

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

MINUTES November 20, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Chairman Blackwell at 7:45 p.m. at the Pennington Firehouse, following adequate notice under the Open Public Meetings Law (annual notice published in the official newspaper of the district and the Hopewell Valley News, filed with the municipal clerk, posted at the Pennington Borough Municipal Building and Board offices, posted on the fire district's web site and provided to any person requesting same in advance of the meeting).

ROLL CALL

Present by roll call were Commissioners Mark Blackwell, Bob DiFalco, Brian Hofacker, Bill Meytrott. Absent: Wayne Blauth. Also present were Chief Gaudioso, J. Carducci and Attorney Griswold.

CHIEF'S REPORT

There were 37 calls in October, 2018: 5 of them in Pennington Borough, 19 in the Township, 3 in Hopewell Borough and 10 other. Calls included 2 auto/machinery, 3 motor vehicle rescue, 2 residential, 1 wires/transformer, 1 gas leak and 1 CO call. 3 scheduled drills were held. 25 members took part in a live burn drill at the fire academy last week.

A residential fire at Brandon Farms was contained to one unit, although residents of 4 units were displaced due to burned electrical wires – great job by firefighters.

The sprinkler system was not operational for a fire at American Properties, which is under construction.

- Activities:

- The fire company will participate in the upcoming Holiday Walk.
- The fire company holiday party will take place the second week in December.

- Rescue

Pump Repair: PO issued for repair of valve issue (\$7500.00).

- Hose Reels – have been delivered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the minutes of the September 18, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.

On a motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, seconded by Cmsr. Hofacker and passed, the minutes of the October 16, 2018 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. The invoice from Witmer Public Safety in the amount of \$1,392.00 will be not be released to the vendor until all items billed have been received. The Chief Financial Officer certified there were sufficient encumbered and unencumbered funds in the 2018 budget to pay the bills as presented. On a Motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2018-28** - Paying bills in the amount of \$27,124.05 was approved by roll call vote.

It was noted that the budget figures for Firefighter Equipment (#1) and Firefighter Equipment Repair (#3) have been switched on some internal reports. This will be corrected and the reports updated for the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Sale of Old Aerial** – Chief Martin at the township has offered to help with the sale of the apparatus.
- **Lease with Fire Company** – Discussion between the parties underway.
- **SOG's** – Progress is being made in updating the document.
- **Outstanding Pagers** – Efforts are underway to secure the return of pagers from members who have left the fire company and have yet to turn them in. Cmsr. Meytrott is coordinating effort with the chief.
- **LOSAP** – Efforts continuing to recoup funds from inactive members with money in LOSAP accounts.
- **LOSAP Review** – Year end 12-31-17 review discussed. On a motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2018-29** - Accepting the 2017 LOSAP review was approved by a roll call vote.

2019 BUDGET – The proposed budget shows revenue of \$923,577.00, which includes an amount to be raised by taxation of \$212,670.00, and appropriations of \$923,577.00. The amount to be raised by taxation is within the allowable levy cap and the estimated tax rate is \$0.042, a reduction from last year. A payment toward the purchase of a pumper apparatus is included and will be paid entirely from the fire district's capital reserves, money set aside over the years to fund capital purchases like this. The public hearing on the approved 2019 fire district budget will be held at 8 pm at the January 15, 2019 board meeting, after which the budget will be presented for adoption.

On a motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. Blackwell and passed, the 2019 Fire District Budget was presented for approval.

Resolution 2018-30 – Approval of 2019 Fire District Budget

Aye: Blackwell, DiFalco, Hofacker, Meytrott.

Nay: None.

Absent: Blauth

NEW BUSINESS

Various purchase orders were approved by the board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on December 18, 2018.