

**PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT DATED JUNE 24, 2025**

**NEW ISSUE  
BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES**

**RATING: SEE “RATING” HEREIN**

*In the opinion of Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP, Bond Counsel to the Fire District, under existing statutes and court decisions and assuming continuing compliance with certain tax certifications described herein, (i) interest on the Notes is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and (ii) interest on the Notes is not treated as a preference item in calculating the alternative minimum tax under the Code; however, interest on the Notes is included in the “adjusted financial statement income” of certain corporations that are subject to the alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the Code. In addition, in the opinion of Bond Counsel, under existing statutes, interest on the Notes is exempt from personal income taxes of New York State and its political subdivisions, including The City of New York. See “Tax Matters” herein.*

*The Fire District WILL designate the Notes as “qualified tax-exempt obligations” pursuant to the provision of Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.*

**HOWELLS FIRE DISTRICT  
IN THE  
TOWNS OF WALLKILL, MOUNT HOPE AND MAMAKATING  
ORANGE AND SULLIVAN COUNTIES, NEW YORK**

**\$9,500,000  
BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES – 2025  
(the “Notes”)**

**Date of Issue: July 17, 2025**

**Maturity Date: July 17, 2026**

The Notes are general obligations of the Howells Fire District, in the Towns of Wallkill, Mount Hope and Mamakating, in Orange and Sullivan Counties, New York (the “Fire District”) and will contain a pledge of the faith and credit of the Fire District for the payment of the principal thereof and interest thereon and, unless paid from other sources, the Notes are payable from ad valorem taxes which may be levied upon all the taxable real property within the Fire District, subject to certain statutory limitations imposed by Chapter 97 of the New York Laws of 2011, as amended (the “Tax Levy Limit Law”). (See “*Tax Levy Limit Law*” herein).

The Notes will be issued in registered form and, at the option of the purchaser(s), the Notes will be (i) registered in the name of the successful bidder(s) or (ii) registered to Cede & Co., as the partnership nominee for The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (“DTC”) as book-entry notes. The Notes will not be subject to redemption prior to maturity.

If the Notes are registered in the name of the successful bidder, a single note certificate will be issued for those Notes bearing the same rate of interest in the aggregate principal amount awarded to such purchaser at such interest rate. Principal of and interest on such Notes will be payable in Federal Funds by the Fire District, at such bank or trust company located and authorized to do business in the State of New York as selected by the successful bidders.

If the Notes are issued in book-entry form, such notes will be delivered to DTC, which will act as securities depository for the Notes. Beneficial owners will not receive certificates representing their interest in the Notes. Individual purchases may be made in denominations of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof. A single note certificate will be issued for those Notes bearing the same rate of interest and CUSIP number in the aggregate principal amount awarded to such purchaser(s) at such interest rate. Principal of and interest on said Notes will be paid in Federal Funds by the Fire District to Cede & Co., as nominee for DTC, which will in turn remit such principal and interest to its participants for subsequent distribution to the beneficial owners of the Notes as described herein. Transfer of principal and interest payments to beneficial owners by participants of DTC will be the responsibility of such participants and other nominees of beneficial owners. The Fire District will not be responsible or liable for payments by DTC to its participants or by DTC participants to beneficial owners or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing the records maintained by DTC, its participants or persons acting through such participants. (See “*Description of Book-Entry-Only System*” herein).

The Notes are offered when, as and if issued and received by the purchaser(s) and subject to the receipt of the final approving opinion of Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP, New York, New York, Bond Counsel. Capital Markets Advisors, LLC has served as Municipal Advisor to the District in connection with the issuance of the Notes. It is expected that delivery of the Notes in book-entry form will be made on the Date of Issue listed above.

THIS PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT IS IN A FORM DEEMED FINAL BY THE DISTRICT FOR PURPOSES OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION RULE 15c2-12 (THE “RULE”). FOR A DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT’S UNDERTAKING TO PROVIDE NOTICES OF EVENTS FOR THE NOTES AS DESCRIBED IN THE RULE, SEE “DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING” HEREIN.

Dated: July \_\_, 2024

**HOWELLS FIRE DISTRICT  
IN THE  
TOWNS OF WALLKILL, MOUNT HOPE AND MAMAKATING  
ORANGE AND SULLIVAN COUNTIES, NEW YORK**

***Board of Fire Commissioners***

JAMES D. FINN.....Chairman

LOUIS J. INGRASSIA JR..... Commissioner

CHARLES G. GERSBECK..... Commissioner

ROSS M. FRATTO ..... Commissioner

ROBERT JASHEMBOWSKI ..... Commissioner

KATHERINE SCHUPNER.....Fire District Secretary

ROBERT A. WHEELING.....Fire District Treasurer

JEROME JEFFERSON .....Fire District Attorney

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**BOND COUNSEL**

**Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP  
New York, New York**

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**MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**



**CAPITAL MARKETS ADVISORS, LLC**  
*Hudson Valley \* Long Island \* Western New York*  
(516) 487-9818

No dealer, broker, salesman or other person has been authorized by the Fire District to give any information or to make any representations, other than those contained in this Official Statement and if given or made, such other information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the Fire District. This Official Statement does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of the Notes by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such offer, solicitation or sale. The information set forth herein has been obtained by the Fire District from sources which are believed to be reliable but it is not guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness. The information and expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the Fire District since the date hereof.

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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT**  
**HOWELLS FIRE DISTRICT,**  
**IN THE**  
**TOWNS OF WALLKILL, MOUNT HOPE AND MAMAKATING**  
**ORANGE AND SULLIVAN COUNTIES, NEW YORK**

**relating to**  
  
**\$9,500,000**  
**BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES - 2025**  
**(the “Notes”)**

This Official Statement, which includes the cover page, inside cover page, and appendices hereto, presents certain information relating to the Howells Fire District in the Towns of Wallkill, Mount Hope and Mamakating, in the Counties of Orange and Sullivan, in the State of New York (the “Fire District”, “Towns”, “Counties” and “State,” respectively) in connection with the sale of \$9,500,000 Bond Anticipation Notes – 2025 (the “Notes”).

All quotations from and summaries and explanations of provisions of the Constitution and laws of the State and acts and proceedings of the Fire District contained herein do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the official compilations thereof and all references to the Notes and the proceedings of the Fire District relating thereto are qualified in their entirety by reference to the definitive form of the Notes and such proceedings.

**THE NOTES**

***Description***

The Notes are general obligations of the Fire District. The Fire District has pledged its faith and credit for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes and, unless paid from other sources, the Notes are payable from ad valorem taxes which may be levied upon all the taxable real property within the Fire District, subject to certain statutory limitations imposed by the Tax Levy Limit Law. (See “*Tax Levy Limit Law*” herein).

The Notes will be dated and will mature, without the option of prior redemption, as indicated on the cover page hereof.

The Fire District Treasurer will act as Fiscal Agent for any Notes issued in book-entry form and the purchaser may act as Paying agent for any Notes registered in the name of the purchaser. Paying agent fees, if any, for those Notes registered to the purchaser will be paid by the purchaser(s). The Fire District’s contact information is as follows: Robert Wheeling, Fire District Treasurer, 26 Elm St., Howells, NY, 10932 Phone (845) 386-2000, and email: [rwheels@warwick.net](mailto:rwheels@warwick.net).

***Authority for and Purpose of the Notes***

The Notes are being issued in accordance with the Constitution and statutes of the State of New York, including the Local Finance Law and pursuant to a bond resolution duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Fire District on March 24, 2025 and subsequently approved as a proposition by a majority of the qualified voters of the Fire District voting thereon at the Special Election held on May 6, 2025, authorizing the issuance of bonds in the principal amount of \$9,500,000 to finance the construction of a new fire station on Fire District property located at 156 New Vernon Road in Howells, New York. The proceeds from the sale of the Notes will be used to provide original financing for the project.

### ***No Optional Redemption***

The Notes will not be subject to optional redemption prior to maturity.

### ***Nature of Obligation***

Each Note when duly issued and paid for will constitute a contract between the Fire District and the holder thereof.

The Notes will be general obligations of the Fire District and will contain a pledge of the faith and credit of the Fire District for the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The pledge of the faith and credit of municipalities and school districts mandated by Article VIII, Section 2, of the New York Constitution was upheld by the Court of Appeals in several cases decided at the time of the New York City financial crisis in the 1970s and 1980s (see *Flushing National Bank v. Municipal Assistance Corporation for the City of New York*, 40 NY 2d 731 (1976) and subsequent cases). The opinion of the Court of Appeals in the *Flushing National Bank* decision states that "...an obligation containing a pledge of the City's 'faith and credit' is secured by a promise both to pay and to use in good faith the City's general revenue powers to produce sufficient funds to pay the principal and interest of the obligation as it becomes due. That is why both words 'faith' and 'credit' are used and they are not tautological." In the words of the Court of Appeals, "That is what the words say and this is what the courts have held they mean..." is a clear statement as to the meaning of the pledge of faith and credit. Albeit the pledge of the faith and credit of a fire district (including the Fire District) is not constitutionally mandated, such pledge is required pursuant to the Local Finance Law (Section 100.00) for the incurrence of fire district indebtedness and should be accorded a similar judicial interpretation.

For the payment of such principal of and interest on the Notes, the Fire District has the power and statutory authority to cause the levy of ad valorem taxes on all taxable real property in the Fire District, subject to certain statutory limitations imposed by the Tax Levy Limit Law. (See "*Tax Levy Limit Law*" herein).

