

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

MINUTES July 18, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Chairman Blackwell at 7:35 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 and Bill Meytrott. Absent: Commissioners Brian Hofacker and Gene Schooley. Also present were Chief DeForte and Attorney Griswold.

Commissioner Meytrott was appointed Acting Secretary for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a Motion by Cmsr. Meytrott and seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the minutes of the June 20, 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. Payment for bookkeeping services included in the list of bills will be held over for approval at the next meeting. The Chief Financial Officer certified there were sufficient previously encumbered and unencumbered funds in the 2017 budget to pay the other bills as presented.

On a Motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2017-23** – Paying bills in the amount of \$17,347.45 was approved by roll call vote.

CHIEF'S REPORT

There were 41 calls in June, 2017: 9 of them in Pennington Borough, 21 in the Township, 2 in Hopewell Borough and 9 other. Calls included 3 residential, 1 non-residential, 1 dumpster, 4 brush fires, 1 auto/machinery and 2 gas leak calls. Four drills were held during the month.

So far in July the fire company has responded to a house fire on Woosamonsa Road which required taking water from Pennington Borough resources, as the standpipe at the pond at Quick Check just drew mud. The Company has also responded to a lightning strike fire at the Temple on Rt. 31 at which the new aerial worked well and damage to the building was relatively minor.

Annual hose and ladder testing will be scheduled for next month.

A celebration to dedicate the building addition and to “wet down” the new aerial will be held sometime this fall.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

OLD BUSINESS

Aerial Truck – In service. Campbell Supply will rewire the radio charging units.

Insurance – The district’s broker was unable to attend meeting; the presentation will be rescheduled.

Firehouse Exhaust Removal System – Received drawings for the magnetic system for the trucks; revised pricing to follow.

Siren – Has been mounted on the pole and is awaiting the wiring to be done.

Engine; Future Capital Purchase – Research into apparatus and cost offered through cooperative purchasing is underway. A committee will be established to research options and to design specifications. The new truck will replace a presently 26 year-old vehicle; the purchase is likely 2-3 years out.

NEW BUSINESS

Wildwood Fire Expo – The manufacturer’s rep has requested approval of the board to show the new aerial at the event in September. They will have possession of it for the weekend and will insure it, clean it, etc. On a Motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the board approved allowing Campbell Supply to showcase the truck at the Wildwood Fire Expo.

Hand Tools – The chief requested that a sledge hammer, bolt cutters and tool box be purchased for the new aerial. Tabled until the next meeting.

Apparatus Cord Reels – Existing are fraying and need replacement. Cmsr. Blackwell will look into this.

Old Aerial – There was discussion of the disposition of the apparatus. Cmsr. Blackwell will contact GovDeals to address the sale of the vehicle through its public auction website. On a Motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2017-24** – Authorizing the sale by internet auction of surplus property no longer needed for public use (1991 aerial apparatus) was approved by roll call vote.

OPRA Communication – Cmsr. Meytrott reported on a letter received from the New Jersey Foundation for Open Government indicating the organization likely will be submitting an Open Public Records Request to the board to check whether its closed session minutes and resolutions are compliant with a court order recently issued by a Justice of the Mercer County Superior Court dealing with this issue.

Membership - A new junior member was accepted into the fire company. On a Motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, his membership was approved by the board.

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion by Cmsr. DiFalco and seconded by Cmsr. Meytrott, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on August 15, 2017.