

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

**MINUTES August 18, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting was conducted remotely via ZOOM and was called to order by Commissioner Blackwell at 7:33 p.m., following notice under the Open Public Meetings Law (revised meeting notice including information on how the public could access and join the meeting published in the Times of Trenton, provided to the Borough Clerk for posting, posted at the Board offices and 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 and Wayne Blauth. Also present was Ryan Fraser. Absent: None. Also present were Chief DeForte, Deputy Chief Demareski, Assistant Chief Baldorossi, LOSAP Plan Administrator Rodriquez, Joe Carducci and Attorney Griswold.

**COMMISSIONER SELECTION**

On a Motion by Cmsr. Blauth, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, Ryan Fraser was nominated and elected to fill the seat on the board vacated by Cmsr. Meytrott and to serve as Commissioner until the next annual election. Mr. Fraser was sworn in by Attorney Griswold and took his place on the board.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**CHIEFS' REPORT**

There were 34 calls in July, 2020: 11 in Pennington Borough, 18 in the Township, 3 in Hopewell Borough and 2 other. Calls included 1 brush/leaves fire, 1 wires/transformer and 1 hazmat incident. There were 21 accidental alarms (a number from the same Pennington School properties) and 5 mutual aid calls. 4 scheduled drills were held.

Earlier this month 2 residential properties were struck by lightning and sustained minor damage during one storm and there were a number of wires, trees and limbs down due to that and other storms. Response and attendance at calls and at training has been exemplary. One younger member just successfully completed FF1 and can begin to ride immediately. Deputy Chief Demareski reminded all commissioners they were welcome to stop by any drill, training event or call, if they would like.

- Gas Meters – Two 5+ year-old gas detection meters were unable to be recalibrated and are being sent out to determine if they can be repaired. They are well beyond their warranty period and it is likely the cost to repair (if possible) will exceed their value. It is important that there be at least two

working meters available at all times; there is only 1 (with questionable reliability) at this time. Deputy Chief Demareski requested the purchase of 2 multi-gas detection meters. On a motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. Blauth and passed, **Resolution 2020-19**, Authorizing the purchase of up to two (2) multi-gas detection meters consistent and/or compatible with those in use throughout the valley, from a vendor offering the lowest responsive quote, cost and other factors considered, at a cost not to exceed \$1,800.00, chargeable to the 01 Firefighter Equipment appropriation.

- **PPE** – There is a critical need for additional supplies, especially masks. The chief will pursue and order.

- **Fume-A-Vent Damage** – A neighboring fire department covering calls during the residential fires backed into a bay and caused minor damage to the overhead system in that bay; at another time the exhaust connect to a truck sustained damage – both being repaired.

- **Pump and Aerial Tests** - Completed. Some repairs required; will be undertaken as necessary and retests done.

- **Knox Boxes** - Completed.

- **Tablets in vehicles** – No update.

- **ID Tags** – Completed.

- **Rescue Truck** – “Open Door” warning light system; in progress. Pump test couldn’t be completed due to an electronic circuit issue, but the problem doesn’t always occur and has not yet replicated itself, so it hasn’t yet been definitely located. Various valve issues still exist and are being worked on.

## **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 2020 budget to pay the bills as presented, on a Motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. DiFalco and passed, **Resolution 2020-20** - Paying bills in the amount of \$20,257.87 was passed on roll call vote.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Cmsr. Hofacker, seconded by Cmsr. Blauth and passed, the minutes of the July 23, 2020 meeting were approved.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Sale of Old Aerial** – No update.

- **SOG’s** – Draft revised and under review.

- **Outstanding Pagers** – No update.

- **Insurance** – Board and membership discussion with insurance broker to review policies and benefits and to answer questions will be held as soon as feasible.

- **Drivers’ Records** – No update.

- **Gear Dryer** – No update.

- **New Truck (pumper)** – Due to COVID19 complications at the factory the mid-inspection will be conducted virtually. It has not been scheduled yet. The final inspection will be an in-person, physical inspection at the manufacturer’s plant.

- Trailer Striping – The design has been prepared. Cmsr. Blackwell will follow up and report back.
- Water rescue training – Cannot be held at Rosedale Lake due to the algae situation. Hopefully PennBrook will allow the fire company to use its facilities after hours for a few training sessions. This may require an insurance certificate and perhaps the cost of a lifeguard to be on duty.
- Missing Radio – The chief will notify County Dispatch that the radio has not been located yet and to take it out of their system.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Brush Truck - Rust on skid unit should be addressed.
- Monthly Meeting Format – Until further notice meetings will continue to be conducted virtually, through Zoom – most likely at least through the end of the year. An amended annual notice to reflect this will be published, distributed and posted.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. on September 15, 2020. Information on how to join the meeting will be posted on the fire district's web site at least 2 days before the meeting – [www.pbbfc.org](http://www.pbbfc.org)