Pursuant to the Section 100.00 of the New York State Local Finance Law, the Fire District is required to pledge its faith and credit for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes. The State is precluded from restricting the power of the Fire District to require the levy of taxes on real estate for the payment of interest on or principal of indebtedness theretofore contracted. However, the Tax Levy Limit Law imposes a statutory limitation on the Fire District's power to cause an increase to its annual tax levy, unless the Fire District complies with certain procedural requirements to permit the Towns, on behalf of the Fire District, to levy certain year-to-year increases in real property taxes. (See "*Tax Levy Limit Law*" herein).

## **REMEDIES UPON DEFAULT**

Neither the Notes, nor the proceedings with respect thereto, specifically provide any remedies which would be available to owners of the Notes if the Fire District defaults in the payment of principal of or interest on the Notes, nor do they contain any provisions for the appointment of a trustee to enforce the interests of the owners of the Notes upon the occurrence of such default. Each Note is a general obligation contract between the Fire District and the owner for which the faith and credit of the Fire District is pledged and while remedies for enforcement of payment are not expressly included in the Fire District's contract with such holders, any permanent repeal by statute or constitutional amendment of a bondholder's and/or noteholder's remedial right to judicial enforcement of the contract should, in the opinion of Bond Counsel, be held unconstitutional. (See also "*Security and Source of Payment*" herein for discussion of the statutory (but not constitutional) mandate that a fire district, including the Fire District, pledge its faith and credit to the payment of its indebtedness.)

Upon default of the payment of principal of or interest on the Notes, at suit of the owner, a Court has power in proper and appropriate proceedings to render a judgment against the Fire District. The present statute limits interest on the amount adjudged due to contract creditors to nine per centum per annum from the date due to the date of payment. As a general rule, property and funds of a municipal corporation serving the public welfare and interest have not been judicially subjected to execution or attachment to satisfy a judgment. Courts also have the power in proper and appropriate proceedings to order payment of a judgment on such Notes from funds lawfully available

therefor or, in the absence thereof, to order the Fire District to take all lawful action to obtain the same, including the inclusion of the required amount in the next request to the Town to place such amount in the next annual tax levy. In exercising its discretion as to whether to enter such an order, the Courts may take into account all relevant factors, including the current operating needs of the Fire District and the availability and adequacy of other remedies. Upon any default in the payment of the principal of or interest on a Note, the owner of such Note could, among other things, seek to obtain a writ of mandamus from a Court requiring the governing body of the Fire District to cause the assessment, levy and collection of an ad valorem tax, upon all property of the Fire District subject to taxation by the Fire District, sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the Notes as the same shall come due (and interest from the due date to date of payment) and otherwise to observe the covenants contained in the Notes and the proceedings with respect thereto, all of which are included in the contract with the owners of the Notes. The mandamus remedy, however, may be impracticable and difficult to enforce. Further, the right to enforce payment of the principal of or interest on the Notes may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and similar laws and equitable principles, which may limit the specific enforcement of certain remedies.

In 1976, the New York Court of Appeals, the State's highest court, held in *Flushing National Bank v. Municipal Assistance Corporation for the City of New York*, 40 N.Y.2d 731 (1976), that the New York State legislation purporting to postpone the payment of debt service on New York City obligations was an unconstitutional moratorium in violation of the New York State constitutional faith and credit mandate included in all municipal debt obligations. While that case can be viewed as a precedent for protecting the remedies of holders of bonds and notes, there can be no assurance as to what a Court may determine with respect to future events, including financial crises as they may occur in the State and in municipalities of the State, that require the exercise by the State of its emergency and police powers to assure the continuation of essential public services. (See also, *Flushing National Bank v. Municipal Assistance Corporation for the City of New York*, 41 N.Y.2d 644 (1977), where the Court of Appeals described the pledge as a direct Constitutional mandate.)

As a result of the Court of Appeals decision, the constitutionality of that portion of Title 6-A of Article 2 of the Local Finance Law enacted at the 1975 Extraordinary Session of the State legislature authorizing any county, city, town or village with respect to which the State has declared a financial emergency to petition the State Supreme Court to stay the enforcement against such municipality of any claim for payment relating to any contract, debt or obligation of the municipality during the emergency period, is subject to doubt. In any event, no such emergency has been declared with respect to the Fire District.

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2 of the State Constitution, municipalities and school districts are required to provide an annual appropriation of monies for the payment of due principal of and interest on indebtedness. Specifically, this Constitutional provision states: "If at any time the respective appropriating authorities shall fail to make such appropriations, a sufficient sum shall be set apart from the first revenues thereafter received and shall be applied to such purposes. The fiscal officer of any county, city, town, village or school district may be required to set aside and apply such revenues as aforesaid at the suit of any holder of obligations issued for any such indebtedness." This Constitutional provision providing for first revenue set aside does not apply by its terms to the Fire District. However, pursuant to Section 100.00 of the Local Finance Law, a fire district, including the Fire District, must pledge its faith and credit to the payment of its indebtedness.

While the courts in the State have historically been protective of the rights of holders of general obligation debt of political subdivisions, it is not possible to predict what a future court might hold.

In prior years, certain events and legislation affecting a holder's remedies upon default have resulted in litigation. While Courts in the State have upheld and sustained the rights of bondholders and/or noteholders, a Court might hold that future events, including a financial crisis as such may occur in the State or in any of its political subdivisions, including municipalities and fire districts of the State, may require the exercise by the State or its political subdivisions of emergency and police powers to assure the continuation of essential public services prior to the payment of debt service.

## ***No Past Due Debt***

No principal or interest payment on Fire District indebtedness is past due. The Fire District has never defaulted in the payment of the principal of and/or interest on any indebtedness.

## ***Bankruptcy***

The Federal Bankruptcy Code (Chapter IX) allows public bodies, such as municipalities, recourse to the protection of a Federal Court for the purpose of adjusting outstanding indebtedness. Title 6-A of the Local Finance Law specifically authorizes any municipality in the State or its emergency control board to file a petition under any provision of Federal bankruptcy law for the composition or adjustment of municipal indebtedness. While this Local Finance Law provision does not apply to school districts and fire districts, there can be no assurance that it will not become applicable in the future. As such, the undertakings of the Fire District should be considered with reference, specifically, to Chapter IX, and, in general, to other bankruptcy laws affecting creditors' rights and municipalities. Bankruptcy proceedings by the Fire District if authorized by the State in the future could have adverse effects on bondholders and/or noteholders including (a) delay in the enforcement of their remedies, (b) subordination of their claims to those supplying goods and services to the Fire District after the initiation of bankruptcy proceedings and to the administrative expenses of bankruptcy proceedings and (c) imposition without their consent of a reorganization plan reducing or delaying payment of the Notes.

The above references to said Chapter IX are not to be construed as an indication that the State will consent in the future to the right of the Fire District to file a petition with any United States district court or court of bankruptcy under any provision of the laws of the United States, now or hereafter in effect for the composition or adjustment of municipal indebtedness or that the Fire District is currently considering or expects to resort to the provisions of Chapter IX if authorized to do so in the future.

## **DESCRIPTION OF BOOK-ENTRY SYSTEM**

DTC will act as securities depository for any Notes issued as book-entry notes. Such Notes will be issued as fully-registered securities, in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC's partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully-registered note certificate will be issued for each Note bearing the same rate of interest and CUSIP number and will be deposited with DTC.

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 3.5 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments (from over 100 countries) that DTC's participants ("Direct Participants") deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of certificates.

Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants"). Standard & Poor's assigns a rating of "AA+" to DTC. The DTC Rules applicable to its Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. More information about DTC can be found at [www.dtcc.com](http://www.dtcc.com) and [www.dtc.org](http://www.dtc.org).

Purchases of Notes under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Notes on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Note ("Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants' records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial Owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the Notes are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct or Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interest in the Notes, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Notes is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all Notes deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of the Notes with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co., or such other DTC nominee do not affect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Notes; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Notes are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping accounts of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Beneficial Owners of the Notes may wish to take certain steps to augment the transmission to them of notices of significant events with respect to the Notes, such as redemptions, tenders, defaults, and proposed amendments to the Note documents. For example, Beneficial Owners of the Notes may wish to ascertain that the nominee holding the Notes for their benefit has agreed to obtain and transmit notices to the Beneficial Owners. In the alternative, Beneficial Owners may wish to provide their names and addresses to the registrar and request that copies of notices be provided directly to them.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor any other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to the Notes unless authorized by a Direct Participant in accordance with DTC's MMI Procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to the issuer as soon as possible after the record date. The omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the Notes are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Principal and interest payments on the Notes will be made to Cede & Co. or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the Fire District on the payable date, in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC (nor its nominee) or the Fire District, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment of redemption proceeds, distributions, and dividend payments to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the Fire District, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to the Notes at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Fire District. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, note certificates are required to be printed and delivered to the Noteowners. The Fire District may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In such event, note certificates will be printed and delivered to the Noteowners.

The information contained in the above section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sample offering document language supplied by DTC, but the Fire District takes no responsibility for the accuracy thereof. In addition, the Fire District will not have any responsibility or obligation to participants, to indirect participants or to any beneficial owner with respect to: (i) the accuracy of any records maintained by DTC,



any participant or any indirect participant; (ii) the payments by DTC or any participant or any indirect participant of any amount with respect to the principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on the Notes or (iii) any notice which is permitted or required to be given to Noteowners.

