

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

MINUTES September 19, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Chairman Blackwell at 7:37 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, Ass't. Chief Bainbridge and Attorney Griswold.

Commissioner Meytrott was appointed Acting Secretary for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 19, 2017 meeting were presented for approval. On a motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, and seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the minutes were approved as presented.

The minutes of the August 15, 2017 meeting will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

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. Payments to Nottingham Insurance cover 4 months' installments – they changed their accounting system and the billing went awry. 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 2017-27** – Paying bills in the amount of \$34,253.09 was approved by roll call vote.

CHIEF'S REPORT

There were 38 calls in August, 2017: 9 of them in Pennington Borough, 20 in the Township, 1 in Hopewell Borough and 8 other. Calls included 2 automobile/machinery fires, 5 motor vehicle/rescue calls and 2 CO incidents. There was a small fire that occurred during roof repairs at the high school that required evacuating the building. The rescue and aerial responded.

Pennington Road Fire Co. – Box calls for the fire company will likely change due to the Pennington Road Fire Co. soon becoming an all-paid (24/7) department under the auspices of Ewing Township. They were one of the fire company's RIT teams (per mutual aid), which may change with the new operating scheme.

Wildwood Expo – The chief and members of the truck committee gathered information from various vendors with regard to researching the new engine (scheduled for replacement in the next few years) and extrication tools.

Extrication Tools – Demo of Holmatro tools by vendor soon and the chief from Hopewell Borough will demo the Hurst tools that district recently purchased.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

OLD BUSINESS

Firehouse Exhaust Removal System – Progressing.

Siren – Up, but not yet in service. Some wiring still do be done.

Aerial Repayment Agreement with Township – Executed by all parties.

Hand Tools – Cmsr. Blackwell is dealing with purchase options.

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

Commissioners' Computer – Cmsr. Blackwell is researching replacement options.

Old Aerial – The township board agreed to provide someone to take pictures of the truck for listing on GovDeals, however no one has done so to date. Auction specifics will be further addressed at next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Joint Meeting of Chiefs – The township board has requested fire and EMS chiefs attend their meeting on October 12th, as well as a commissioner from Pennington and Hopewell Boroughs.

Pending Legislation – To authorize fire districts to change the date of their annual election and budget referendum to coincide with the general elections in November. If a district elects to do so and its budget does not exceed the 2% levy cap there would be no need for voter approval of the budget. There have been reports that there is a chance it could require redistricting of fire districts in some cases.

2018 BUDGET - Discussion will begin next month.

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion by Cmsr. DiFalco and seconded by Cmsr. Meytrott, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on October 17, 2017.