

## **BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

Pennington Borough Fire District No. 1

P.O. Box 387

Pennington, NJ 08534

**January 21, 2025**

### **MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled hybrid in-person and remote 'Zoom' meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Schaub 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**

All Commissioners were present.(Chairman Hofacker was late, so Commissioner Schaub conducted the meeting). Attorney Appleby took the oath of office from Commissioner John O'Connor.

Meeting is hybrid with remote access and in person at the Fire House. Quorum established.

Also present: Attorney Appleby and Auditor Carducci via Zoom, Chief Demareski and Assistant Chief Ingram present at firehouse.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Commissioner Schaub opened the meeting up for public comments at 7:36 p.m.

One member of the Hopewell Fire Company and one member of the Pennington Fire Company were present for public comment. No other members of the public were present at the firehouse for the meeting. Recruitment efforts were discussed and use of QR codes on signs.

There was no member of the public asking to speak on Zoom or at the Fire House. Public comments were closed.

**Chief's Report:**

	<b>TOTAL CALLS</b>	<b>DISTRICT %</b>
<b><u>TOTAL FIRE CALLS</u></b>	62	
Pennington Borough	10	16.1%
Hopewell Township - 51	40	64.5%
Hopewell Borough	3	4.8%
Hopewell Township - 52	4	6.5%
Hopewell Township - 53	1	1.6%
Out-of-District - Ewing	2	3.2%
Out-of-District - Lawrence	1	1.6%
Out-of-District - Trenton	0	0.0%
Out-of-District - Other	1	1.6%
Hopewell Township - Total	45	
<b><u>TOTAL SERVICE-HOURS AT FIRES</u></b>	64	
<b><u>TOTAL MAN-HOURS AT FIRES</u></b>	248	
<b><u>WATER USED AT FIRES (gals)</u></b>	52,2	
	50	
<b><u>FIRE CLASSIFICATIONS - BASED ON NFIRS</u></b>		
<b><u>SERIES CODES</u></b>		
100 Series - FIRE		
Building	1	1.61%
Chimney or Flue	0	0.00%
Vehicle	0	0.00%
Brush/Grass/Vegetation	1	1.61%
Dumpster / Trash	1	1.61%
Other	1	1.61%
200 Series - Overpressure Rupture / Explosion		
Overpressure/Rupture	0	0.00%
Explosion	0	0.00%
Excessive heat no ignition	0	0.00%
300 Series - Rescue & EMS		
Assist EMS	0	0.00%
MVA / Extrication	0	0.00%
Person Search	0	0.00%
Ice / Water Rescue	0	0.00%
Remove victim(s) from Elevator	1	1.61%
400 Series - Hazardous Condition		
Gas Leak (Natural/LP)	2	3.23%
Combustible/Flammable Gas/Chemical	0	0.00%
Spill		
CO Incident	0	0.00%
Electrical / Power Line Issue - No Fire	2	3.23%
Hazardous Condition, Other	0	0.00%
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	0	0.00%

Aircraft Standby	0	0.00%
500 Series - Service Call		
Water Issues / Pump Out	2	3.23%
Animal Rescue/Assist	0	0.00%
Assist Police/Other Agency	1	1.61%
Elevator Issues - No Occupants	0	0.00%
Smoke / Odor - No Fire	0	0.00%
Cover Assignment	0	0.00%
Public Service	0	0.00%
600 Series - Good Intent Call		
Good Intent	21	33.87%
Smoke Scare - No Fire	2	3.23%
HazMat Release investigation NO HazMat	0	0.00%
700 Series - False Alarm and False Call		
False Alarm / CO Alarm NO CO found	8	12.90%
System Malfunction	6	9.68%
Unintentional Alarm	13	20.97%
800 Series - Severe Weather		
Severe Weather or Disaster Standby	0	0.00%
900 Series - Special Incident		
Special Incident / Incident Report	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Mutual Aid - Out of Town</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
<b><u>TIME OF ALARMS</u></b>		
0000 to 0801	15	24.2%
0800 to 1600	27	43.5%
1601 to 2359	20	32.3%
<b><u>APARATUS USE AT CALLS</u></b>		
ENGINE 51	53	85.5%
RESCUE 51	9	14.5%
BRUSH 51	2	3.2%
TANKER 51	4	6.5%
TOWER 51	13	21.0%
UTILITY 51	0	0.0%
SS51	4	6.5%
UTV 51	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	
<b><u>TOTAL DRILLS HELD</u></b>		
Scheduled Drills	3	
Special Drills/Work Details/Events	4	
<b><u>FIRE INVESTIGATIONS</u></b>	<b>0</b>	
<b><u>PERFORMED</u></b>		