The Fire District may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry-only transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, bond certificates will be printed and delivered to DTC.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that the Fire District believes to be reliable, but the Fire District takes no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

Source: The Depository Trust Company

## **RISK FACTORS**

There are certain potential risks associated with an investment in the Notes, and investors should be thoroughly familiar with this Official Statement, including its appendices, in order to make an informed investment decision. Investors should consider, in particular, the following factors:

The Fire District's credit rating could be affected by circumstances beyond the Fire District's control. Economic conditions such as the rate of unemployment and inflation, termination of commercial operations by corporate taxpayers and employers, as well as natural catastrophes, could adversely affect the assessed valuation of Fire District property and its ability to maintain fund balances and other statistical indices commensurate with its current credit rating. As a consequence, a decline in the Fire District's credit rating could adversely affect the market value of the Notes.

If and when an owner of any of the Notes should elect to sell a Note prior to its maturity, there can be no assurance that a market will have been established, maintained and continue in existence for the purchase and sale of any of those Notes. The market value of the Notes is dependent upon the ability of holder to potentially incur a capital loss if such Note is sold prior to its maturity.

There can be no assurance that adverse events including, for example, the seeking by another municipality in the State or elsewhere of remedies pursuant to the Federal Bankruptcy Act or otherwise, will not occur which might affect the market price of and the market for the Notes. In particular, if a significant default or other financial crisis should occur in the affairs of the State or any of its municipalities, public authorities or other political subdivisions thereby possibly further impairing the acceptability of obligations issued by those entities, both the ability of the Fire District to arrange for additional borrowing(s) as well as the market for and market value of outstanding debt obligations, including the Notes, could be adversely affected.

Future amendments to applicable statutes whether enacted by the State or the United States of America affecting the treatment of interest paid on municipal obligations, including the Notes, for income taxation purposes could have an adverse effect on the market value of the Notes (see "*TAX MATTERS*" herein).

The enactment of the Tax Levy Limit Law, which imposes a tax levy limitation upon municipalities, school districts and fire districts in the State, including the Fire District, without providing exclusion for debt service on obligations issued by municipalities and fire districts, including the Fire District, may affect the market price and/or marketability for the Notes. (See "*Tax Levy Limit Law*" herein.)

Federal or State legislation imposing new or increased mandatory expenditures by municipalities, school districts and fire districts in the State, including the Fire District could impair the financial condition of such entities, including the Fire District and the ability of such entities, including the Fire District, to pay debt service on their respective obligations.

A public health threat such as the COVID-19 pandemic may also affect the operations and/or finances of the Fire District.

## **CYBERSECURITY**

The Fire District, like many other public and private entities, relies on technology to conduct its operations. As such, it may face multiple cybersecurity threats including, but not limited to, hacking, viruses, malware and other attacks on computer or other sensitive digital systems and networks. There can be no assurances that any security and operational control measures implemented by the Fire District will be completely successful to guard against and prevent cyber threats and attacks. The result of any such attacks could impact business operations and/or digital networks and systems and the costs of remedying any such damage could be significant.

## **LITIGATION**

Except as otherwise set forth herein and apart from matters provided for by applicable insurance coverage, the attorneys for the Fire District are unaware of any claims or action pending which, if determined against the Fire District, would have an adverse material effect on the financial condition of the Fire District.

There is no action, suit, proceedings or investigation, at law or in equity, before or by any court, public board or body pending or, to the best knowledge of the Fire District, threatened against or affecting the Fire District to restrain or enjoin the issuance, sale or delivery of the Notes or the levy and collection of taxes or assessments to pay same, or in any way contesting or affecting the validity of the Notes or any proceedings or authority of the Fire District take with respect to the authorization, issuance or sale of the Notes or contesting the corporate existence or boundaries of the Fire District.

## **TAX MATTERS**

### ***Opinion of Bond Counsel***

In the opinion of Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP, Bond Counsel to the Fire District, under existing statutes and court decisions and assuming continuing compliance with certain tax certifications described herein, (i) interest on the Notes is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and (ii) interest on the Notes is not treated as a preference item in calculating the alternative minimum tax under the Code; however, interest on the Notes is included in the “adjusted finance statement income” of certain corporations that are subject to the alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the Code. The Tax Certificate of the Fire District (the “Tax Certificate”), which will be delivered concurrently with the delivery of the Notes, will contain provisions and procedures relating to compliance with applicable requirements of the Code. In rendering its opinion, Bond Counsel has relied on certain representations, certifications of fact, and statements of reasonable expectations made by the Fire District and others in connection with the Notes, and Bond Counsel has assumed compliance by the Fire District with certain ongoing provisions and procedures set forth in the Tax Certificate relating to compliance with applicable requirements of the Code to assure the exclusion of interest on the Notes from gross income under Section 103 of the Code.

In addition, in the opinion of Bond Counsel to the Fire District, under existing statutes, interest on the Notes is exempt from personal income taxes of New York State and its political subdivisions, including The City of New York.

Bond Counsel expresses no opinion as to any other federal, state or local tax consequences arising with respect to the Notes, or the ownership or disposition thereof, except as stated above. Bond Counsel renders its opinion under existing statutes and court decisions as of the issue date, and assumes no obligation to update, revise or supplement its opinion to reflect any action thereafter taken or not taken, any fact or circumstance that may thereafter come to its attention, any change in law or interpretation thereof that may thereafter occur, or for any other reason. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion as to the consequence of any of the events described in the preceding sentence or the likelihood of their occurrence. In addition, Bond Counsel expresses no opinion on the effect of any action taken or

not taken in reliance upon an opinion of other counsel regarding federal, state or local tax matters, including, without limitation, exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes of interest on the Notes.

### ***Certain Ongoing Federal Tax Requirements and Certifications***

The Code establishes certain ongoing requirements that must be met subsequent to the issuance and delivery of the Notes in order that interest on such Notes be and remain excluded from gross income under Section 103 of the Code. These requirements include, but are not limited to, requirements relating to use and expenditure of gross proceeds of the Notes, yield and other restrictions on investments of gross proceeds, and the arbitrage rebate requirement that certain excess earnings on gross proceeds be rebated to the federal government. Noncompliance with such requirements may cause interest on the Notes to become included in gross income for federal income tax purposes retroactive to their issue date, irrespective of the date on which such noncompliance occurs or is discovered. The Fire District, in executing the Tax Certificate, will certify to the effect that the Fire District will comply with the provisions and procedures set forth therein and that it will do and perform all acts and things necessary or desirable to assure the exclusion of interest on the Notes from gross income under Section 103 of the Code.

### ***Certain Collateral Federal Tax Consequences***

The following is a brief discussion of certain collateral federal income tax matters with respect to the Notes. It does not purport to address all aspects of federal taxation that may be relevant to a particular owner of a Note. Prospective investors, particularly those who may be subject to special rules, are advised to consult their own tax advisors regarding the federal tax consequences of owning and disposing of the Notes.

Prospective owners of the Notes should be aware that the ownership of such obligations may result in collateral federal income tax consequences to various categories of persons, such as corporations (including S corporations and foreign corporations), financial institutions, property and casualty and life insurance companies, individual recipients of Social Security and railroad retirement benefits, individuals otherwise eligible for the earned income tax credit, and taxpayers deemed to have incurred or continued indebtedness to purchase or carry obligations the interest on which is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes. Interest on the Notes may be taken into account in determining the tax liability of foreign corporations subject to the branch profits tax imposed by Section 884 of the Code.

### ***Original Issue Discount***

“Original issue discount” (“OID”) is the excess of the sum of all amounts payable at the stated maturity of a Note (excluding certain “qualified stated interest” that is unconditionally payable at least annually at prescribed rates) over the issue price of that maturity. In general, the “issue price” of a maturity (a note with the same maturity date, interest rate, and credit terms) means the first price at which at least 10 percent of such maturity was sold to the public, i.e., a purchaser who is not, directly or indirectly, a signatory to a written contract to participate in the initial sale of the Notes. In general, the issue price for each maturity of Notes is expected to be the initial public offering price set forth in this Official Statement. Bond Counsel further is of the opinion that, for any Notes having OID (a “Discount Note”), OID that has accrued and is properly allocable to the owners of the Discount Notes under Section 1288 of the Code is excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes to the same extent as other interest on the Notes.

In general, under Section 1288 of the Code, OID on a Discount Note accrues under a constant yield method, based on periodic compounding of interest over prescribed accrual periods using a compounding rate determined by reference to the yield on that Discount Note. An owner’s adjusted basis in a Discount Note is increased by accrued OID for purposes of determining gain or loss on sale, exchange, or other disposition of such Discount Note. Accrued OID may be taken into account as an increase in the amount of tax-exempt income received or deemed to have been received for purposes of determining various other tax consequences of owning a Discount Note even though there will not be a corresponding cash payment.

Owners of Discount Notes should consult their own tax advisors with respect to the treatment of original issue discount for federal income tax purposes, including various special rules relating thereto, and the state and local tax consequences of acquiring, holding, and disposing of Discount Notes.

### ***Bond Premium***

In general, if an owner acquires a note for a purchase price (excluding accrued interest) or otherwise at a tax basis that reflects a premium over the sum of all amounts payable on the note after the acquisition date (excluding certain “qualified stated interest” that is unconditionally payable at least annually at prescribed rates), that premium constitutes “note premium” on that note (a “Premium Note”). In general, under Section 171 of the Code, an owner of a Premium Note must amortize the note premium over the remaining term of the Premium Note, based on the owner’s yield over the remaining term of the Premium Note, determined based on constant yield principles (in certain cases involving a Premium Note callable prior to its stated maturity date, the amortization period and yield may be required to be determined on the basis of an earlier call date that results in the lowest yield on such note). An owner of a Premium Note must amortize the note premium by offsetting the qualified stated interest allocable to each interest accrual period under the owner’s regular method of accounting against the note premium allocable to that period. In the case of a tax-exempt Premium Note, if the note premium allocable to an accrual period exceeds the qualified stated interest allocable to that accrual period, the excess is a nondeductible loss. Under certain circumstances, the owner of a Premium Note may realize a taxable gain upon disposition of the Premium Note even though it is sold or redeemed for an amount less than or equal to the owner’s original acquisition cost. Owners of any Premium Note should consult their own tax advisors regarding the treatment of note premium for federal income tax purposes, including various special rules relating thereto, and state and local tax consequences, in connection with the acquisition, ownership, amortization of note premium on, sale, exchange, or other disposition of Premium Notes.

