

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

MINUTES January 17, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Blackwell at 8:02 p.m. at the Pennington Firehouse, following adequate notice under the Open Public Meetings Law (annual 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, Bob DiFalco, Brian Hofacker, Bill Meytrott and Gene Scooley. Absent: None. Also present were Chief DeForte, J. Carducci and Attorney Griswold.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a Motion by Cmsr. Schooley and seconded by Cmsr. Meytrott and passed, the minutes of the December 19, 2016 Special Meeting and vote of Taxpayers were approved as presented. On a Motion by Cmsr. Hofaker and seconded by Cmsr. Meytrott and passed, the minutes of the December 20, 2016 regular meeting were approved as presented. On a Motion by Cmsr. Schooley and seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the minutes of the January 9, 2017 Special Meeting 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 encumbered funds from the 2016 budget and unencumbered funds in the 2017 temporary budget to pay the bills as presented.

On a Motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. Meytrott and passed, **Resolution 2017-08** – Paying bills in the amount of \$18,800.94, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**LOSAP Report**

The certified list of volunteers indicating those who qualified for LOSAP contributions in 2016 was submitted to the board. 63 volunteers earned contributions.

On a motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2017-09** – Approving the 2016 certified LOSAP participation list and authorizing its posting for review was passed.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

There were 28 calls in December, 2016: 3 of them in Pennington Borough, 15 in the Township, 1 in Hopewell Borough and 9 other. Calls included 1 residential, 2 brush fires, 2 motor vehicle incidents, 2 gas leaks, 1 CO alarm, and 10 mutual aid calls. The fire department responded to 503 calls for the year ended 12/31/2016.

Engine 51 – Out of service due to major mechanical issue. The chief has authorized adjustments to the box alarms and upgraded mutual aid plans to accommodate its absence.

Aerial Truck – The inspection trip revealed some items that need further attention or alteration by the manufacturer before delivery to NJ.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Shared Service Agreement (Hopewell Township) – Executed by the parties.

Lease Agreement with Fire Company – Under review at fire company level.

2017 Election and Budget Referendum: Voting will take place on February 18, 2017 from 2-9 pm at the Pennington Fire Company firehouse. Four petitions were filed by candidates for the two 3-year terms and two 2-year terms open on the board. The chairman will appoint poll workers and secure the voter list. Cmsr. Schooley will open and close the polls on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Engine 51 Repair - The motor needs an in-chassis rebuild, the cost of which will range (per estimate of authorized Detroit Diesel and Allison transmission center) from \$23,000 to \$28,000.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2017 FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET**

On a motion by Cmsr. Blackwell, seconded by Cmsr. Schooley and passed, the public hearing on the 2017 approved budget was opened. After taxpayers of the fire district and all persons having an interest in the budget were given an opportunity to speak, and there being no comment, on a motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, seconded by Cmsr. Schooley and passed, the public hearing was closed.

The board discussed the needed repairs to Engine 51 and the need to include money in the 2017 budget to cover this unanticipated expense. This engine is an integral part of the firefighting fleet. The cost of the repair can be covered by money in the unreserved fund which will result in no increase in taxes and will have no effect on the tax rate. On a motion by Cmsr. Schooley, seconded by Cmsr. Hofaker and passed, **Resolution 2017-10** – Authorizing amendments to the approved 2017 budget and setting the date for a public hearing on the proposed amendments prior to adoption of the budget was passed.

The public hearing will be held on January 23, 2017, at 7:30 pm at the Pennington Fire Company firehouse, after which the Amended 2017 Budget will be presented for adoption.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Insurance - Quotes for the workers' compensation renewal are being sought. There is a provider new to New Jersey that may provide equal coverage for a cost less than that charged by the current provider under the state plan.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a Motion by Cmsr. Meytrott and seconded by Cmsr. Schooley, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on February 21, 2017.