

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

MINUTES December 19, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Chairman Blackwell at 7:42 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. Absent: Bill Meytrott, Gene Schooley. Also present were Chief DeForte, Deputy Chief Gaudio, Joe Carducci and Attorney Griswold.

Commissioner Hofacker was appointed Acting Secretary for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 21, 2017 meeting were presented for approval. On a motion by Cmsr. DiFalco, and seconded by Cmsr. Hofacker 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. There were two adjustments to the list of bills: Payment to Samzies (\$230.98) for turn-out gear will not be made and instead \$230.98 will be added to the amount being reimbursed to Robert Ingram for the turn-out gear purchase; Payment to 1st Responder (2-yr. subscription) should be \$130.00, instead of the \$80.00 specified on the list. There were three bills added to the list: Al's Sunoco for chief's vehicle maintenance (\$43.50); Pennington Quality Market for ICS300 training session (\$49.06); NAPA for truck parts (\$76.48). Payment for bookkeeping services (\$300.00) will be deferred until next month for approval. The Chief Financial Officer certified there were sufficient previously encumbered and unencumbered funds in the 2017 budget to pay the bills as presented, amended and supplemented. On a Motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2017-34** - Paying bills in the amount of \$27,032.02 was approved by roll call vote.

CHIEF'S REPORT

There were 33 calls in November, 2017: 3 of them in Pennington Borough, 22 in the Township, 2 in Hopewell Borough and 6 other. To date, call volume is down about 15% this year, largely due to their being no hurricanes, floods or snow yet. 3 scheduled drills were held. Elizabethtown Gas has extended an offer to host a drill with the fire company.

Test Results – Air Power International certified that the compressed air gas quality test results were satisfactory.

Engine 51 – Recurring mechanical problem with an air leak. This is the 25 year-old vehicle that had major emergency repairs last winter. According to the township-wide schedule it is not due for replacement for another two years.

Chief – Chief Deforte, who has served the community and fire company as chief for the past 6 years, is stepping down at the end of the year. He will become Deputy Chief and Nick Gaudioso will take over as chief of the fire company. The board thanked Chief DeForte for his leadership and dedication over the years and welcomed the new chief.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

OLD BUSINESS

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.

Siren – In operation - Cmsr. Blackwell will install reprogrammed chip in an effort to remedy tripping of the siren breaker; this will not remedy the on-going issue with Valley “all-call” tones.

Sale of Old Aerial – The auction will be rescheduled.

Tanker Tires – Purchased and mounted.

NEW BUSINESS

Hurst Tool Service – 2017 service will be scheduled.

SCBA Flow Testing – Will be scheduled this month.

E-Tool - On a Motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2017-35** – Authorizing purchase of Homatro rescue tool approved by roll call vote.

2018 Election and Budget Referendum: Voting will take place on February 17, 2018. There is one 3-year seat open on the Board. The deadline for filing petitions to run for a seat on the fire commission with the Clerk of the Board (Gene Schooley) is 5 pm on January 12, 2018. Petitions can be obtained from the Clerk or by calling (609) 466-3967.

The public hearing on the approved 2018 fire district budget will be held at 8pm at the board's next regularly scheduled meeting on January 16, 2018.

PACO Appointment – On a Motion by Cmsr. DiFalco, seconded by Cmsr. Blackwell and passed, **Resolution 2017-36**, Appointing Brian Hofacker as Public Agency Compliance Officer of the fire district, was unanimously passed.

2018 Annual Meeting Notice – On a Motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2017-37** - Adopting the Pennington Borough Board of Fire Commissioners' annual meeting schedule for 2018 and January, 2019 was unanimously passed.

On a Motion by Cmsr. Blackwell, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed **Resolution 2017-38** – Authorizing adjournment to closed session was approved by roll call vote. The board will not reconvene at the conclusion of its closed session.

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 January 16, 2018.