### ***Information Reporting and Backup Withholding***

Information reporting requirements will apply to interest on tax-exempt obligations, including the Notes. In general, such requirements are satisfied if the interest recipient completes, and provides the payor with, a Form W-9, “Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification,” or if the recipient is one of a limited class of exempt recipients. A recipient not otherwise exempt from information reporting who fails to satisfy the information reporting requirements will be subject to “backup withholding,” which means that the payor is required to deduct and withhold a tax from the interest payment, calculated in the manner set forth in the Code. For the foregoing purpose, a “payor” generally refers to the person or entity from whom a recipient receives its payments of interest or who collects such payments on behalf of the recipient.

If an owner purchasing a Note through a brokerage account has executed a Form W-9 in connection with the establishment of such account, as generally can be expected, no backup withholding should occur. In any event, backup withholding does not affect the excludability of the interest on the Notes from gross income for federal income tax purposes. Any amounts withheld pursuant to backup withholding would be allowed as a refund or a credit against the owner’s federal income tax once the required information is furnished to the Internal Revenue Service.

### ***Miscellaneous***

Tax legislation, administrative actions taken by tax authorities, or court decisions, whether at the federal or state level, may adversely affect the tax-exempt status of interest on the Notes under federal or state law or otherwise prevent beneficial owners of the Notes from realizing the full current benefit of the tax status of such interest. In addition, such legislation or actions (whether currently proposed, proposed in the future, or enacted) and such decisions could affect the market price or marketability of the Notes.

Prospective purchasers of the Notes should consult their own tax advisors regarding the foregoing matters.

## **LEGAL MATTERS**

Legal matters incident to the authorization, issuance and sale of the Notes are subject to the approving legal opinion of Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP, New York, New York, Bond Counsel. Bond Counsel's opinion will be in substantially the form attached hereto in Appendix D.

## **DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING**

In order to assist the purchaser(s) in complying with Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Rule 15c2-12") with respect to the Notes, the Fire District will execute an Undertaking to Provide Notices for Events for the Notes, the form of which is attached hereto as Appendix E.

## **RATING**

The Fire District has not applied for a rating on the Notes. The Fire District does not presently have a credit rating because it does not have any long-term debt.

## **MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**

Capital Markets Advisors, LLC has acted as Municipal Advisor to the Fire District in connection with the sale of the Notes.

In preparing the Official Statement, the Municipal Advisor has relied upon governmental officials, and other sources, which have access to relevant data to provide accurate information for the Official Statement, and the Municipal Advisor has not been engaged, nor has it undertaken, to independently verify the accuracy of such information. The Municipal Advisor is not a public accounting firm and has not been engaged by the Fire District to compile, review, examine or audit any information in the Official Statement in accordance with accounting standards. The Municipal Advisor is an independent advisory firm and is not engaged in the business of underwriting, trading or distributing municipal securities or other public securities and therefore will not participate in the underwriting of the Notes.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Periodic public reports relating to the financial condition of the Fire District, its operations and the balances, receipts and disbursements of the various funds of the Fire District are available for the public inspection at the business office of the Fire District.

Additional information may be obtained from the Fire District's Municipal Advisor, Capital Markets Advisors, LLC, 11 Grace Avenue, Suite 308, Great Neck, New York 11021, (516) 487-9817 or from the Fire District's Treasurer, Mr. Robert Wheeling, (845) 386-2000, [rwheels@warwick.net](mailto:rwheels@warwick.net).

Any statements in this Official Statement involving matters of opinion or estimates, whether or not expressly so stated, are intended as such and not as representations of fact. No representation is made that any of such statements will be realized. This Official Statement is not to be construed as a contract or agreement between the Fire District and the original purchasers or holders of any of the Notes.

Capital Markets Advisors, LLC may place a copy of this Official Statement on its website at [www.capmark.org](http://www.capmark.org). Unless this Official Statement specifically indicates otherwise, no statement on such website is included by specific reference or constitutes a part of this Official Statement. Capital Markets Advisors, LLC has prepared such website information for convenience, but no decisions should be made in reliance upon that information. Typographical or

other errors may have occurred in converting original source documents to digital format, and neither the Fire District nor Capital Markets Advisors, LLC assumes any liability or responsibility for errors or omissions on such website. Further, Capital Markets Advisors, LLC and the Fire District disclaim any duty or obligation either to update or to maintain that information or any responsibility or liability for any damages caused by viruses in the electronic files on the website. Capital Markets Advisors, LLC and the Fire District also assume no liability or responsibility for any errors or omissions or for any updates to dated website information.

Statements in this official statement, and the documents included by specific reference, that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements, which are based on the Fire District management's beliefs as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, the Fire District's management and staff. Because the statements are based on expectations about future events and economic performance and are not statements of fact, actual results may differ materially from those projected. Important factors that could cause future results to differ include legislative and regulatory changes, changes in the economy, and other factors discussed in this and other documents that the Fire District files with the repositories. When used in Fire District documents or oral presentation, the words "anticipate", "estimate", "expect", "objective", "projection", "forecast", "goal", or similar words are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

This Official Statement is submitted only in connection with the sale of the Notes by the Fire District and may not be reproduced or used in whole or in part for any other purpose.

HOWELLS FIRE DISTRICT  
IN THE TOWNS OF WALLKILL, MOUNT HOPE AND MAMAKATING  
ORANGE AND SULLIVAN COUNTIES, NEW YORK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Wheeling  
Fire District Treasurer

DATED: July \_\_, 2025

**APPENDIX A**  
**THE FIRE DISTRICT**

## **THE FIRE DISTRICT**

### ***General Information***

The Howells Fire District (the "Fire District") was established in 1924 and is located in the three towns of Mount Hope and Wallkill in Orange County and the Town of Mamakating in Sullivan County. The character of the Fire District has been and remains primarily residential and agricultural. The majority of the homes within the Fire District are single-family residences and minimal businesses.

Transportation is provided to and from the Fire District by the New Jersey Transit Authority, which maintains a station in nearby Otisville, New York, and a network of highways. The Fire District is served by U.S. Route 211. The Westchester, Stewart airports and New York City area airports (LaGuardia, Kennedy and Newark Airports) are easily accessible.

Orange & Rockland Utilities (owned by the Consolidated Edison Company) provides electricity to the Fire District, propane gas is provided by several small gas companies and water services are provided by individual homeowner wells.

### ***Form of Government***

The Fire District is governed by a five-member Board of Fire Commissioners. Each Commissioner is elected for a five-year term. Terms are staggered and Commissioners are elected at-large. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners are elected by the Commissioners. There is no limitation as to the number of terms which may be served by members of the Board. The Board appoints a Fire District Treasurer and Fire District Secretary, which are treated as independent contractors due to the part-time and off-site nature of their duties.

### ***Financial Organization***

Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, the Fire District Treasurer is the chief fiscal officer of the Fire District. However, certain of the financial functions of the Fire District are the responsibility of the Chairman of the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Treasurer is responsible for all accounting and bookkeeping functions, review and analysis of the financial condition, and providing assistance to the Board in determining future financing needs of the Fire District and preparation of Fire District budgets.

### ***Budgetary Procedure***

The Fire District's fiscal year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31. The Board of Fire Commissioners, with the assistance of the Treasurer, prepares a budget each year.

The Fire District Treasurer must submit the tentative budget to the Town Clerk of the three respective towns no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. A public information hearing on the budget is conducted on the third Tuesday of October. Between the third Tuesday in October and November 4<sup>th</sup>, any changes, alterations, and revisions may be made to the tentative budget. Before adopting the Fire District Annual Budget, the Fire District must determine if the tax levy will exceed the tax cap and, if so, the Fire District must pass a resolution by a 60% vote of its Board to override the tax cap. The Board of Fire Commissioners must then adopt the budget on or before November 4<sup>th</sup>. The budget is not subject to referendum.

The Fire District can make budget changes within line account items at any point during the year. However, if funds are transferred from one account item to another, the transfer must be approved and formally changed by the Board of Fire Commissioners. This is a continuing process.



### ***Fire District Facilities***

The Fire District maintains one main station. Equipment includes one ladder, one tanker, one rescue-pumper and one brush quick attack mini-pumper. The Fire District also operates an ATV, a utility trailer, three Fire Chief command vehicles, a Fire Police vehicle, and a utility truck.

### ***Employees***

The Fire District has 0 full-time employees, 0 part-time employees and 50 volunteer firefighters. The Fire District Treasurer and Secretary are treated as independent contractors.

### ***Employee Pension System***

The Fire District does not pay any employee pension benefits.

### ***Other Post Employment Benefits***

An accounting rule, GASB Statement No. 75 ("GASB 75") of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB"), which replaced GASB Statement No. 45 as of fiscal year ended December 31, 2018. GASB 75 requires state and local governments to account for and report their costs associated with post-retirement healthcare benefits and other non-pension benefits, known as other post-employment benefits ("OPEB"). GASB 75 generally requires that employers account for and report the annual cost of OPEB and the outstanding obligations and commitments related to OPEB similarly to GASB Statement No. 68 reporting requirements for pensions. The Fire District does not provide healthcare or retirement benefits to any previously retired employees.

