

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Pennington Borough Fire District No. 1
P.O. Box 387
Pennington, NJ 08534
April 16, 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, Commissioner Schaub and Commissioner O’Connor. Meeting is hybrid with remote access and in person at the Fire House. Quorum established.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

One person, Kurt Peterson, 436 Sked Street, appeared in person. Just wanted to see how Fire District was operating.

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

Chief's Report

	MARCH TOTAL CALLS
<u>TOTAL FIRE CALLS</u>	46
Pennington Borough	8
Hopewell Township - 51	26
Hopewell Borough	0
Hopewell Township - 52	1
Hopewell Township - 53	0
Out-of-District - Ewing	10
Out-of-District - Lawrence	1
Out-of-District - Trenton	0
Out-of-District - Other	0
Hopewell Township - Total	<u>27</u>
<u>TOTAL SERVICE-HOURS AT FIRES</u>	107
<u>TOTAL MAN-HOURS AT FIRES</u>	260
<u>WATER USED AT FIRES (gals)</u>	29,350
<u>FIRE CLASSIFICATIONS -</u>	
- FIRE	
Building	4
Vehicle	2
Brush/Grass/Vegetation	2
- Rescue & EMS	
Assist EMS	2
MVA / Extrication	3
- Hazardous Condition	
Gas Leak (Natural/LP)	1
- False Alarm and False Call	
System Malfunction	4
Unintentional Alarm	11
TOTAL	<u>46</u>
Mutual Aid - Out of Town	<u>11</u>

Chief Demarski discussed recent calls and series of false alarms as to system malfunctions. Discussed recruitment efforts and success of same. Committee to be formed to replace air packs. Breakfast to be held on April 27, 2024 for First Responders. Purchase orders will be discussed by Asst. Chief Ingram. Explanation as to what a “good intent” call was defined.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Attorney Appleby requested any edits or comments regarding regular open session minutes and executive session minutes from March 19, 2024. One comment to amend a typo. Motion made by Commissioner Schaub to approve minutes. Seconded by Commissioner DiFalco. **All voted in favor. No abstentions.**

TREASURER’S REPORT

Resolution 2024-7 Resolution for payment of monthly bills (March/April 2024) in amount of \$51,364.75. Motion made by Commissioner O’Connor, seconded by Commissioner DiFalco.

Roll Call:

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

Resolution 2024-8 Authorizing a Periodic CPI Adjustment to the 2023 Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) and Payment to the Plan Provider

Roll Call:

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

Assistant Chief Ingram advised that POD’s were circulated previously. Some PO’s added and will be provided to bookkeeper.

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Status of Audit

- Auditor Weiss indicated that audit is ongoing. Needs items from Bookkeeper (tax rate). Meeting will take place with Bookkeeper next week.

- Hopewell Township Shared Services Agreement

- Chairman discussed status of Agreement. Progress.

- Old First Aid Building – Meeting took place with Borough Officials. Attorney Appleby to contact Walter Bliss, Esq., Pennington Borough Attorney re: Use and Occupancy Agreement.
- District vehicle transfer of title to District – no update.
- Tanker replacement and communications from Hopewell Township. Discussion regarding specifications and quotes and how long to get equipment.
- Commercial properties and Township Fire Marshall. Some progress.
- Bylaws – discussion with Matt Donohue, Esq. to finalize.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Commissioner DiFalco to deal with Workers Compensation Audit.
- Certificates of Insurance going to Mercer and Somerset.
- Discussion as to possibly hiring someone to apply for grants.

Resolution 2024-9 Resolution to convene Executive Session read by Attorney Appleby.

Motion made to go into executive session made by Commissioner Schaub, seconded by Commissioner O’Connor. All voted in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Adjournment

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

Meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.