The Chief reported that there were a total of 642 calls last year. Discussion about citations for firefighter who helped with rescues. Assistant Chief noted that new development attributed 13 calls.

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Motion made by Commissioner DiFalco to approve regular and executive session minutes for November 19, 2024 (open and executive). Seconded by Commissioner Hofacker. **All voted in favor.**

- **TREASURER’S REPORT**

**Resolution 2025-1**

Resolution for payment of monthly bills (December 2024) in amount of \$24,700.81  
Motion made by Commissioner Hofacker, seconded by Commissioner Radice.

**Roll Call:**

Chairman Hofacker	yes
Commissioner DiFalco	yes
Commissioner O’Connor	yes
Commissioner Radice	yes
Commissioner Schaub	yes

Assistant chief Ingram discussed purchase orders, which include notice invoices for publication, repairing light tower on engine, annual maintenance for all trucks and NAPA bill.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**2025 BUDGET --PUBLIC HEARING and ADOPTION (and any amendments)**

Auditor Weiss discussed:

- Budget is less than last year, with non-recurring items (deferred repair bill).
- Need policy for clothing allowance as part of a Volunteer Incentive Program to answer DCA questions.
- Audit publication will be forwarded to DCA.
- State has approved budget.

- **RESOLUTION 2025-2**

Authorizing 2025 Fire District Budget be read by Title. Motion by Schaub, seconded by Radice.

**Roll Call:**

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

- **PUBLIC HEARING on 2025 Budget**

- Open public hearing. No comments.

Closed public hearing by motion of Commissioner Hofacker, seconded by Commissioner Schaub. All voted in favor to close public hearing.

**ADOPTION of 2025 Budget**

- **RESOLUTION 2025-3**

Adopting the Budget for FY 2025

**Motion** Hofacker    **Second** DiFalco

**Roll Call:**

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

- **RESOLUTION 2025-4**

Approving Final 2024 LOSAP Annual Certification List was tabled by Motion from Commissioner Schaub and seconded by Commissioner O'Connor. All voted in favor. Resolution 2025-4 tabled.

- Hopewell Township Shared Services Agreement – still a work in progress.
- Grant applications – discussion regarding grants for tanker application and will hear back around June. Discussion regarding SAFER grant.
- Old First Aid Building –Use and Occupancy Agreement. – will be discussed in closed session..
- Radios: performance issues in hospital (Chief had no update)

#### **Other Business:**

Chief discussed supplier of truck and issues Titusville has had with certain supplier.

#### **Executive Session**

- **Resolution 2025-5** Resolution authorizing the convention of an executive session in accordance with Open Public Meetings Act to discuss contractual matters and personnel.. Motion by Commissioner Schaub, seconded by Commissioner Hofacker. All voted in favor.

Entered executive session at approximately 8:29 p.m. and returned to public meeting at approximately 9:00 p.m. by motion made by Commissioner Hofacker and seconded by Commissioner DiFalco. All voted in favor to return to open session.

- **Adjournment**
  - Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Hofacker and seconded by Commissioner Schaub. All voted in favor.

Meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.