### ***Length of Service Award Program***

The Fire District established a defined benefit Length of Service Awards Program ("LOSAP") for the active volunteer firefighters of the Howells Fire Department. The program took effect on January 1, 2002. The program was established pursuant to Article 11-A of the General Municipal Law. The program provides municipally-funded pension-like benefits to facilitate the recruitment and retention of active volunteer firefighters. The Fire District is the sponsor of the program.

Active volunteer firefighters who have reached the age of 18 and who have completed 1 year of firefighting service are eligible to participate in the program. Participants acquire a non-forfeitable right to a service award after being credited with 5 years of firefighting service or upon attaining the program's entitlement age. The program's entitlement age is the anniversary date after reaching age 58. In general, an active volunteer firefighter is credited with a year of firefighting service for each calendar year after the establishment of the program in which he or she accumulates fifty points. Points are granted for the performance of certain activities in accordance with a system established by the sponsor on the basis of a statutory list of activities and point values. A participant may also receive credit for 5 years of firefighting service rendered prior to the establishment of the program.

A participant's benefit under the program is the actuarial equivalent of a monthly payment for life equal to \$20 multiplied by the person's total number of years of firefighting service. The number of years of firefighting service used to compute the benefit cannot exceed forty. Except in the case of disability or death, benefits are payable when a participant reaches entitlement age.

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The Fire District's contributions to LOSAP for the past five audited fiscal years, the most recent unaudited fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the current fiscal year are presented in the table below:

<u>Fiscal Year Ending</u> <u>December 31:</u>	<u>LOSAP</u>
2019	\$53,418
2020	55,168
2021	59,000
2022	57,417
2023	57,000
2024 (Unaudited)	50,000
2025 (Budgeted)	55,000

Source: Audited Financial Statements and Adopted Budget of the Fire District and Fire District Officials. The above summary itself is not audited.

### ***Investment Policy and Permitted Investments***

Pursuant to State law, including Sections 10 and 11 of the General Municipal Law (the "GML"), the Fire District is generally permitted to deposit moneys in banks and trust companies located and authorized to do business in the State. All such deposits, including special time deposit accounts and certificates of deposit, in excess of the amount insured under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, are required to be secured in accordance with the provisions of and subject to the limitations of Section 10 of the GML.

## **FINANCIAL FACTORS**

### ***Independent Audit***

The financial statements of the Fire District are audited by the firms KKB&N CPA's for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2019 through 2022 inclusive, and Cooper Arias, LLP for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2023, independent certified public accountants. The firm KKB&N, CPA's discontinued their municipal audits effective December 31, 2022. Appendix B to this Official Statement presents a summary of the audited financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2019 through 2023, inclusive.

### ***Real Property Taxes***

The Fire District derives substantially all of its revenues from a tax on real property (see "Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance" in Appendix B.) Property taxes accounted for 76.4% of total general fund revenues for the fiscal year ended, December 31, 2023.

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The following table sets forth total general fund revenues and real property tax revenues during the Fire District's last five audited fiscal years and the amounts budgeted for the two most recent fiscal years.

**General Fund Revenues & Real Property Taxes**

Fiscal Year Ended December 31:	Total Revenues <sup>(1)</sup>	Real Property Taxes	Real Property Taxes to Revenues
2019	\$601,212	\$541,284	90.0%
2020	720,791	541,318	75.1
2021	768,757	541,541	70.4
2022 <sup>(2)</sup>	415,302	566,380	136.4
2023	764,690	584,005	76.4
2024 (Adopted Budget)	703,688	604,144	85.9
2025 (Adopted Budget)	695,070	671,559	96.6

(1) General Fund.

(2) For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022, the Fire District realized a net market value loss of its LOSAP assets of \$243,807. The State Comptroller's Office requires that LOSAP fair market changes be reported with operating revenues.

Source: Audited Financial Statements and Adopted Budgets of the Fire District.

***Revenues***

Other than property taxes, the Fire District receives a small portion of their revenues from interest and earnings, sale of property and other miscellaneous sources. For more information regarding real property taxes received by the Fire District, see "Tax Information" herein.

***State Aid***

The Fire District does not receive any significant aid from the State.

***General Fund Operations***

Appendix B sets forth the General Fund results for the last five fiscal years which are derived from the Fire District's annual Audited Financial Statements.

**TAX INFORMATION**

***Real Estate Tax Levying Limitation***

The Fire District is responsible for levying taxes for operating purposes and debt service. Real property in the Fire District is assessed by the Towns. See "Tax Levy Limit Law" herein.

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## Valuations and Tax Data

The table on the following page shows the trend during the last five years for taxable assessed valuations, state equalization ratios, full valuations, real property taxes and real property tax rates per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

### **Valuations and Tax Data** **(For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31:)**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Assessed Valuation:					
Wallkill	\$ 41,846,534	\$ 42,335,999	\$ 42,774,125	\$ 43,170,749	\$ 43,715,398
Mt. Hope	86,445,984	87,589,551	89,501,037	91,281,785	93,961,564
Mamakating	<u>31,325,824</u>	<u>31,984,136</u>	<u>31,571,567</u>	<u>31,703,772</u>	<u>32,283,693</u>
Total Assessed Values	<u>\$159,618,342</u>	<u>\$161,909,686</u>	<u>\$163,846,729</u>	<u>\$166,156,306</u>	<u>\$169,960,655</u>
Equalization Rates:					
Wallkill	18.00%	18.00%	16.02%	14.50%	14.17%
Mt. Hope	52.00	52.00	43.00	39.00	37.00
Mamakating	59.00	59.00	45.50	37.50	36.00
Full Valuation:					
Wallkill	\$232,480,744	\$235,199,994	\$267,004,526	\$297,729,303	\$308,506,690
Mt. Hope	166,242,277	168,441,444	208,141,947	234,055,859	253,950,173
Mamakating	<u>53,094,617</u>	<u>54,210,400</u>	<u>69,388,059</u>	<u>84,543,392</u>	<u>89,676,925</u>
Total Full Values	<u>\$451,817,638</u>	<u>\$457,851,838</u>	<u>\$544,534,532</u>	<u>\$616,328,554</u>	<u>\$652,133,788</u>
Tax Rate <sup>(1)</sup>					
Wallkill	\$6.66	\$6.87	\$6.70	\$6.76	\$7.27
Mt. Hope	2.30	2.38	2.49	2.51	2.78
Mamakating	2.03	2.10	2.36	2.61	2.86
Tax Levy	<u>\$541,380</u>	<u>\$566,380</u>	<u>\$584,005</u>	<u>\$604,144</u>	<u>\$671,559</u>

(1) Per \$1,000 AV.

Source: Fire District Officials and the New York State Office of Real Property Services.

## Tax Collection Procedures

Real property tax payments are due in January of each year. Taxes may be paid without penalty to January 31st. Penalties for delinquent tax payments are 1% for February 28/29 and 2% for March.

The Town Receiver of Taxes collects all real estate taxes for the Town, County, Fire District and special district purposes on a single bill. The Town Receiver of Taxes distributes the collected tax money to both the Town and Fire District prior to distributing the balance collected to the County. The Fire District thereby is assured of 100% tax collections.

## The Tax Levy Limit Law

Prior to the enactment of Chapter 97 of the New York Laws of 2011, as amended (the “Tax Levy Limit Law”) all the taxable real property within the Fire District had been subject to the levy of ad valorem taxes to pay the bonds and notes of the Fire District and interest thereon without limitation as to rate or amount. However, the Tax Levy Limit Law imposes a tax levy limitation upon the Fire District for any fiscal year commencing after January 1, 2012, without providing an exclusion for debt service on obligations issued by the Fire District. As a result, the power of the Fire District to cause the levy of real estate taxes on all the taxable real property within the Fire District, to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds, is subject to the statutory limitations imposed by the Tax Levy Limit Law.

The following is a brief summary of certain relevant provisions of Tax Levy Limit Law. The summary is not complete and the full text of the Tax Levy Limit Law should be read in order to understand the details and implications thereof.

The Tax Levy Limit Law imposes a limitation on increases in the real property tax levy of the Fire District, subject to certain exceptions. The Tax Levy Limit Law permits the Fire District to increase its overall real property tax levy over the tax levy of the prior year by no more than the “Allowable Levy Growth Factor”, which is the lesser of one and two-one hundredths or the sum of one plus the Inflation Factor; provided, however that in no case shall the levy growth factor be less than one. The "Inflation Factor" is the quotient of: (i) the average of the 20 National Consumer Price Indexes determined by the United States Department of Labor for the twelve-month period ending six months prior to the start of the coming fiscal year minus the average of the National Consumer Price Indexes determined by the United States Department of Labor for the twelve-month period ending six months prior to the start of the prior fiscal year, divided by: (ii) the average of the National Consumer Price Indexes determined by the United States Department of Labor for the twelve-month period ending six months prior to the start of the prior fiscal year, with the result expressed as a decimal to four places. The Fire District is required to calculate its tax levy limit for the upcoming year in accordance with the provisions above and provide all relevant information to the New York State Comptroller prior to adopting its budget. The Tax Levy Limit Law sets forth certain exclusions to the real property tax levy limitation of the Fire District, including exclusions for certain portions of the expenditures for retirement system contributions and tort judgments payable by the Fire District. The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Fire District can adopt a resolution, approved by a vote of sixty percent of the total voting power of the Board of Fire Commissioners, to override the tax levy limit for a given year.

