

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

MINUTES April 18, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Blackwell at 7:38 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, Bill Meytrott and Brian Hofacker. Absent: Gene Schooley. Also present were Chief DeForte, Ass't. Chief Bainbridge, President L. Abey, J. Carducci and Attorney Griswold.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a Motion by Cmsr. Meytrott and seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the minutes of the February 21, 2017 regular meeting were approved as presented. On a Motion by Cmsr. Meytrott and seconded by Cmsr. Hofacker and passed, the minutes of the March 21, 2017 regular 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 budget to pay the bills as presented.

On a Motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, seconded by Cmsr. Hofacker and passed, **Resolution 2017-16** – Paying total bills in the amount of \$46,433.93 was approved by roll call vote.

Insurance – Commissioner Blackwell reported that by changing the district's workers' compensation provider to Wesco Insurance Co. (serviced by Amerihealth Casualty Services) there will be a reduction in the annual premium of approximately \$4,000 from that charged by the board's previous provider, NJ Manufacturers, for equivalent coverage through the State Plan. NJ Manufacturers will refund in full the mandatory deposit the board paid in February.

CHIEF'S REPORT

There were 34 calls in March, 2017: 6 of them in Pennington Borough, 16 in the Township, 1 in Hopewell Borough and 11 other. Calls included 2 gas leaks, 3 hazmat situations, 2 residential and 12 mutual aid calls.

The chief is reaching out to members who have not responded to calls within the last year or two toward the goal of recalling and reassigning the turnout gear and equipment issued to them.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

OLD BUSINESS

Aerial Truck – Has been delivered to the firehouse. Radio installation needs to be completed and some minor issues addressed. Training will begin this weekend and the chief hopes the apparatus will be in service within a week or two.

Member Status – The chief as well as the President are continuing to review the membership rolls to update active/inactive status.

Insurance – Commissioner Blackwell will ask the insurance broker to attend a future meeting to explain coverage and options to board members and fire company officials.

NEW BUSINESS

Hepatitis B Vaccinations – Hopewell Township has changed its long-time policy of providing shots free-of-charge to firefighters. The cost will now need to be funded through the fire district's budget.

Membership – Two new junior members were accepted into the fire company. On a motion by Cmsr. DiFalco, seconded by Cmsr. Hofacker and passed, they were approved by the board.

Audit – Underway; submission to the state is due by April 30th.

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion by Cmsr. Hofacker and seconded by Cmsr. Meytrott, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on May 16, 2017.