

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

MINUTES December 18, 2018

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 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, Wayne Blauth, Bob DiFalco, Brian Hofacker, Bill Meytrott. Absent: None. Also present were Chief Gaudio and Attorney Griswold.

CHIEF'S REPORT

There were 58 calls in November, 2018: 11 of them in Pennington Borough, 30 in the Township, 3 in Hopewell Borough and 14 other. Calls included 1 auto/machinery, 1 motor vehicle rescue, 5 residential, 1 hazmat, 6 cellar pumps, 2 CO calls and a number of water rescues. 3 scheduled drills were held.

- Activities:

- Operation Santa is underway; the new float and reindeer members built are being well received.

- Fire Company Elections:

- New officers include Mike Ackerson- Fire Company President; and Roger Demareski- Assistant Chief.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the minutes of the November 20, 2018 meeting were approved.

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 encumbered and unencumbered funds in the 2018 budget to pay the bills as presented. On a Motion by Cmsr. Meytrott, seconded by Cmsr. Hofacker and passed, **Resolution 2018-31** - Paying bills in the amount of \$36,405.98 was approved by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

OLD BUSINESS

- Sale of Old Aerial – Chief Martin and Cmsr. Blackwell are pursuing.
- 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.
- Engine Room Floor – Resurfacing will likely begin in April or May. Security for the apparatus that will need to be parked outside is a concern.
- Siren – The president of the fire company forwarded a written complaint from a resident associated with Pennington Prep to Cmsr. Meytrott. The resident feels that the audible fire/emergency siren is causing undue excitement in the borough and wants to know why the emergency service personnel can't be advised of calls electronically.

2019 BUDGET

The public hearing on the approved budget will take place at 8:00 pm at the next meeting on January 15, 2019. At its conclusion the board will act to adopt the 2019 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 Annual Election – The election and budget referendum will be held on Saturday, February 16, 2019, with polls open from 2-9 pm. The closing date for the receipt of candidates' petitions to run for the two 3-year seats on the board is 5pm on January 18, 2019. Petitions are available from and shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Board, Wayne Blauth. Petitions can also be secured by calling 609-466-3967.

Mail-In Ballots – In accord with new election laws there is a significant increase in the number of mail-in ballots required for the upcoming election. The county will pay the cost of preparing and mailing the ballots this year. Next year the cost of printing and mailing scannable ballots will need to be provided for in the budget; it will likely more than double the current year's appropriation. Attorney Griswold recommended that the board ask the county clerk to provide a list of people to whom mail-in ballots were sent prior to the election.

2019 Annual Meeting Notice – On a Motion by Cmsr. Blackwell, seconded by Cmsr. Blauth and passed, **Resolution 2018-32** - Adopting the Pennington Borough Board of Fire Commissioners' annual meeting schedule for 2019 and January, 2020 was unanimously passed.

Various purchase orders were approved by the board.

Pumper Truck Committee – Chairman Blackwell reported that there is ongoing conversation regarding bridge clearance and flooding in parts of the township and what, if any, effect each may have on the design of the vehicle.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on January 15, 2019.