There can be no assurances that the Tax Levy Limit Law will not come under legal challenge for violating applicable law (i) for not providing an exception for debt service on obligations issued prior to the enactment of the Tax Levy Limit Law, (ii) by effectively eliminating the exception for debt service to general real estate tax limitations, and (iii) by limiting the pledge of its faith and credit by a fire district for the payment of debt service on obligations issued by such fire district because the Tax Levy Limit Law does not contain an exception from the levy limitation for the payment of debt service on either outstanding general obligation bonds or notes of the Fire District or such indebtedness incurred after the effective date of the Tax Levy Limit Law.

### ***Ten of the Largest Taxpayers***

The following table presents the full valuations of ten of the Fire District’s largest taxpayers for the 2025 fiscal year.

#### **Ten Largest Taxpayers**

<u>Taxpayer</u>	<u>Classification</u>	Full <u>Valuation</u>	Percent Full <u>Valuation</u> <sup>(1)</sup>
Orange & Rockland Utilities	Utility	\$29,919,518	4.59%
City of Middletown	Government	9,677,116	1.48
Upper Road LLC	Residential	2,806,176	0.43
Citizens Telephone	Utility	2,164,455	0.33
Todd Lyons Living Trust	Residential	1,520,749	0.23
Vincent Greco	Residential	1,307,448	0.20
Valley Agricultural	Commercial	1,297,940	0.20
Richard Quinn	Residential	1,249,604	0.19
Restorative Family Trust	Vacant Land	1,230,586	0.19
New Eternal Spring	Shopping Center	<u>1,109,350</u>	<u>0.17</u>
Totals:		<u>\$52,282,942</u>	<u>8.01%</u>

(1) The total full valuation for the Fire District for the 2025 year is \$652,133,788.

Source: Fire District Officials.

## **FIRE DISTRICT INDEBTEDNESS**

### ***Constitutional and Statutory Requirements***

***Constitutional Requirements.*** The New York State Constitution (Article VIII, Section 2) does not directly address the power of fire districts, including the Fire District, to contract indebtedness and the levy of taxes upon real estate in support thereof (although Article VIII, Section 3 thereof excludes, inter alia, fire districts from limitations imposed therein upon municipal or other corporations possessing the power to contract indebtedness or to levy or require the levy of taxes or benefit assessments upon real estate).

***Local Finance Law Requirements.*** The New York State Local Finance Law limits the power of the Fire District (and municipalities, school and other fire districts of the State) to issue obligations and contract indebtedness. Such limitations include the following, in summary form, and are generally applicable to the Fire District and the Notes.

***Purpose and Pledge.*** Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, the Fire District shall not give or loan any money or property to or in aid of any individual or private corporation or private undertaking or give or loan its credit to or in aid of any of the foregoing or any public corporation.

The Fire District may contract indebtedness only for a Fire District purpose and shall pledge its faith and credit for the payment of principal of and interest thereon.

***Payment and Maturity.*** Except for certain short-term indebtedness contracted in anticipation of taxes, or to be paid in one of the two fiscal years immediately succeeding the fiscal year in which such indebtedness was contracted, indebtedness shall be paid in annual installments commencing no later than two years after the date such indebtedness shall have been contracted and ending no later than the expiration of the periods of probable usefulness of the objects or purposes as determined by statute or in the alternative, the weighted average period of probable usefulness of the several objects or purposes for which such indebtedness is to be contracted; no installment may be more than fifty per centum in excess of the smallest prior installment, unless the Fire District has authorized the issuance of indebtedness having substantially level or declining annual debt service. The Fire District is required to provide an annual appropriation for the payment of interest due during the fiscal year on its indebtedness and for the amounts required in such year for amortization and redemption of its serial bonds, bond anticipation notes and capital notes.

***General.*** The Fire District is subject to certain statutory limitations restricting the powers of the Fire District in the areas of taxation, assessment, borrowing money, contracting indebtedness and loaning the credit of the Fire District, so as to prevent abuses in the exercise of such powers. As has been noted under “*Nature of Obligation*”, the State Legislature is prohibited from restricting the power of the Fire District to cause the levy of taxes on real estate for the payment of interest on or principal of indebtedness theretofore contracted. However, the Tax Levy Limit Law imposes a statutory limitation on the Fire District’s power to increase its annual tax levy, unless the Fire District complies with certain procedural requirements to permit the Fire District to cause the levy of certain year-to-year increases in real property taxes. (See “*Tax Levy Limit Law*” herein).

### ***Statutory Procedure***

In general, the State Legislature has authorized the power and procedure for the Fire District to borrow and incur indebtedness subject, of course, to the provisions set forth above. The power to spend money, however, generally derives from other laws, including the Town Law and the General Municipal Law.

Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, the Fire District authorizes the issuance of bonded indebtedness by the adoption of a bond resolution approved by a vote of at least three-fifths of the entire membership of the Board of Fire Commissioners, which, pursuant to the Local Finance Law, is the finance board of the Fire District. All of such resolutions are subject to referendum.

Each bond resolution usually authorizes the construction, acquisition or installation of the object or purpose to be financed, appropriates the requisite funds, authorizes the issuance of serial bonds to finance the appropriation, sets forth the plan of financing and specifies the maximum maturity of the bonds subject to the legal (Constitution, Local

Finance Law and case law) restrictions relating to the period of probable usefulness with respect to such object or purpose.

Each bond resolution also provides for the authorization of the issuance of bond anticipation notes prior to the issuance of the subject serial bonds. Statutory law in New York permits notes to be renewed each year provided that (i) amortization of principal commences within two years of the date of incurrence of the debt, and, (ii) such renewals do not (with certain exceptions) extend more than five years beyond the original date of borrowing. (See "*Payment and Maturity*" under "*Constitutional Requirements*" herein).

The Local Finance Law also provides a twenty-day statute of limitations after publication of a bond resolution, together with a statutory form of notice which, in effect, stops legal challenges to the validity of obligations authorized by such bond resolution except for alleged constitutional violations. It is a procedure that is recommended by Bond Counsel, but it is not an absolute legal requirement. Except on rare occasion the Fire District complied with this estoppel procedure.

In addition, pursuant to the bond resolution, the Board of Fire Commissioners may delegate to the Fire District Treasurer, the chief fiscal officer of the Fire District, the power to issue and sell bonds and bond anticipation notes.

In general, the Local Finance Law contains similar provisions providing the Fire District with power to issue general obligation revenue anticipation notes, tax anticipation notes, deficiency notes and budget notes, subject to the prescribed statutory procedures and limitations.

***Debt Limit.*** The Fire District has the power to contract indebtedness for any Fire District purpose authorized by the Legislature of the State so long as the aggregate principal amount thereof shall not exceed three per centum (3.00%) of the full valuation of taxable real property of the Fire District, except as otherwise provided by the New York Local Finance Law, and subject to certain enumerated exclusions and deductions such as cash or appropriations for principal of debt. The three per centum limit may be exceeded if the proposition for approval of the bond resolution is approved by a two-thirds vote of the qualified voters of the Fire District and the State Comptroller consents thereto. The method for determining full valuation is by taking the assessed valuation of taxable real property for the last completed assessment roll and applying thereto the ratio (equalization rate) which such assessed valuation bears to the full valuation; such ratio is determined by the State Board of Real Property Services. The State Legislature is required to prescribe the manner by which such ratio shall be determined.

There is no constitutional limitation on the amount that may be raised by the Fire District by tax on real estate in any fiscal year to pay principal and interest on all indebtedness. However, the Tax Levy Limit Law imposes a statutory limitation on the power of the Fire District to increase its annual tax levy, unless the Fire District complies with certain procedural requirements to permit the Fire District to cause the levy of certain year-to-year increases in real property taxes. (See "*Tax Levy Limit Law*" herein).

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### ***Statutory Debt Limit and Net Indebtedness***

The debt limit of the Fire District is \$19,564,013 as of June 24, 2025. This is calculated by taking 3% of the current full value of the taxable real property of the Fire District.

#### **Statutory Debt Limit and Net Indebtedness** **(As of June 24, 2025)**

Full Valuation of Taxable Real Property		\$652,133,788
Debt Contracting Margin (3% of Full Valuation)		<u>\$ 19,564,013</u>
Outstanding Indebtedness (Principal Only):		
Bonds	\$ 0	
Bond Anticipation Notes	0	
Gross Indebtedness		
Less: Exclusions	<u>0</u>	
Total Net Indebtedness		<u>\$ 0</u>
Net Debt-Contracting Margin		<u>\$ 19,564,013</u>
Percentage of Debt-Contracting Margin Exhausted		<u>0.00%</u>

Source: Fire District Officials.

### ***Short-Term Indebtedness***

The Fire District does not have any bond anticipation notes ("BAN"), tax anticipation notes ("TAN") or revenue anticipation notes ("RAN") outstanding and has not issued any BAN, TAN or RAN in recent years.

### ***Trend of Capital Indebtedness***

The Fire District has not issued any bonds or bond anticipation notes in the past five years. The Fire District does not currently have any debt outstanding.

### ***Installment Purchase Debt***

The Fire District does not have any installment purchase debt outstanding.

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### ***Estimated Overlapping and Underlying Debt***

In addition to the Fire District, other political subdivisions have the power to issue bonds and to levy taxes or cause taxes to be levied on taxable real property in the Fire District. The real property taxpayers of the Fire District are responsible for a proportionate share of outstanding debt obligations of these subdivisions. Such taxpayers' share of overlapping and underlying debt is based on the amount of the Fire District's equalized property values taken as a percentage of each separate unit's total values. The following table presents the amount of overlapping and underlying debt and the Fire District's share of this debt. Authorized but unissued debt has not been included.

