

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

**MINUTES June 18, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Commissioner Blackwell at 7:30 p.m. at the Pennington Firehouse, following adequate notice under the Open Public Meetings Law (annual notice published in the Times of Trenton 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, Bill Meytrott, Bob DiFalco, Brian Hofacker (arrived late). Absent: Wayne Blauth. Also present were Chief Gaudio, Dep'ty Chief DeForte, Ass't Chief Demareski, Joe Carducci and Attorney Griswold.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

There were 39 calls in May, 2019: 6 of them in Pennington Borough, 26 in the Township, 0 in Hopewell Borough and 7 other. Calls included 2 residential, 3 non-residential, 3 motor vehicle incidents, 4 gas leaks, 1 auto fire, 1 brush fire, and 1 CO call. 4 scheduled drills were held. The fire company received simultaneous calls for two working fires on opposite ends of the township. Fortunately there were personnel to respond to both, and help provided by mutual aid responders. While responding one mutual aid company stopped to perform a water rescue. They responded to two major motor vehicle accidents during the month.

A car show fundraiser at the firehouse went well.

**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. After certification that there are sufficient encumbered and unencumbered funds in the 2018 and 2019 budgets to pay the bills as presented and supplemented, on a Motion by Cmsr. DiFalco, seconded by Cmsr. Meytrott and passed, **Resolution 2019-24** - Paying bills in the amount of \$14,890.16, was passed on roll call vote.

Commissioner Hofacker arrived.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the minutes of the May 21, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- 2018 Audit – Underway; draft copy should be distributed in the next couple weeks.
- Sale of Old Aerial – No update; Somerset County Training Academy may be interested in it.
- Lease with Fire Company – Pending.
- SOG's – Administrative sections are completed. Operational sections will be prepared next. Copies of the document will be distributed to board members for comment. There are procedural rules to be followed in connection with the fire company voting on the final document.
- Outstanding Pagers – No update.
- Truck registrations – Cmsr. Meytrott to deliver to the chief.
- Insurance – After fire company officials have reviewed current policies a joint discussion with the board and its insurance broker will be scheduled if necessary.
- Holmatro Extrication Tool – Service completed. The deputy chief will get a copy of the service manual from the manufacturer.
- Insurance - Cmsr. Hofacker will prepare a draft policy addressing criteria for off-duty insurance benefits. Criteria and standards for review must be established
- DMV Abstracts - Cmsr. Hofacker has the information necessary to begin submitting the requests. Criteria and standards for review must be established.
- Tanker – Exhaust manifold repaired. Cmsr. Blackwell will ask if it the damage could have been caused by the engine room exhaust system. It needs to be watched.
- Surplus Equipment – An AED was found to be usable and will be mounted in the firehouse. Attorney Griswold provided the board with a Receipt and Release that should be executed each time surplus equipment is sold or donated.
  
- Truck Committee – The chief and deputy chief attended the township board's meeting and discussed the truck with them. Extended warranty options and costs need to be addressed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

-Safety Issues: Ass't Chief Demareski reported safety concerns with the engine bay floor being extremely slippery when wet and with the deterioration of the concrete apron leading into the bays. He mentioned the possibility of injury to members as well as to the public (during public events hosted by the fire company or building rentals by the fire company) which should be addressed. He asked whether the board would consider lending financial support to have these conditions remedied. The board recommended that the members and the trustees be notified of the conditions at once and that a request be made for the trustees to take necessary corrective action. In the meantime the board recommended that, at a minimum, signs should be placed to warn of the floors being slippery when wet and of the poor condition of the apron. The board explained that it is under certain legal constraints insofar as budgeting and spending but agreed to listen to proposals from the fire company and to consider the appropriateness of asking taxpayers to approve funds to improve the issues that could impact the safety of firefighters.

-Requisitions: On a motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the following requisitions were approved, purchase orders authorized, and Purchase Order 2019-29 issued to EDIAFC (\$150.00) on April 16, 2019, was cancelled:

2019-39	Continental F&S	2 ea. replacement tarps	\$ 295.00	FF Equip. Repair (03)
2019-40	Continental F&S	Replacement hydrant adapter	\$ 215.50	FF Equip. Repair (03)
2019-41	Continental F&S	4" firehook	\$ 97.00	FF Equip. Repair (03)
2019-42	Wolfe Communic.	Minitaur 5&6 pager batteries	\$ 213.00	Radio Equip (04)
2019-43	Magnetic Mic	25 microphones	\$ 724.75	FF Equip. (01)
2019-44	Lang's	Dry suit repair	\$ 80.00	FF Equip. Repair (03)
2019-45	Fire Store	3 pr. waterproof shoes for dry suits	\$ 350.00	FF Equip. (01)

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on July 16, 2019.