

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Pennington Borough Fire District No. 1
P.O. Box 387
Pennington, NJ 08534

MINUTES December 15, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Blackwell at 7:35 p.m. at the Pennington Firehouse, following adequate notice under the Open Public Meetings Law (notice provided to the municipal clerk, posted at the Pennington Borough Municipal Building and Board offices, and provided and published in the official newspaper of the district and the Hopewell Valley News.

ROLL CALL

Present by roll call were Commissioners Mark Blackwell, Tom Timperman, Bill Naylor, Bill Meytrott, and Gene Schooley. Also present were Deputy Chief Gaudio, President Abey, accountant J. Carducci, and attorney Griswold.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bill Meytrott was not at the November 19, 2015 meeting. Minutes from that meeting indicate his approval on resolutions (budget and aerial apparatus) and will be corrected and resubmitted.

On a Motion by Cmsr. Schooley and seconded by Cmsr. Naylor, the minutes of November 19, 2015 were unanimously approved pending the aforementioned corrections.

CHIEF'S REPORT

There were 37 calls in November: 4 of them in Pennington Borough, 28 in the Township and 5 other.

2 scheduled drills

The 3 chiefs were voted back in; officers all stayed the same for next year.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The insurance coverage on the responder's vehicle that sustained damage responding to a call (reported last month) has a \$500.00 deductible. The Commissioners agreed to reimburse her deductible and to add the payment to this month's bills, chargeable to

“Contingency”. Cmsr. Blackwell has a copy of all the paperwork and will provide it to the treasurer.

The Board also agreed to add \$10,000 to the monthly bills to pay attorney Barbara S. Griswold for professional fees for 2015.

On a Motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, seconded by Cmsr. Schooley and passed, **Resolution 2015-32** – paying bills in the amount of \$47,980.67, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Website: The budget cannot be submitted because the website is not up to date. Attorney Griswold attempted to meet with the Borough Clerk who unfortunately was not in. Attorney Griswold suggested the Board consider hiring someone to maintain a website for the upcoming year.

Insurance: Question as to payments this year (2015) as there appears to be a large increase of 38% (New Jersey Manufacturers). No notice given by NJM to anyone’s knowledge.

Nottingham Insurance Agency is looking into newly approved vendor in NJ for worker’s compensation. Worker’s compensation costs have been increasing recently. Cmsr. Blackwell is looking into both situations.

Worker’s compensation claim arose today for a hose injury to a responder’s eye. It is under review. The injured individual is seeing doctors.

Siren: Discussion of the siren operation and prerequisites to its installation (pole to mount it on, etc.)

NEW BUSINESS

Trophies: President Abey ordered trophies, the cost of which is within his budget.

New Members: Four new members, including 2 juniors and 2 adults (19+), were approved with contingencies. In order to go to fire school, all members must pass physicals. Physicals are required for those who join the Relief Association or who go to fire school. One applicant has an eye condition which the County Fire School has indicated will not affect his acceptance if approved by the Board. His approval was given, contingent upon doctor’s approval and driving restriction.

Township Fire Official: Andrew Fosina will be sworn into this position this week.

2016 Election and Budget Referendum: Voting will take place on February 20, 2016. There are three seats open on the Board: two 3-year terms and one 2-year term. The deadline for filing petitions to run for a seat on the fire commission with the Clerk of the Board (Gene Schooley) is 5 pm on January 15, 2016.

The public hearing on the approved 2016 fire district budget will be held at 8 pm at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion by Cmsr. Meytrott and seconded by Cmsr. Naylor, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on January 19, 2016.