#### **Statement of Direct and Estimated Overlapping Indebtedness**

<u>Issuer</u>	<u>Net Debt Outstanding</u>	<u>As of:</u>	<u>Fire District Share</u>	<u>Amount Applicable To Fire District</u>
Orange County	\$211,736,178	02/15/24	1.13%	\$ 2,392,619
Sullivan County	98,940,000	06/29/24	2.94	2,908,836
Mount Hope Town	0	12/31/24	58.19	0
Wallkill Town	22,358,911	06/27/24	26.03	5,820,025
Mamakating Town	0	12/31/24	25.18	0
Middletown CSD	81,250,000	11/06/24	26.54	21,563,750
Minisink Valley CSD	48,340,627	05/30/25	13.33	6,443,806
Pine Bush CSD	16,770,516	12/15/23	18.58	<u>3,115,962</u>
Total Net Overlapping Debt				\$42,244,998
Total Net Direct Debt				<u>0</u>
Total Net Direct and Overlapping Debt				<u>\$42,244,998</u>

### ***Debt Ratios***

The following table presents certain debt ratios relating to the Fire District's direct and overlapping indebtedness.

#### **Debt Ratios**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Debt Per Capita<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Debt to Full Value<sup>(2)</sup></u>
Net Direct Debt	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.00%
Net Direct and Overlapping Debt	42,244,998	10,561	6.48

(1) The population of the Fire District is estimated to be approximately 4,000 according to Fire District Officials.

(2) The full valuation of real property located in the Fire District for the 2025 fiscal year is \$652,133,788.

### ***Debt Service Schedule***

The Fire District does not have any long-term bonds outstanding.

### ***Authorized but Unissued Debt***

Following the issuance of the Notes, the Fire District will have no authorized but unissued debt.

## **ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

### ***Employment and Unemployment***

The following tables provide information concerning employment and unemployment in the Town, County and State. Data provided for the Town, County and State are not necessarily representative of the Fire District.

#### **Civilian Labor Force**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Wallkill Town	15,700	15,400	16,000	16,200	16,200
Orange County	182,600	180,300	184,300	188,400	188,300
Sullivan County	35,100	34,900	35,600	37,200	37,200
State	9,569,500	9,540,700	9,620,700	9,773,400	9,834,600

Source: New York State Department of Economic Development; Bureau of Economic and Demographic Information.

#### **Yearly Average Unemployment Rates**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Wallkill Town</u>	<u>Orange County</u>	<u>Sullivan County</u>	<u>State</u>
2020	8.2	8.3%	8.8%	9.8%
2021	4.7	5.0	5.2	7.1
2022	3.3	3.4	3.5	4.3
2023	3.3	3.5	3.3	4.1
2024	3.7	3.7	3.6	4.3

Source: New York State Department of Economic Development; Bureau of Economic and Demographic Information.

#### **Monthly Unemployment Rates**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Wallkill Town</u>	<u>Orange County</u>	<u>Sullivan County</u>	<u>State</u>
May 2024	3.6%	3.5%	3.2%	4.0%
June	3.6	3.7	3.3	4.3
July	3.9	4.1	3.6	4.8
August	3.8	4.0	3.5	4.8
September	3.3	3.3	3.0	4.0
October	3.4	3.4	3.1	4.2
November	3.5	3.4	3.2	4.2
December	3.5	3.4	3.3	4.2
January 2025	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.6
February	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.3
March	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.1
April	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.6

Source: New York State Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information not seasonally adjusted.

**End of Appendix-A**

## **APPENDIX B**

### **SUMMARY OF BUDGETS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**HOWELLS FIRE DISTRICT**  
**Summary of Budgeted Revenues & Expenditures**  
**General Fund**  
**Fiscal Years Ending December 31:**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Revenues:		
Real Property Taxes	\$ 604,144	\$ 671,559
Interest Earnings	4,000	4,000
Miscellaneous	15,000	15,000
Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>80,544</u>	<u>4,511</u>
Total Revenues	<u><u>\$ 703,688</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 695,070</u></u>
Expenditures:		
Equipment	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
Contractual	330,688	323,070
Miscellaneous	33,000	32,000
Benefits	65,000	65,000
Interfund Transfers	<u>215,000</u>	<u>215,000</u>
Total Expenditures	<u><u>\$ 703,688</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 695,070</u></u>

Source: Adopted Budgets of the Fire District.

**HOWELLS FIRE DISTRICT**  
**Comparative Balance Sheets**  
**General Fund**  
**Fiscal Years Ended December 31:**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Assets:		
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 1,308,614	\$ 1,412,928
Service Award Program Assets	1,194,870	1,322,495
Prepaid Assets	1,882	1,532
Due From State & Federal	-	5,200
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,505,366</u>	<u>\$ 2,742,155</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balance:		
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 15,083	\$ 18,573
Accrued Liabilities	-	69,707
Due to Other Governments	-	5,649
Pension Liabilities	2,240	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 17,323</u>	<u>\$ 93,929</u>
Fund Balance:		
Unspendable	\$ 1,882	\$ 1,532
Restricted	2,382,871	2,476,117
Assigned	56,531	80,544
Unassigned	46,759	90,033
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$ 2,488,043</u>	<u>\$ 2,648,226</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u><u>\$ 2,505,366</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,742,155</u></u>

Sources: Audited Financial Statements of the Fire District. Table itself not audited.

**HOWELLS FIRE DISTRICT**  
**Combined Statement of Revenues,**  
**Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**General Fund**  
**Fiscal Years Ended December 31:**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Revenues:					
Real Property Taxes	\$ 541,284	\$ 541,318	\$ 541,541	\$ 566,380	\$ 584,005
Insurance Recoveries	22,370	3,538	19,220	-	-
Interest and Earnings	24,558	121,918	118,688	81,534	-
Sale of Surplus Equipment	3,000	48,022	5,752	-	-
Refund of Prior Year Insurance Dividends	-	5,969	6,806	6,350	-
Use of Money and Property	-	-	-	-	125,420
Municipal Agreement	10,000	-	-	-	49,160
LOSAP Net Change	-	-	-	(243,807)	-
Grant Proceeds	-	-	51,500	4,845	-
Sale of Land	-	-	25,200	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	26	50	-	6,105
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 601,212</u>	<u>\$ 720,791</u>	<u>\$ 768,757</u>	<u>\$ 415,302</u>	<u>\$ 764,690</u>
Expenditures:					
Public Safety	\$ 333,780	\$ 676,592	\$ 303,067	\$ 446,415	\$ 642,058
Employee Benefits	83,117	79,494	84,717	105,375	166,334
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 416,897</u>	<u>\$ 756,086</u>	<u>\$ 387,784</u>	<u>\$ 551,790</u>	<u>\$ 808,392</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	<u>\$ 184,315</u>	<u>\$ (35,295)</u>	<u>\$ 380,973</u>	<u>\$ (136,488)</u>	<u>\$ (43,702)</u>
Other Financing Sources					
Change in Value of LOSAP Assets	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 99,328
Total Other Financing Sources	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 99,328</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and other Sources over Expenditures and Other Uses	184,315	(35,295)	380,973	(136,488)	55,626
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	\$ 922,849	\$ 1,107,164	\$ 2,243,558	\$ 2,624,531	\$ 2,488,043
Prior Year Adjustment	-	1,171,689	-	-	104,557
Fund Balance - End of Year	<u>\$ 1,107,164</u>	<u>\$ 2,243,558</u>	<u>\$ 2,624,531</u>	<u>\$ 2,488,043</u>	<u>\$ 2,648,226</u>

Sources: Audited Financial Statements of the Fire District. Table itself not audited.

**APPENDIX C**  
**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2023\***

**CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE MUNICIPAL ADVISOR'S WEBSITE  
AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:**

**<https://capmark.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Howells-Fire-District-FY2023-Audited-Financials.pdf>**

**The audited financial statements referenced above are hereby incorporated into this  
Official Statement.**

**\* Such Financial Statements and opinion are intended to be representative only as of the date thereof. Cooper Arias, LLP, has not been requested by the Fire District to further review and/or update such Financial Statements or opinion in connection with the preparation and dissemination of this Official Statement.**

## **APPENDIX D**

### **FORM OF APPROVING LEGAL OPINION OF BOND COUNSEL**



## FORM OF OPINION OF BOND COUNSEL

Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP  
140 Broadway, 42<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10005

July 17, 2025

The Board of Commissioners of the  
Howells Fire District,  
in the Towns of Wallkill, Mount Hope and Mamakating,  
Counties of Orange Sullivan, New York

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as Bond Counsel to the Howells Fire District, in the Towns of Wallkill, Mount Hope and Mamakating (the “Fire District”), in the Counties of Orange and Rockland, a district corporation of the State of New York, and have examined a record of proceedings relating to the authorization, sale and issuance of the \$9,500,000 Bond Anticipation Notes – 2025 (the “Notes”) of the Fire District dated and delivered on the date hereof.

In such examination, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals and the conformity with originals of all documents submitted to us as copies thereof. Based upon and subject to the foregoing, and in reliance thereon, as of the date hereof, we are of the following opinions:

1. The Notes are valid and legally binding general obligations of the Fire District for which the Fire District has validly pledged its faith and credit and, unless paid from other sources, all the taxable real property within the Fire District is subject to the levy of ad valorem real estate taxes to pay the Notes and interest thereon, subject to certain statutory limitations imposed by Chapter 97 of the New York Laws of 2011, as amended. The enforceability of rights or remedies with respect to such Notes may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, or other laws affecting creditors’ rights or remedies heretofore or hereafter enacted.

