

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Pennington Borough Fire District No. 1
P.O. Box 387
Pennington, NJ 08534
September 17, 2024

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled hybrid in-person and remote 'Zoom' meeting was called to order by Chairman Hofacker at 7:32 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 present.

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, Chief Demareski and Assistant Chief Ingram present at firehouse.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Hofacker opened the meeting up for public comments at 7:34 p.m.

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

Chief's Report:

Chief Demarski spoke about replacement of ramp. Discussion as to number of calls. Assistant Chief Ingram discussed false alarms/frequent flyers. Municipality can enforce fines by ordinance.

	TOTAL CALLS	DISTRICT %
TOTAL FIRE CALLS		57
Pennington Borough	10	17.5%
Hopewell Township - 51	37	64.9%
Hopewell Borough	2	3.5%
Hopewell Township - 52	3	5.3%
Hopewell Township - 53	1	1.8%
Out-of-District - Ewing	2	3.5%
Out-of-District - Lawrence	0	0.0%
Out-of-District - Trenton	0	0.0%
Out-of-District - Other	2	3.5%
Hopewell Township - Total		41
TOTAL SERVICE-HOURS AT FIRES		73
TOTAL MAN-HOURS AT FIRES		197
WATER USED AT FIRES (gals)		0
FIRE CLASSIFICATIONS - BASED ON NFIRS SERIES CODES		
100 Series - FIRE		
Building	1	1.75%
Chimney or Flue	0	0.00%
Vehicle	0	0.00%
Brush/Grass/Vegetation	0	0.00%
Dumpster / Trash	2	3.51%
Other		0.00%
200 Series - Overpressure Rupture / Explosion		
Overpressure/Rupture	0	0.00%
Explosion	0	0.00%
Excessive heat no ignition	1	1.75%
300 Series - Rescue & EMS		
Assist EMS	1	1.75%
MVA / Extrication	1	1.75%
Person Search	1	1.75%
Ice / Water Rescue	3	5.26%
Remove victim(s) from Elevator	1	1.75%
400 Series - Hazardous Condition		
Gas Leak (Natural/LP)	1	1.75%
Combustible/Flammable Gas/Chemical Spill	1	1.75%
CO Incident	0	0.00%
Electrical / Power Line Issue - No Fire	2	3.51%
Hazardous Condition, Other	0	0.00%
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	2	3.51%
500 Series - Service Call		
Water Issues / Pump Out	2	3.51%
Cover Assignment	2	3.51%
Public Service	0	0.00%
600 Series - Good Intent Call		
Good Intent	15	26.32%
Smoke Scare - No Fire	2	3.51%
700 Series - False Alarm and False Call		
False Alarm / CO Alarm NO CO found	0	0.00%
System Malfunction	11	19.30%
Unintentional Alarm	8	14.04%
800 Series - Severe Weather		
Severe Weather or Disaster Standby	0	0.00%
900 Series - Special Incident		
Special Incident / Incident Report	0	0.00%
TOTAL	57	100.00%
Mutual Aid - Out of Town	4	7.0%
TOTAL DRILLS HELD		
Scheduled Drills		4
Special Drills/Work Details/Events		0
FIRE INVESTIGATIONS PERFORMED		
		0

Discussion regarding Chief providing information for Attorney Appleby to possibly craft letter next month regarding performance of radios in hospital.

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Motion made by Commissioner DiFalco to approve minutes for August 20, 2024 (open and executive). Seconded by Commissioner O'Connor. **All voted in favor.**

- **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Resolution 2024-20

Resolution for payment of monthly bills (August 2024) in amount of \$44,658.69. Motion made 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

Assistant Chief Ingram discussed purchase orders for Fire Company. High water truck arrived.

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Status of Audit.
 - Auditor Carducci discussed that the final Audit was issued. Good audit and no problems. LOSAP also done. Ready to send to the State.

Resolution 2024-21

Resolution review of audit (Dec. 2023)

Motion made by Commissioner DiFalco, seconded by Commissioner Schaub.

Roll Call:

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

Group Affidavit needs to be executed and notarized, then sent to DCA.

- Hopewell Township Shared Services Agreement
 - Progress. No updates at this time.
- Old First Aid Building

- Chairman Hofacker asked Attorney Appleby if there was any update. Attorney Appleby indicated no such update was available, but would confer with Attorney Bliss 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 Appleby 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 Appleby 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.