASE REGARDING THE 2024 FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION

The annual election for South Brunswick Township Fire District No. 2, which covers the Monmouth Junction, Dayton and Deans sections of the township, will be held from 2 PM to 9 PM on Saturday, February 17, 2024 at the Monmouth Junction Fire Station, located at 573 Ridge Road in Monmouth Junction. Registered voters of the district will be asked to approve the proposed 2024 operating budget as well as to elect two commissioners to three-year terms.

The 2024 budget for Fire District No. 2 calls for total appropriations in the amount of \$1,272,200, which represents a decrease of \$1,124,043 (-46.9%) compared to the 2023 adopted budget. The primary cause of the proposed decrease is attributable to \$1,100,000 of capital appropriations to support the lease-purchase of a new tower ladder budgeted in 2023, versus only \$100,000 of budgeted capital appropriations in 2024 for a new command vehicle.

The amount to be raised by taxation is \$1,151,711, an increase of \$70,281 (+6.5%) from 2023. The proposed tax rate of \$.045 per hundred of assessed value is \$.002 per hundred higher (+4.7%) than budgeted and realized in 2023. The primary causes of the increase in the amount to be raised by taxation is due to the hiring of a full-time Deputy Fire District Coordinator in November of 2023, an anticipated shared services agreement with the other two fire districts within South Brunswick Township in 2024 to provide firefighters for the daytime response to fires and emergencies within the township, and a weak rise in the ratable base of less than 2%.

For a single-family residence in South Brunswick Township assessed at the average value of \$196,460, a taxpayer in Fire District #2 would pay approximately \$88.40 a year for fire protection. Residents can check their property tax bill from South Brunswick Township to see exactly how much they pay for fire protection. The fire tax is used to fund fire protection to the residents and businesses of the fire district. This includes the operation and maintenance of the fire stations and fire apparatus, as well as the purchase of firefighting equipment, supplies and protective clothing for firefighters. Since 1924, fire protection has been provided by the Monmouth Junction Volunteer Fire Department. The use of a volunteer firefighting force results in a significant savings for taxpayers every year. In fact, the fire tax in Fire District #2 is the lowest in Middlesex County on an equalized basis, and amongst the lowest in the entire state of New Jersey.

For the 2024 election, there are two (2) Commissioner's positions that are up for election, each for a 3-year term. Incumbents Charles Spahr and Douglas Wolfe are running unopposed on the ballot for re-election.

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South Brunswick Township is divided into three separate fire districts, each with their own elected five-member Board of Fire Commissioners. The Commissioners are responsible for providing fire protection to the residents and businesses of their respective district. Since the creation of the fire districts in the township in 1978, the providing of fire protection is funded through the levy of a fire tax on all property owners within the respective fire districts, which is paid as part of the township property tax (residents do not receive a separate bill). Prior to the creation of the fire districts, funding for fire protection came through fund raisers run by the local volunteer fire departments, along with a small stipend provided by town council.

The annual budget for the fire district is drafted by the members of the Board of Fire Commissioners and must be presented at a fire district meeting at least 60 days prior to the date of the election. Once adopted, the budget is then submitted to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs - Division of Local Government Services (DCA DLGS) for review. Once approved by the DCA DLGS, the budget is then presented at a public hearing during a fire district meeting where residents are welcome to comment.

Following the public hearing, the budget must be formally adopted by the majority of the 5-member Board of Fire Commissioners. Once adopted, the budget is sent back to the DCA DLGS for final review and comment. Once reviewed and approved by the DCA DLGS, the budget can then be placed on the ballot for approval/disapproval by the registered voters of the district.

The Commissioners of South Brunswick Township Fire District #2 and the members of the Monmouth Junction Volunteer Fire Department thank the public for their support and encourages the registered voters to vote in favor of our 2024 fire district budget.

Residents with questions regarding the fire district election or the proposed budget can visit the fire district's website at [www.sbfd2.com](http://www.sbfd2.com) or call 732-329-0250.