2. Under existing statutes and court decisions and assuming continuing compliance with certain tax certifications described herein, (i) interest on the Notes is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), and (ii) interest on the Notes is not treated as a preference item in calculating the alternative minimum tax under the Code; however, interest on the Notes is included in the “adjusted financial statement income” of certain corporations that are subject to the alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the Code.

The Code establishes certain requirements that must be met subsequent to the issuance of the Notes in order that the interest on the Notes be and remain excludable from gross income under Section 103 of the Code. These requirements include, but are not limited

to, requirements relating to the use and expenditure of proceeds of the Notes, restrictions on the investment of proceeds of the Notes prior to expenditure and the requirement that certain earnings be rebated to the federal government. Noncompliance with such requirements may cause the interest on the Notes to become subject to federal income taxation retroactive to the date of issuance thereof, irrespective of the date on which such noncompliance occurs or is ascertained.

On the date of issuance of the Notes, the Fire District will execute a Tax Certificate relating to the Notes containing provisions and procedures pursuant to which such requirements can be satisfied. In executing the Tax Certificate, the Fire District represents that it will comply with the provisions and procedures set forth therein and that it will do and perform all acts and things necessary or desirable to assure that the interest on the Notes will, for federal income tax purposes, be excluded from gross income.

In rendering the opinion in this paragraph 2, we have relied upon and assumed (i) the material accuracy of the Fire District's certifications, statements of intention and reasonable expectations, and certifications of fact contained in the Tax Certificate with respect to matters affecting the status of the interest on the Notes, and (ii) compliance by the Fire District with the procedures and certifications set forth in the Tax Certificate as to such tax matters.

3. Under existing statutes, interest on the Notes is exempt from personal income taxes of New York State and its political subdivisions, including The City of New York.

We express no opinion as to any other federal, state or local tax consequences arising with respect to the Notes, or the ownership or disposition thereof, except as stated in paragraphs 2 and 3 above. We render our opinion under existing statutes and court decisions as of the date hereof, and assume no obligation to update, revise or supplement our opinion to reflect any action hereafter taken or not taken, any fact or circumstance that may hereafter come to our attention, any change in law or interpretation thereof that may hereafter occur, or for any other reason. We express no opinion as to the consequence of any of the events described in the preceding sentence or the likelihood of their occurrence. In addition, we express no opinion on the effect of any action taken or not taken in reliance upon an opinion of other counsel regarding federal, state or local tax matters, including, without limitation, exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes of interest on the Notes.

We give no assurances as to the accuracy, sufficiency or completeness of the Preliminary or Final Official Statement or any proceedings, reports, correspondence, financial statements or other documents, containing financial or other information relative to the Fire District which have been or may hereafter be furnished or disclosed to purchasers of said Notes.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP

## **APPENDIX E**

### **FORM OF UNDERTAKING TO PROVIDE NOTICES OF EVENTS**

## UNDERTAKING TO PROVIDE NOTICES OF EVENTS

### Section 1. Definitions

“EMMA” shall mean the Electronic Municipal Market Access System implemented by the MSRB.

“GAAP” shall mean generally accepted accounting principles as in effect from time to time in the United States.

“Holder” shall mean any registered owner of the Securities and any beneficial owner of Securities within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

“Issuer” shall mean the Howells Fire District, in the Towns of Wallkill, Mount Hope and Mamakating, in the Counties of Orange and Sullivan, a district corporation of the State of New York.

“MSRB” shall mean the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board established in accordance with the provisions of Section 15B(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

“Purchaser” shall mean the financial institution referred to in the Certificate of Determination, executed by the Fire District Treasurer as of July 17, 2025.

“Rule 15c2-12” shall mean Rule 15c2-12 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended through the date of this Undertaking, including any official interpretations thereof.

“Securities” shall mean the Issuer’s **\$9,500,000 Bond Anticipation Note-2025**, dated July 17, 2025, maturing July 17, 2026, and delivered on the date hereof.

Section 2. Obligation to Provide Notices of Events. (a) The Issuer hereby undertakes, for the benefit of Holders of the Securities, to provide or cause to be provided either directly or through Capital Markets Advisors, LLC, 11 Grace Avenue, Suite 308, Great Neck, New York 11021, to the Electronic Municipal Market Access (“EMMA”) System implemented by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board established pursuant to Section 15B(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or any successor thereto or to the functions of such Board contemplated by the Undertaking, in a timely manner, not in excess of ten (10) business days after the occurrence of any such event, notice of any of the following events with respect to the Securities:

- (i) principal and interest payment delinquencies;
- (ii) non-payment related defaults, if material;
- (iii) unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
- (iv) unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial

difficulties;

- (v) substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform;
- (vi) adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other material notices of determinations with respect to the tax status of the Securities, or other material events affecting the tax status of the Securities;
- (vii) modifications to rights of Securities holders, if material;
- (viii) Bond calls, if material, and tender offers;
- (ix) defeasances;
- (x) release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the Securities, if material;
- (xi) rating changes;
- (xii) bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the Issuer; Note to clause (12): For the purposes of the event identified in clause (12) above, the event is considered to occur when any of the following occur: the appointment of a receiver, fiscal agent or similar officer for the Issuer in a proceeding under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code or in any other proceeding under state or federal law in which a court or government authority has assumed jurisdiction over substantially all of the assets or business of the Issuer, or if such jurisdiction has been assumed by leaving the existing governing body and officials or officers in possession but subject to the supervision and orders of a court or governmental authority, or the entry of an order confirming a plan of reorganization, arrangement or liquidation by a court or governmental authority having supervision or jurisdiction over substantially all of the assets or business of the Issuer;
- (xiii) the consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving the Issuer or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Issuer, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material;
- (xiv) appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material;
- (xv) incurrence of a financial obligation, as defined in Rule 15c2-12, of the Issuer, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies,

priority rights, or other similar terms of a financial obligation of the Issuer, any of which affect security holders, if material; and

- (xvi) default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a financial obligation of the Issuer, any of which reflect financial difficulties.

(b) Nothing herein shall be deemed to prevent the Issuer from disseminating any other information in addition to that required hereby in the manner set forth herein or in any other manner. If the Issuer disseminates any such additional information, the Issuer shall have no obligation to update such information or include it in any future materials disseminated hereunder.

(c) Nothing herein shall be deemed to prevent the Issuer from providing notice of the occurrence of certain other events, in addition to those listed above, if the Issuer determines that any such other event is material with respect to the Securities; but the Issuer does not undertake to commit to provide any such notice of the occurrence of any event except those events listed above.

Section 3. Remedies. If the Issuer shall fail to comply with any provision of this Undertaking, then any Holder of Securities may enforce, for the equal benefit and protection of all Holders similarly situated, by mandamus or other suit or proceeding at law or in equity, this Undertaking against the Issuer and any of the officers, agents and employees of the Issuer, and may compel the Issuer or any such officers, agents or employees to perform and carry out their duties under this Undertaking; provided that the sole and exclusive remedy for breach of this Undertaking shall be an action to compel specific performance of the obligations of the Issuer hereunder and no person or entity shall be entitled to recover monetary damages hereunder under any circumstances. Failure to comply with any provision of this Undertaking shall not constitute an event of default on the Securities.

Section 4. Parties in Interest. This Undertaking is executed to assist the Purchaser to comply with (b)(5) of the Rule and is delivered for the benefit of the Holders. No other person shall have any right to enforce the provisions hereof or any other rights hereunder.

Section 5. Amendments. Without the consent of any holders of Securities, the Issuer at any time and from time to time may enter into any amendments or changes to this Undertaking for any of the following purposes:

- (a) to comply with or conform to any changes in Rule 15c2-12 (whether required or optional);
- (b) to add a dissemination agent for the information required to be provided hereby and to make any necessary or desirable provisions with respect thereto;
- (c) to evidence the succession of another person to the Issuer and the assumption of any such successor of the duties of the Issuer hereunder;

- (d) to add to the duties of the Issuer for the benefit of the Holders, or to surrender any right or power herein conferred upon the Issuer;
- (e) to cure any ambiguity, to correct or supplement any provision hereof which may be inconsistent with any other provision hereof, or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under this Undertaking which, in each case, comply with Rule 15c2-12 or Rule 15c2- 12 as in effect at the time of such amendment or change;

provided that no such action pursuant to this Section 5 shall adversely affect the interests of the Holders in any material respect. In making such determination, the Issuer shall rely upon an opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel.

Section 6. Termination. This Undertaking shall remain in full force and effect until such time as all principal, redemption premiums, if any, and interest on the Securities shall have been paid in full or the Securities shall have otherwise been paid or legally defeased in accordance with their terms. Upon any such legal defeasance, the Issuer shall provide notice of such defeasance to the EMMA System. Such notice shall state whether the Securities have been defeased to maturity or to redemption and the timing of such maturity or redemption.

Section 7. Undertaking to Constitute Written Agreement or Contract. This Undertaking shall constitute the written agreement or contract for the benefit of Holders of Securities, as contemplated under Rule 15c2-12.

Section 8. Governing Law. This Undertaking shall be governed by the laws of the State of New York determined without regard to principles of conflict of law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has duly authorized, executed and delivered this Undertaking as of **July 17, 2025**.

**HOWELLS FIRE DISTRICT, NEW YORK**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fire District Treasurer