

# WT voters reject fire budget

WASHINGTON TWP.

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Voters here defeated the fire department's proposed \$5.5 million budget with 330 votes against and 234 votes in favor of an increase that would have meant an increase of \$4 on the average homeowner's fire tax.

The spending plan called for a tax rate of 19.9 cents per \$100 of assessed value less than half a cent more than the current rate. The owner of a home assessed at the township average of \$130,000 would have paid about \$259 for fire service in 2009.

Even more voters spoke out against a request to replace a fire engine in 2010 costing \$450,000 with 340 voters dissenting on the new rig and 267 for it.

Elected to an open term on the board of fire commissioners is Lawrence Kennie who defeated incumbent Charles Zemski 364 votes to 197.

Peter DellBorrello received a single write-in vote.

The fire district will now have to go before the township committee to work on the fire budget much in the way a defeated school district budget is reformulated.