

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

MINUTES July 19, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Blackwell at 7:37 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).

**RESIGNATION**

Chairman Blackwell announced that Commissioner Naylor had submitted his resignation from the board because he has permanently moved out of the fire district. An individual will be appointed to fill Mr. Naylor's seat on the board at a future meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Present by roll call were Commissioners Mark Blackwell, Bill Meytrott, Tom Timperman and Gene Schooley. Absent: None. Also present were Chief DeForte, Deputy Chief Gaudioso, Ass't. Chief Bainbridge, accountant J. Carducci and Attorney Griswold. Commissioner Lenarski from the Township BOFC was also present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a Motion by Cmsr. Timperman and seconded by Cmsr. Meytrott and passed, the minutes of May 17, 2016 were approved with one correction: Under Old Business/ AED's, the extended maintenance contract for the units is available for an additional \$1,131.00 per unit. The amended approval is correct as written.

As the June, 2016 meeting was not held, there were no minutes to approve.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

There were 44 calls in May, 2016: 8 of them in Pennington Borough, 18 in the Township, 3 in Hopewell Borough, 15 other (10 of which were mutual aid). Calls included 1 non-residential structure, 1 auto/machinery fire, 1 hazmat incident, 1 motor vehicle/rescue, and 1 brush fire.

There were 39 calls in June, 2016: 4 of them in Pennington Borough, 25 in the Township, 1 in Hopewell Borough, 9 other. Calls included 4 residential, 3 auto/machinery fires, 1 motor vehicle/rescue, 1 brush fire, and 1 gas leak. Mutual aid response to a residential fire in Ewing was impressive.

- 4 members graduated from Somerset County Fire School.
- The fire company is in Station 32's call box for alarm activations in Ewing. Chief DeForte will contact Station 32's chief to see if Pennington can be removed from the box for alarms, but will continue to respond to smoke conditions and other mutual aid calls.

- The frequency of fire alarm activations at Borough Hall is improving. Accidental alarms at the library are still up.
- 80 townhomes planned for development off Franklin Avenue near Pennington Point will have sprinklers.
- A table-top railroad exercise is planned for this spring. A primary concern is with the transport of Bakken oil through the county.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

A copy of the treasurer's report was made available to each Commissioner with a list and description of the bills to be paid. The Chief Financial Officer certified there were sufficient encumbered and unencumbered funds to pay the bills as presented.

On a Motion by Cmsr. Schooley, seconded by Cmsr. Timperman and passed, **Resolution 2016-21** – Paying June and July bills in the amount of \$50,662.58, was unanimously approved by roll call vote of those commissioners present.

Commissioner Blackwell noted that there will be an upcoming credit for unused materials purchased for the siren and its installation. He also noted the siren should be shipped soon from the manufacturer.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Aerial Truck:** The truck has arrived in Pennsylvania where the ladder is being fabricated. The pump panel layout should be forthcoming for approval. The next inspection trip will be in August. Disposition of the old ladder truck was discussed.

On a Motion by Cmsr. Timperman, seconded by Cmsr. Schooley and passed, the board will notify the Township Board of its intent to sell the 1991 LTI Duplex ladder apparatus once its replacement is completed so the Township Board may exercise its option to purchase the apparatus should it elect to do so.

Cmsr. Blackwell will renew the loan commitment for the new aerial and Mr. Carducci will prepare an amortization schedule for the loan repayment and submit it to the Township Board for its budget preparations.

Township Cmsr. Lenarski requested that the boards attempt to find a suitable place to house the old aerial before it is sold to protect it from winter weather if necessary.

**Web Site Management:** Cmsr. Blackwell is following up and will report next month.

**Firehouse Construction:** A temporary CO has been issued.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2015 LOSAP Review** - Mr. Carducci provided an explanation of the document and an overview of the fiduciary responsibilities of the board and the local plan administrator in connection with the LOSAP program. He indicated his willingness to further discuss and to answer any questions regarding the

LOSAP review or the accounting rules and standards referred to in the review or the associated representation letter.

Fire Company By-Laws - Membership – The fire company is discussing amending its by-laws to increase the allowable number of members, including the number of junior members. Commissioner Blackwell noted that members, including juniors, are included in the calculation of those covered by workers' compensation insurance, the annual cost increase of which already exceeds the 2% budgetary increase authorized by statute. Chief DeForte will provide the board with a current list of members and their status. Further discussion will follow.

New Members - Applications for 2 Senior memberships in the fire company were recommended for approval. On a Motion by Cmsr. Meytrott and seconded by Cmsr. Schooley and passed, approval was granted.

Trunking Radios - Three radios are needed. They are available on NJ State Contract from Motorola Solutions and are included in the budget. Deputy Chief Gaudioso will provide the cost breakdown to the treasurer so a purchase order can be issued.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a Motion by Cmsr. Timperman and seconded by Cmsr. Schooley, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on August 16, 2016.