

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
Pennington Borough Fire District No. 1  
P.O. Box 387  
Pennington, NJ 08534  
**August 20, 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 O'Connor and Commissioner Schaub present. Commissioner Radice was absent. Meeting is hybrid with remote access and in person at the Fire House. Quorum established.

Also present: Attorney Donohue 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**

Motion made by Commissioner Schaub to approve minutes. Seconded by Commissioner O'Connor. **All voted in favor.**

**Chief's Report:**

PENNINGTON FIRE COMPANY 2024 ACTIVITY REPORT  
20-July-24

	TOTAL CALLS	DISTRICT %
<b><u>TOTAL FIRE CALLS</u></b>	64	
Pennington Borough	7	16.7%
Hopewell Township - 51	23	54.8%
Hopewell Borough	1	2.4%
Hopewell Township - 52	1	2.4%
Hopewell Township - 53	1	2.4%
Out-of-District - Ewing	8	19.0%
Out-of-District - Lawrence	1	2.4%
Out-of-District - Trenton	0	0.0%
Out-of-District - Other	0	0.0%
Hopewell Township - Total	25	
<b><u>TOTAL SERVICE-HOURS AT FIRES</u></b>	42	
<b><u>TOTAL MAN-HOURS AT FIRES</u></b>	127	
<b><u>WATER USED AT FIRES (gals)</u></b>	Unknown	

**FIRE CLASSIFICATIONS - BASED ON NFIRS SERIES CODES**

100 Series - FIRE		
Building	0	0.00%
Chimney or Flue	0	0.00%
Vehicle	0	0.00%
Brush/Grass/Vegetation	0	0.00%
Dumpster / Trash	0	0.00%
Other	2	4.76%
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	3	7.14%
MVA / Extrication	0	0.00%
Person Search	0	0.00%
Ice / Water Rescue	0	0.00%
Remove victim(s) from Elevator	0	0.00%
400 Series - Hazardous Condition		
Gas Leak (Natural/LP)	0	0.00%
Combustible/Flammable Gas/Chemical Spill	0	0.00%
CO Incident	0	0.00%
Electrical / Power Line Issue - No Fire	1	2.38%
Hazardous Condition, Other	0	0.00%
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	1	2.38%
500 Series - Service Call		

Water Issues / Pump Out	1	2.38%
Animal Rescue/Assist	1	2.38%
Assist Police/Other Agency	0	0.00%
Elevator Issues - No Occupants	0	0.00%
Smoke / Odor - No Fire	0	0.00%
Cover Assignment	1	2.38%
Public Service	0	0.00%
600 Series - Good Intent Call		
Good Intent	11	26.19%
Smoke Scare - No Fire	0	0.00%
700 Series - False Alarm and False Call		
False Alarm / CO Alarm NO CO found	3	7.14%
System Malfunction	6	14.29%
Unintentional Alarm	10	23.81%
800 Series - Severe Weather		
Severe Weather or Disaster Standby	0	0.00%
900 Series - Special Incident		
Special Incident / Incident Report	2	4.76%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Mutual Aid - Out of Town</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21.4%</b>
<b><u>TIME OF ALARMS</u></b>		
0000 to 0801	2	4.8%
0800 to 1600	19	45.2%
1601 to 2359	21	50.0%
<b><u>APARATUS USE AT CALLS</u></b>		
ENGINE 51	26	61.9%
RESCUE 51	11	26.2%
BRUSH 51	0	0.0%
TANKER 51	5	11.9%
TOWER 51	12	28.6%
UTILITY 51	0	0.0%
SS51	1	2.4%
POLARIS	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	
<b><u>TOTAL DRILLS HELD</u></b>		
Scheduled Drills		2
Special Drills/Work Details/Events		1
<b><u>FIRE INVESTIGATIONS PERFORMED</u></b>		0

- **TREASURER’S REPORT**

**Resolution 2024-18**

Resolution for payment of monthly bills (July/August 2024) in amount of \$15,348.92. Motion made by Commissioner DiFalco, seconded by Commissioner O’Connor.

**Roll Call:**

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

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Status of Audit.
  - Auditor Carducci stated that audit process still ongoing. Letters have been signed and should be delivered later in the week. Good audit and no problems.
- Hopewell Township Shared Services Agreement
  - Progress. No updates at this time.
- Old First Aid Building
  - Chairman Hofacker asked Attorney Donohue if there was any update. Attorney Donohue indicated no such update was available, but would confer with Attorney Appleby and provide an update at next meeting.
- Tanker Replacement
  - Deferred to New Business.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **RESOLUTION 2024-19 RESOLUTION OF THE PENNINGTON BOROUGH BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING A CAPITAL PURCHASE AND REFERENDUM QUESTION FOR GENERAL ELECTION**
  - Discussion ensued between Commissioners regarding best number for referendum. Questions regarding how the interest rate might fluctuate. Current quote is approximately 1.17 million dollars. Attorney Donohue provided background regarding procedure for referendum, and explained pitfalls of utilizing a number that doesn’t capture the full cost. Question regarding how much information can be placed on the referendum, and how to best explain the referendum to voters. Attorney Donohue explained that District can create marketing materials and hold informal sessions to explain the referendum, but recommended not attempting to overload the voters with too much information on the ballot. Discussion continued regarding best number. Commissioners determined 1.6 million would best capture costs.

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

**Roll Call:**

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

- **Other Business**

- Discussion ensued regarding Township purchasing packs, and useful lifespan of packs. Discussion regarding grant writer and obtained potential deal.

- **Executive Session**

- Resolution 2024-20 Resolution authorizing the convention of an executive session in accordance with Open Public Meetings Act to discuss personnel matter. Motion by Commissioner Schaub, seconded by Commissioner O'Connor. Entered executive session at approximately 8:24 p.m. and returned to public meeting at approximately 8:32 p.m.

- **Adjournment**

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

Meeting ended at 8:33 p.m.