

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Pennington Borough Fire District No. 1
P.O. Box 387
Pennington, NJ 08534
July 18, 2023

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled remote 'Zoom' meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman DiFalco at 7:50 p.m. following adequate and electronic notice under the Open Public Meetings Law and N.J.A.C. 5:39. The meeting was also opened at Pennington Fire House for a Hybrid meeting. 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 and Hopewell Valley News, provided to the Hopewell Express, sent to the Borough Clerk for filing and public 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 Vice Chairman Robert DiFalco, Commissioners Sandra Radice and Scott Schaub. Commissioner Fraser and Chairman Brian Hofacker were absent. Meeting is hybrid with remote access and in person at the Fire House. Quorum established.

Also present: Attorney Appleby and Auditor Weiss.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice Chairman DiFalco opened the meeting up for public comments.

With no one in the public asking to speak on Zoom or at the Fire House, public comments were closed.

CHIEF'S REPORT

30 calls for the month. 3 in the Borough. 21 for Hopewell Township-51. 2 calls for Hopewell Township-52. 2 calls for Out of District (Ewing), 1 for Out of District (Trenton), and 1 for Hopewell

Borough. 47 total service hours, 264 total man hours at fires. 1 brush/leaves/field, 2 CO alarm, 1 Hazardous condition (other), 3 mutual aid out-of-town, 5 false alarms, 5 unintentional alarms.

Chief Demarski discussed the use of operational surplus before the end of the year. In 2022, unspent items totalled \$49,141. Tri-Township Chiefs and Mercer County Chiefs met and complaining about dispatch from County. Chief is forming a valleywide committee. Met with Pennington School and they want to add two significant additions. Also want to close the main entrance of school. Also discussed the use of PILOT's and that there is no monies for fire service. Chief also discussed the addition of a new member (firefighter 1), role of the chaplain and that the gym was a success. Township is apparently conducting an efficiency study. Assistant Chief Robert Ingram discussed Township special election for ladder truck and that is being bonded. Hopewell Valley has no replacement plan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Attorney Appleby requested any edits or comments regarding regular session minutes from June 20 , 2023. Motion made by Commissioner Schaub to approve minutes from followed by second by Commissioner DiFalco . All voted in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Radice indicated that a \$64,688 payment was made by Hopewell Township, representing its quarterly payment.

Resolution 2023-18 Resolution for payment of monthly bills (June/July 2023)

Motion to approve payment of bills in the amount of \$23,896.23 made by Commissioner Fraser and seconded by Commissioner Radice.

Roll Call:

Chairman Hofacker	absent
Commissioner DiFalco	yes
Commissioner Fraser	absent
Commissioner Radice	yes
Commissioner Schaub	yes

No abstentions.

Purchase Orders previously sent out to Board for review. Numbers assigned and provided to Assistant Chief Ingram in accordance with spreadsheet (2023-86 through and including 2023-94).

OLD BUSINESS

- Emergency Appropriation resolution was passed by Pennington Borough approving the appropriation. Still need to be certified Resolution from Borough.
- First Aid Building - nothing new to discuss. Chief said discussions went well but not sure as to status of the building being given to fire service.
Board discussed vehicle transfer of title from M. Blackwell. Follow up if title was sent to finance company for truck. Need to confirm.
- Commissioner Radice discussed issues with PNC and authority to sign checks. Discussion as to what authority PNC needs? New resolution, a letter? Attorney Appleby advised that she would assist with any documentation.
- Meeting for replacing tanker – meeting from 5/18/23 with Hopewell Township Commissioners. Funding discussed. Prior Commissioner had arrangement as to paying for chassis.
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- Oath of Office for Commissioner Schaub was forwarded to be recorded with Mercer County Clerk.
- Elections: Petitions are due July 31, 2023 by 4 pm, to Mercer County Clerk. There will be two full terms up in November and one unexpired term for one year. Commissioner Radice will run for new term, as will Commissioner Schaub, for three year terms. Attorney Appleby sent information to Board regarding petitions. There is a person, John O'Connor, who may be interested in filling the Commissioner position.
- PILOT with Bristol Meyers discussed and effect on tax dollars for fire service. Electric cars need special equipment to extinguish.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Chief discussed need for a person to be either hired as a house person (not a paid firefighter) for building repair or for the District to seek out a Borough employee (perhaps PW) to be utilized through a shared service agreement. Attorney Appleby advised that a shared service agreement for such a reason is not unusual and could be with any “local unit”, not just the Borough.
- Auditor Carducci discussed draft of Audit and LOSAP review. Asked if Board had reviewed and if the Auditor can proceed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner DiFalco and seconded by Commissioner Radice. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.