

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

MINUTES November 21, 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, Brian Hofacker and Bill Meytrott. Absent: Gene Schooley. Also present were Chief DeForte, President Abey, Joe Carducci and Attorney Griswold.

Commissioner Hofacker was appointed Acting Secretary for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 17, 2017 meeting were presented for approval. On a motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, and seconded by Cmsr. Meytrott 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. The Chief Financial Officer certified there were sufficient previously encumbered and unencumbered funds in the 2017 budget to pay the other bills as presented. The chief will look into vehicle fuel costs and Cmsr. Blackwell will look into the Verizon bill charges. On a Motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. Meytrott and passed, **Resolution 2017-31** - Paying bills in the amount of \$ 15,584.15 was approved by roll call vote.

The 2016 workers' compensation insurance audit resulted in a \$9,205.00 refund from NJ Manufacturers.

CHIEF'S REPORT

There were 42 calls in October, 2017: 4 of them in Pennington Borough, 28 in the Township, 0 in Hopewell Borough and 10 other. Calls included 1 structural fire (electrical in nature) and 1 hiker rescue from wooded area. 3 scheduled drills were held.

Aerial – Hydraulic leak in the tower was repaired on-site by Campbell Supply.

Extrication Tool – The Holmatro tool demonstration took place. The chief recommends this tool.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

OLD BUSINESS

Special Vote of Taxpayers – The township is not prepared to address either the firehouse flooring or extrication tool in connection with its 2018 budget. As a result, Resolution 2017-29, adopted last month authorizing the special vote of taxpayers contingent on the township’s approval of the proposed expenditures, will not take effect.

On a motion by Cmsr. Blackwell, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2017-33**, Rescinding Resolution 2017-29, was approved by roll call vote.

LOSAP Review – Mr. Carducci will reach out to the Local Plan Administrator for his comments on the 2016 LOSAP review. Approval of the document will take place at the next meeting.

SOG’s – Discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

Firehouse Exhaust Removal System – Purchase and installation, including roof work and electrical work, will not exceed voter-approved \$68,000.00. The township will budget and repay its 76% share of the cost to the Pennington Borough board over 3 years. The vendor requires markings for the aerial be placed on the firehouse floor to avoid damage to the vehicle or to the system.

Siren – In operation; minor tone adjustments still needed. The Valley “all-call” tones may necessitate further adjustment in the future.

Sale of Old Aerial – The auction will be scheduled to begin in mid-December, pending the Notice of Sale of Surplus Property being published and within the statutory timeframe.

NEW BUSINESS

Tanker Tires – 8 tires needed, the cost of which will be around \$4,800.00, plus applicable taxes. Cmsr. Hofacker will secure quotes.

2018 BUDGET

The proposed budget for 2018 was presented for approval. It reflects total revenue of \$641,034.00, including an amount to be raised locally by taxation of \$248,193.00, and total expenditures of \$641,034.00. There are no capital purchases in the 2018 budget. The amount to be raised by taxation is within the allowable levy cap. The estimated tax rate is \$0.054. The public hearing on the approved 2018 fire district budget will be held at 8 pm at the next board meeting (January 16, 2018) after which the budget will be presented for adoption.

On a motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the 2018 Fire District Budget was presented for approval.

Resolution 2017-32 – Approval of 2018 Fire District Budget

Aye: Blackwell, DiFalco, Hofacker, Meytrott. Nay: None. Absent: Schooley

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion by Cmsr. DiFalco and seconded by Cmsr. Hofacker, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on December 19, 2017.