

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

MINUTES October 15, 2019

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 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. Absent: Commissioners Wayne Blauth, Bill Meytrott. Also present were Ass't. Chief Demaraski, Joe Carducci and Attorney Griswold.

In Cmsr. Blauth's absence Cmsr. DiFalco was appointed Acting Secretary for this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Patrick Demaraski attended the meeting with his father and told the board that he feels safe knowing that when the fire siren blows he knows the firemen are going to help someone.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The chief was at the annual Knights of Columbus dinner at which Tom Blackwell was recognized for his many years of dedication and service to the fire company and to the community. Ass't. Chief Demaraski presented the report in the chief's absence.

There were 33 calls in September, 2019: 9 of them in Pennington Borough, 18 in the Township, 1 in Hopewell Borough and 5 other. Calls included 2 residential, 2 motor vehicle (1 with complicated extrication), 1 auto/machinery, 1 gas leak and 1 CO call. There were 16 accidental alarm calls. 2 scheduled drills were held.

Member turnout was good, particularly among younger members, at all calls. A call to a residence at Freedom Village would have resulted in a significant fire if sprinklers had not activated and contained the situation. There was discussion and agreement as to the immeasurable benefits of having sprinklers in residential as well as commercial buildings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the minutes of the August 20, 2019 meeting were amended and the amendment approved insofar as the numbering of Resolutions contained therein (Resolutions 2019-28 and 29 should be switched/clerical error and corrected minutes shall be posted), and the minutes of the September 19, 2019 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. Payment for bookkeeping services will be held for approval until next month. 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 2019-35** - Paying bills in the amount of \$18,012.73, was passed on roll call vote.

The 3rd Q tax check was received from the township.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Pumper Truck - Financing** – At its October 9th meeting the Local Finance Board adopted positive findings on the fire district's application for lease-purchase financing the pumper.
- **Sale of Old Aerial** – No further progress to date.
- **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.
- **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.
- **DMV Abstracts** – Reports have been returned by DMV and will be reviewed.
- **2020 Budget**- The chairman will present the proposed budget to the township board for its review in the next couple weeks.
- **2018 Financial Audit** – Hard copies of the document were delivered to the board. An e-mailed version had previously been distributed to members.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Award of Contract for Financing Pumper** – On a motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2019-36**, Awarding a Contract to Municipal Asset Management, Inc. for the Lease-Purchase financing of the Spartan Pumper was passed on a roll call vote.
- On a motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2019-37**, Ratifying issuance of Purchase Order to Spartan Motors USA, Inc. and Authorizing Payment on the Spartan Pumper Apparatus was passed on a roll call vote.

-Requisitions: On a motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, the following Purchase Orders were approved:

#2019-78	Knox Company	Knox box equip.	\$2,234.00	01 FF Equipment
#2019-79	*Amazon, Inc.	3 tablets & mounts & misc. accessories	up to \$1,200.00	01 FF Equipment

* Chief to provide vendor's name and ensure equipment will interface with equipment in use by other Valley stations before purchasing

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 7:30 p.m. on November 19, 2019.