

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

MINUTES April 20, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled remote 'Zoom' meeting was called to order by Chairman Blackwell at 7:30 p.m. following adequate and electronic notice under the Open Public Meetings Law and N.J.A.C. 5:39 (annual meeting notice including information on how the public could access and participate in the remote meeting, make public comment and where relevant documents, if any, would be made available published in the Times of Trenton (1/27/21) and Hopewell Valley News (1/29/21), provided to Packet Publications and Hopewell Express, sent to the Borough Clerk for filing and posting and posted on the board's website, at the firehouse entrances and at board offices, as well as provided to any person requesting same in advance of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present by roll call were Commissioners Mark Blackwell, Bob DiFalco, Ryan Fraser and Brian Hofacker. Absent: Wayne Blauth. Also present were Chief DeForte, Deputy Chief Demareski, Ass't. Chief Baldorossi, LOSAP Coordinator Rodriguez, Joe Carducci and Attorney Griswold.

CHIEF'S REPORT

The fire company responded to 31 calls in March, 2121: 5 of them in Pennington Borough, 18 in the Township, 1 in Hopewell Borough and 7 other. Calls included 1 motor vehicle accident/rescue, 6 brush fires, 5 gas leaks and 1 CO alarm. There were 7 accidental alarms/activations and 8 mutual aid calls. 3 scheduled drills were held.

Command Vehicle – Expected to be put into service next week.

New Truck (Pumper) – Minor issues being addressed by vendor. First training took place this past weekend. Looking to be put into service in mid-May.

6-wheeler – Preventive maintenance and tune-up performed last week.

Aerial – In service.

Rescue - Exhaust pipe repaired; new tire purchased and installed.

1991 Engine (pumper) – Cmsr. Blackwell will contact the Chairman of the township board to discern whether that board has any interest in the vehicle or its disposition.

New Construction (developments) – The chief attended a meeting with township representatives. The Scotch Road development will likely be the first to begin construction. Hydrant locations, etc. are still under discussion insofar as the ShopRite development.

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 funds from a prior year's budget and funds in the 2021 temporary budget to pay the bills as presented. Motioned by

Hofacker and seconded by Fraser, **Resolution 2021-23** – Approving payment of bills as presented in the amount of \$21,450.75 was approved by roll call vote.

Purchase Orders- Motioned by Hofacker, seconded by Fraser and passed, purchase orders will issue:
PO 2021-21 to Mid-State Radio for \$429.00 for portable radio vehicle charger, chargeable to Radio Equipment 2021 (NJ State Purchasing contract)

PO 2021-22 to Mid-State Radio for \$1,950.00 for portable radio batteries, chargeable to FF Equipment (NJ State Purchasing contract)

OLD BUSINESS

- Banking - A PNC Bank representative contacted Cmsr. Blackwell to build good will. They discussed recent service issues and the representative rectified some technical problems. She provided her contact information should other matters arise. Cmsr. DiFalco has researched services, account options and interest rates at other local banks. Further discussion tabled until next month.

- SOG's – Draft revised and under review.

- Outstanding Pagers – For those still outstanding, process to locate and reclaim to begin anew.

- Insurance – The insurance broker's presentation to the board and to fire company members will be held when COVID restrictions allow.

- Gear Dryer – Electrical work and installation should begin next week.

- Trailer Striping – Underway.

- Rescue Truck - "Open Door" warning light – attempts at repair have not yet solved the issue; the chief will have the repairman back.

- Tablets – Ass't Chief Baldorossi has contacted vendors and hopes to have a proposal next month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motioned by Hofacker and seconded by DiFalco, the minutes of the March 16, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2020 Financial Audit – Presented to the board in draft form. Board members will review and send any questions on to Mr. Carducci. He reported no negative findings, and no comments or recommendations arose throughout the audit process.

- 2020 LOSAP Review – completed and delivered to board members.

- Moving Annual Election Date - Discussion of moving the date of the board's annual election from February to November (to coincide with federal, state, local and school board elections) will continue next month.

PUBLIC COMMENT - none

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by DiFalco, seconded by Fraser and passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held remotely, via 'Zoom', at 7:30 p.m. on May 18, 2021.