

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

MINUTES November 15, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled 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, posted on the fire district's web site and published in the official newspaper of the district and the Hopewell Valley News).

ROLL CALL

Present by roll call were Commissioners Mark Blackwell, Gene Scooley, Tom Timperman and Brian Hofacker. Absent: Commissioner Bill Meytrott. Also present were Chief DeForte, Dep'ty Chief Gaudio, Ass't. Chief Bainbridge, Accountant J. Carducci and Attorney Griswold.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a Motion by Cmsr. Hofacker and seconded by Cmsr. Timperman and passed, the minutes of October 17, 2016 were approved as presented.

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 unencumbered funds to pay the bills as presented.

On a Motion by Cmsr. Schooley, seconded by Cmsr. Hofacker and passed, **Resolution 2016-26** – Paying bills in the amount of \$15,642.97, was unanimously approved by roll call vote of those commissioners present.

A question arose as to charges on the Verizon invoice for fax service. Cmsr. Blackwell will research.

CHIEF'S REPORT

There were 31 calls in October, 2016: 5 of them in Pennington Borough, 18 in the Township, 2 in Hopewell Borough, 6 other. Calls included 2 residential, 1 brush fire, 3 motor vehicle incidents, 2 gas leaks, 1 CO alarms, and 8 mutual aid calls. 1 call resulted from a computer battery catching fire during charging. The fire company responded to 12 accidental alarm calls.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

OLD BUSINESS

Aerial Truck - The body is on the truck and the wiring being completed. The next inspection trip will be in January 2017, at which time if all is well the truck will come to the manufacturer's dealer in NJ for radio installation, lettering, etc. The target date for delivery to the firehouse is mid-February, 2017.

Vehicle Exhaust System for Firehouse – This is a health and safety concern for the emergency responders and the township board is in favor of the purchase moving forward as soon as possible.. The system being considered will be compatible with those already in place throughout the valley so that apparatus can be moved from one firehouse to another when necessary. After discussion it was determined the best way to proceed is through a statutorily allowed special vote of taxpayers to authorize inclusion of the cost of the project in the fire district's 2017 budget. The cost will be paid from fire district savings and will not affect the amount to be raised by taxation or the tax rate.

On a Motion by Cmsr. Blackwell, seconded by Cmsr. Schooley and passed, **Resolution 2016-27** – Authorizing a special meeting of the board for the purpose of conducting a vote of taxpayers of the fire district to authorize the purchase and installation of a vehicle exhaust removal system was unanimously approved by roll call vote of those commissioners present.

Shared Service Agreement (Hopewell Township) – The proposed renewal agreement was reviewed and changes agreed upon by board members. The chief will make sure the rolling replacement schedule called for in the agreement is given to the township board. Cmsr. Timperman will send the Chief's Report to the township board after each meeting.

On a Motion by Cmsr. Schooley, seconded by Cmsr. Hofacker, and passed, **Resolution 2016-28** – Authorizing Chairman Blackwell to execute the agreement and submit it to the Township Board of Fire Commissioners once revisions agreed upon by this Board are incorporated into it was unanimously approved by roll call vote of those commissioners present. Should further revision be suggested by the Township Board this Board will revisit the matter.

2017 Fire District Budget – Pending the outcome of the special vote of taxpayers, the budget will be presented for board approval at the next meeting.

The 25 year-old engine is due for replacement. Whether taxpayer approval for this purchase will be added as a question on the 2017 ballot is being discussed with the township board. The current cost projection is around \$680,000.00, of which borough taxpayers will be asked to fund 24%.

NEW BUSINESS

New Member – 1 new Membership was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion by Cmsr. Hofacker and seconded by Cmsr. Timperman, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on December 20, 2016.