

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

MINUTES October 17, 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, Brian Hofacker, Bill Meytrott and Gene Schooley. Absent: None. Also present were Chief DeForte, Ass't. Chief Bainbridge, Joe Carducci and Attorney Griswold.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the August 15, 2017 meeting were presented for approval. On a motion by Cmsr. Blackwell, and seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the minutes were approved as presented. The minutes of the September 19, meeting were presented for approval. On a motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, and seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the minutes 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 deferred from the July, August and September meetings were presented for approval along with the current bills. 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. Hofacker and passed, **Resolution 2017-28** – Paying bills in the amount of \$41,755.26 was approved by roll call vote.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

There were 35 calls in September, 2017: 4 of them in Pennington Borough, 24 in the Township, 0 in Hopewell Borough and 7 other. Calls included 1 Hazmat incident, 1 each residential and non-residential, 2 motor vehicle/rescue, 1 brush, 1 wires/transformer, 1 gas leak and 2 CO incidents. 3 scheduled drills were held.

Chief's Vehicle – Sustained damage when someone backed into it in a parking lot. An estimate of repair costs is about \$900.00.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Firehouse Exhaust Removal System – Installation costs should be finalized next month.

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

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

Apparatus Cord Reels – Research indicates cost is about \$300 each and 5 or 6 will be needed.

Commissioners' Computer Replacement – Tabled at this time.

Sale of Old Aerial – On a motion by Cmsr. Blackwell, seconded by Cmsr. Meytrott and passed, **Resolution 2017- 29** - Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Personal Property No Longer Needed for Public Use on an Online Auction Website passed by roll call vote.

Joint Meeting of Chiefs – Chairman Blackwell attended. Most conversation dealt with EMS services and the shortage of EMS volunteers. The township commissioners are researching options, which may result in contracting with an outside provider who may, or may not soft bill users of the service. Further meetings will be scheduled to continue the discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

LOSAP Review – Mr. Carducci presented a draft of the 2016 LOSAP review for inspection. The document will be considered for approval at the next meeting.

SOG's – Cmsr. Hofacker distributed a proposed set of SOG's for review by the board. He noted that there were additional items that likely should be addressed in the document and asked that board members bring their ideas and suggestions for discussion at the next meeting.

Ladies Auxiliary Vehicle - The fire company-owned vehicle is no longer being used and will be disposed of. The vehicle is insured under the board's policies. Coverage will be canceled and the plates removed.

**2018 BUDGET** – The chief presented his proposed spending for 2018. Discussion of whether the extrication tool and epoxy flooring might be included as a capital expenditures, and whether a question would be put to voters to approve the purchase of the new engine, scheduled on the long-range plan for replacement in 2019 – delivery in 2020 - at which time the existing engine will be 29 years old. Chairman Blackwell will discuss with the township board at its budget meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Special Vote of Taxpayers – Pending the outcome of the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with the township, or thereafter if the meeting is held on another date, on a motion by Cmsr. Blackwell, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2017-30** – Authorizing a Special Vote of Taxpayers of the Fire District for approval to purchase an emergency extrication tool and/or to install epoxy flooring in the engine bays of Pennington Fire Company, and to include the expenditure(s) in the capital outlay section of the fire district's 2018 budget, was approved by roll call vote. This Resolution will only take effect if the action proposed is approved by the township.

**2018 BUDGET** – The chief presented his proposed spending for 2018. Discussion of whether the extrication tool and epoxy flooring might be included as a capital expenditures and whether a question would be put to voters to approve the purchase of the new engine, scheduled on the long-range plan for replacement in 2019 – delivery in 2020 - at which time the existing engine will be 29 years old. Chairman Blackwell will discuss with the township board at its budget meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a Motion by Cmsr. DiFalco and seconded by Cmsr. Hofacker, the meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on November 21, 2017.