

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

**MINUTES September 17, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Chairman Blackwell at 7:32 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, Bob DiFalco, Brian Hofacker, Wayne Blauth. Absent: Commissioner Bill Meytrott. Also present were Chief Gaudio, Jonathan Weiss and Attorney Griswold.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

There were 32 calls in August, 2019: 8 of them in Pennington Borough, 16 in the Township, 2 in Hopewell Borough and 6 other. Calls included 1 residential, 1 non-residential, 1 auto/machinery, 1 gas leak and 1 CO call. There were 15 accidental alarm calls. 4 scheduled drills were held.

There was an improvement getting the trucks out in August.

The Chief took the tower truck to the high school as part of welcoming returning teachers. At the September 11<sup>th</sup> ceremony four of the fire company's members who died during the year were remembered (3 were members of the Ladies' Auxiliary).

The bridge near Jacobs Creek will be closed; Station 53 is covering for us, and we are covering for them for calls on each side of the bridge.

Swiftwater training on the Delaware River with Station 53 went well. Rising water levels around the area are resulting in more calls for which this training will be instrumental.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. Blauth and passed, the minutes of the August 20, 2019 meeting were approved as presented. (Blackwell did not vote)

On a motion by Cmsr. Blauth, seconded by Cmsr. Hofacker and passed, the minutes of the September 5, 2019 special meeting were approved as presented. (DiFalco did not vote)

## **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. Payment to Fail Safe for hose testing will be approved but will be held until a question of potential price adjustments is resolved. After certification that there are sufficient encumbered and unencumbered funds in the 2019 budget to pay the bills as presented, on a Motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2019-32** - Paying bills in the amount of \$26,426.24, was passed on roll call vote.

One member surrendered his LOSAP account resulting in a return to the district of \$3,291.47, and the 2018 workers' comp. audit of the cancelled AmTrust policy returned \$8,868.00 to the district.

An error in the budget line items charged for some of the bills will be corrected and reflected on next month's report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Pumper Truck - Financing** – Bid proposals were received and opened at the September 5, 2019 special meeting. An award to the bidder whose proposal is approved by the Local Finance Board will be made at the next meeting.
- **Lease with Fire Company** – Finalized and executed.
- **Sale of Old Aerial** – 3 prospective purchasers exist. The parties will be contacted. Cmsr. Hofacker suggested setting a timeline for the sale or other disposition of the vehicle.
- **Lease with Fire Company** – Executed by the parties.
- **SOG's** – Under review.
- **Outstanding Pagers** – No update.
- **Truck registrations** – Cmsr. Meytrott to follow up.
- **Insurance** - Cmsr. Hofacker will prepare a draft policy addressing criteria for off-duty insurance benefits.
- **DMV Abstracts** – Requests ready to be sent to DMV. Criteria and standards for review will be established.
- **Tanker** – Cmsr. Blackwell is pursuing whether damage to the manifold could have been caused by the engine room exhaust system.
- **Incident Management Requirements** – The chief will review documentation on file to ensure it is up to date on certifications for minimum mandatory incident management requirements for fire officers.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Local Finance Board Application (Pumper)** – On a Motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2019-33** – Making Application to the Local Finance Board was passed on roll call vote.

**Award of Pumper Contract** – On a Motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2019-34** – Awarding a Contract to Spartan Motors USA for the Manufacture and Purchase of a Pumper Fire Apparatus was passed on a roll call vote.

- 2020 Budget – The chief presented an overview of his budgetary needs. Administratively, at a minimum, election, advertising and rent expenses will increase. Aside from the costs of insuring the new pumper insurance costs are also likely to increase. The chairman will meet with the township board sometime in October or early November to present the budget for their review.

-Requisitions: On a motion by Cmsr. DiFalco, seconded by Cmsr. Blauth and passed, a Purchase Order was approved for miscellaneous hose that failed inspection pursuant to lowest quote from Continental Fire & Safety, Inc. (\$4,756.00), charged \$4,000.00 to (01) FF Equipment and \$756.00 to (03) FF Equipment Replacement.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on October 15, 2019.