

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
Pennington Borough Fire District No. 1  
P.O. Box 387  
Pennington, NJ 08534  
**March 19, 2024**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled hybrid in-person and remote ‘Zoom’ meeting was called to order by Chairman Hofacker at 7:30 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.

Salute to the Flag.

**ROLL CALL**

Present by roll call were Chairman Hofacker, Commissioner Robert DiFalco, Commissioner Sandra Radice and Commissioner Schaub. Commissioner O’Connor was absent. Meeting is hybrid with remote access and in person at the Fire House. Quorum established.

Also present: Attorney Appleby via Zoom, Auditor Carducci via Zoom.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Hofacker opened the meeting up for public comments at 7:36 p.m.

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

**CHIEF’S REPORT**

Chief Demarski, along with Assistant Chief Ingram, provided the Chief’s report.

	<b>JANUARY TOTAL CALLS</b>
<b><u>TOTAL FIRE CALLS</u></b>	
Pennington Borough	7
Hopewell Township - 51	23
Hopewell Borough	1
Hopewell Township - 52	3
Hopewell Township - 53	1
Out-of-District - Ewing	0
Out-of-District - Lawrence	2
Out-of-District - Trenton	1
Out-of-District - Other	1
Hopewell Township - Total	
<b><u>TOTAL SERVICE-HOURS AT FIRES</u></b>	<b><u>63</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL MAN-HOURS AT FIRES</u></b>	<b><u>381</u></b>
<b><u>WATER USED AT FIRES (gals)</u></b>	<b><u>200</u></b>
<b><u>FIRE CLASSIFICATIONS - BASED ON NFIRS SERIES CODES</u></b>	
100 Series - FIRE	
Building	2
Assist EMS	1
MVA / Extrication	2
Gas Leak (Natural/LP)	1
Electrical / Power Line Issue - No Fire	2
Hazardous Condition, Other	1
Assist Police/Other Agency	1
Elevator Issues - No Occupants	1
Smoke / Odor - No Fire	1
Cover Assignment	1
Public Service	1
600 Series - Good Intent Call	
Good Intent	13
System Malfunction	1
Unintentional Alarm	11
800 Series - Severe Weather	
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>39</u></b>
<b>Mutual Aid - Out of Town</b>	<b><u>4</u></b>
Scheduled Drills	4

Chief Demarski discussed recent fire and actions regarding saving dogs. Also, house fire in Hopewell. Discussion about Canteen of Trenton. Both ladder trucks out of Ewing out of service. Congratulations to Assistant Chief Ingram for obtaining Master's Degree.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Attorney Appleby requested any edits or comments regarding regular open session minutes and executive session minutes from February 20, 2024. Motion made by Commissioner DiFalco to approve minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Schaub. **All voted in favor. No abstentions.**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Resolution 2024-6** Resolution for payment of monthly bills (February/March 2024) in amount of \$112,388.96. Motion made by Commissioner Schaub, seconded by Commissioner Radice.

#### **Roll Call:**

Chairman Hofacker	yes
Commissioner DiFalco	yes
Commissioner O'Connor	absent
Commissioner Radice	yes
Commissioner Schaub	yes

Assistant Chief Ingram advised that POD's were circulated previously. Some PO's added. Some added for training courses. Discussion with Attorney as to bid threshold requirements regarding trucks and truck repairs.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Chief discussed trucks and types of trucks considered.
- Status of Audit  
Auditor Carducci indicated that starting in a couple weeks as well as LOSAP review.
- Hopewell Township Shared Services Agreement  
Chairman discussed status of Agreement. May become a multi-year agreement.
- Old First Aid Building – Borough sent over a lease for review. To be sent to Attorney for review when received. Possible subcommittee to be formed. Looking into possible grants.
- District vehicle transfer of title to District – no update.

- Tanker replacement and communications from Hopewell Township. Already discussed.
- Commercial properties and Township Fire Marshall. Status quo. Still have safety concerns that need to be addressed. Attorney to write letter.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Bylaws. Chairman to work with Attorney Donohue on draft.
- American Rescue grant for \$50,000 awarded. Need 10% matching amount from operations, per Auditor. Hopewell pays 75%.
- Assistant Chief Ingram discussed applying for other grants (AFG and SAFER). Waiting for information from FEMA .

Resolution 2024-7 Resolution to convene Executive Session ready by Attorney Appleby.

Motion made to go into executive session made by Commissioner DiFalco, seconded by Commissioner Radice. All voted in favor.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion made to return to open session made by Commissioner Schaub and seconded by Commissioner Radice. All voted in favor.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner DiFalco and seconded by Commissioner Schaub. All voted in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:43 p.m.