

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Pennington Borough Fire District No. 1
P.O. Box 387
Pennington, NJ 08534
July 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 O'Connor and Commissioner Schaub 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, Chief Demareski and Assistant Chief Ingram present at firehouse.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Hofacker opened the meeting up for public comments at 7:31 p.m. With no one else in the public asking to speak on Zoom or at the Fire House, public comments were closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Attorney Appleby requested any edits or comments regarding regular open session minutes from June 18, 2024. Motion made by Commissioner O'Connor to approve minutes. Seconded by Commissioner DiFalco. **All voted in favor. Except Schaub abstained.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Resolution 2024-14

Resolution for payment of monthly bills (June/July 2024) in amount of \$40,333.99. Motion made by Commissioner Radice, seconded by Commissioner Schaub.

Roll Call:

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

Chief's Report:

PENNINGTON FIRE COMPANY 2024 ACTIVITY REPORT
1-July-24

	TOTAL CALLS	DISTRICT %
<u>TOTAL FIRE CALLS</u>	64	
Pennington Borough	14	21.9%
Hopewell Township - 51	31	48.4%
Hopewell Borough	3	4.7%
Hopewell Township - 52	5	7.8%
Hopewell Township - 53	4	6.3%
Out-of-District - Ewing	2	3.1%
Out-of-District - Lawrence	1	1.6%
Out-of-District - Trenton	2	3.1%
Out-of-District - Other	2	3.1%
Hopewell Township - Total	40	
<u>TOTAL SERVICE-HOURS AT FIRES</u>	114	
<u>TOTAL MAN-HOURS AT FIRES</u>	271	
<u>WATER USED AT FIRES (gals)</u>	50,400	
<u>FIRE CLASSIFICATIONS - BASED ON NFIRS SERIES CODES</u>		
100 Series - FIRE		
Building	3	4.69%
Brush/Grass/Vegetation	4	6.25%
300 Series - Rescue & EMS		
Assist EMS	2	3.13%
400 Series - Hazardous Condition		
Gas Leak (Natural/LP)	2	3.13%
Combustible/Flammable Gas/Chemical Spill	1	1.56%
Electrical / Power Line Issue - No Fire	3	4.69%
Hazardous Condition, Other	3	4.69%
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1	1.56%
500 Series - Service Call		
Smoke / Odor - No Fire	2	3.13%
Cover Assignment	1	1.56%
600 Series - Good Intent Call		
Good Intent	22	34.38%
700 Series - False Alarm and False Call		

False Alarm / CO Alarm NO CO found	1	1.56%
System Malfunction	9	14.06%
Unintentional Alarm	9	14.06%
800 Series - Severe Weather		
900 Series - Special Incident		
Special Incident / Incident Report	1	1.56%
TOTAL	64	100.00%
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Mutual Aid - Out of Town	7	10.9%
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<u>TIME OF ALARMS</u>		
0000 to 0801	11	17.2%
0800 to 1600	26	40.6%
1601 to 2359	27	42.2%
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<u>APARATUS USE AT CALLS</u>		
ENGINE 51	50	78.1%
RESCUE 51	17	26.6%
BRUSH 51	8	12.5%
TANKER 51	10	15.6%
TOWER 51	10	15.6%
UTILITY 51	0	0.0%
SS51	5	7.8%
POLARIS	0	0.0%
TOTAL	100	
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<u>TOTAL DRILLS HELD</u>		
Scheduled Drills	3	
Special Drills/Work Details/Events	2	
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<u>FIRE INVESTIGATIONS PERFORMED</u>		
	0	

- Chief Demareski discussed volunteer retention. Chief further discussed bunk room and possible use of first aid building. Hopewell Fire had a meeting and asked for to confirm age of tanker (1991) and a nonbinding price is about \$1.2 million. Price has gone up significantly. One question on the ballot together or separate. Attorney Appleby questioned what process was with Hopewell Fire in purchase of new tanker.

Assistant Chief Ingram discussed purchase orders.

Certified total for LOSAP came in different than was in resolution previously passed. Lincoln certified the amount at \$20,526.54. Need to amend and approve new resolution.

Resolution 2024-15 Authorizing a Periodic CPI Adjustment to the 2023 Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) and Payment to the Plan Provider and Superseding Resolution 2024-8

Motion made by Commissioner O'Connor and seconded by Commissioner Schaub.

Roll Call:

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

• **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Status of Audit. Auditor Carducci stated that audit process still ongoing. Need to get litigation certification. Good audit and no problems.
 - Questions on how to clarify how funds are categorized. Will need to have a resolution to approve audit.
- Commercial properties and Township Fire Marshall. Situation is improving, slowly.
- Hopewell Township Shared Services Agreement
Chairman discussed status of Agreement. Township still working on it..
- Old First Aid Building – Attorney Appleby discussed the proposed Use and Occupancy Agreement with the Borough for use of part of the First Aid Building. Attorney has not heard back from the Borough. The Chairman will approach reach out again to Borough.

○ **RESOLUTION 2024-16 Resolution authorizing execution of U&O Agreement with Pennington Borough as to First Aid Building usage.**

- Motion by Commissioner Schaub, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor.

Roll Call:

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

- Tanker replacement and communications from Hopewell Township. Previously discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Volunteer incentives** – discussed Local Finance Notice (Attorney) LFN 2024-11 and incentive limitations to volunteers (DOL regulations, FMLA, W-2)
- **Capital purchase** – Attorney reminded Board that question needs to be to Mercer County by August 23.

Discussion as to American Rescue Grant. Commissioner O'Connor stated that DCA needed a resolution that approved the submission of the application.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-17 Resolution authorizing approval of submission to DCA for American Rescue grant**
Motion to approve made by Commissioner Schaub, seconded by Commissioner Radice.

- **Roll Call:**
- Chairman Hofacker yes
- Commissioner DiFalco yes
- Commissioner O'Connor yes
- Commissioner Radice yes
- Commissioner Schaub yes

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner O'Connor and seconded by Commissioner Schaub. All voted in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:57 p.m.