

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
Pennington Borough Fire District No. 1  
P.O. Box 387  
Pennington, NJ 08534  
**October 15, 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 (Commissioner Schaub arrived at 7:35 p.m.)

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

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

Assistant Chief Engram discussed new developments. Also discussion as to “repeat offenders” of false alarms.

**PENNINGTON FIRE COMPANY  
2024 ACTIVITY REPORT 1-Sept.**

	<b>MARCH TOTAL CALLS</b>	<b>DISTRICT %</b>		<b>YEAR-TO-DATE TOTALS</b>	<b>DISTRICT %</b>
<b><u>TOTAL FIRE CALLS</u></b>		55		475	
Pennington Borough	8	14.5%		88	18.5%
Hopewell Township - 51	32	58.2%		266	56.0%
Hopewell Borough	3	5.5%		14	2.9%
Hopewell Township - 52	1	1.8%		23	4.8%
Hopewell Township - 53	1	1.8%		16	3.4%
Out-of-District - Ewing	8	14.5%		36	7.6%
Out-of-District - Lawrence	2	3.6%		15	3.2%
Out-of-District - Trenton	0	0.0%		10	2.1%
Out-of-District - Other	0	0.0%		7	1.5%
Hopewell Township - Total		34		305	
<b><u>TOTAL SERVICE-HOURS AT FIRES</u></b>		52		694	
<b><u>TOTAL MAN-HOURS AT FIRES</u></b>		152		2077	
<b><u>WATER USED AT FIRES (gals)</u></b>		5,000		94,950	
<b><u>FIRE CLASSIFICATIONS - BASED ON NFIRS SERIES CODES</u></b>					
100 Series - FIRE					
Building	1	1.82%		14	2.95%
Chimney or Flue	0	0.00%		1	0.21%
Vehicle	1	1.82%		3	0.63%
Brush/Grass/Vegetation	2	3.64%		8	1.68%
Dumpster / Trash	0	0.00%		2	0.42%
Other		0.00%		4	0.84%
200 Series - Overpressure Rupture / Explosion					
Overpressure/Rupture	0	0.00%		0	0.00%
Explosion	0	0.00%		0	0.00%
Excessive heat no ignition	0	0.00%		1	0.21%
300 Series - Rescue & EMS					
Assist EMS	2	3.64%		20	4.21%
MVA / Extrication	2	3.64%		11	2.32%
Person Search	0	0.00%		1	0.21%
Ice / Water Rescue	0	0.00%		4	0.84%
Remove victim(s) from Elevator	0	0.00%		2	0.42%
400 Series - Hazardous Condition					
Gas Leak (Natural/LP)	2	3.64%		14	2.95%
Combustible/Flammable Gas/Chemical Spill	0	0.00%		6	1.26%
CO Incident	0	0.00%		1	0.21%
Electrical / Power Line Issue - No Fire	0	0.00%		17	3.58%
Hazardous Condition, Other	0	0.00%		4	0.84%
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	0	0.00%		5	1.05%
Aircraft Standby	1	1.82%		1	0.21%
500 Series - Service Call					
Water Issues / Pump Out	0	0.00%		9	1.89%
Animal Rescue/Assist	0	0.00%		3	0.63%
Assist Police/Other Agency	0	0.00%		1	0.21%
Elevator Issues - No Occupants	0	0.00%		4	0.84%
Smoke / Odor - No Fire	1	1.82%		7	1.47%
Cover Assignment	3	5.45%		14	2.95%
Public Service	0	0.00%		1	0.21%
600 Series - Good Intent Call					
Good Intent	13	23.64%		136	28.63%
Smoke Scare - No Fire	3	5.45%		9	1.89%
HazMat Release investigation NO HazMat	1	1.82%		1	0.21%
700 Series - False Alarm and False Call					
False Alarm / CO Alarm NO CO found	1	1.82%		9	1.89%
System Malfunction	10	18.18%		66	13.89%
Unintentional Alarm	12	21.82%		90	18.95%
800 Series - Severe Weather					
Severe Weather or Disaster Standby	0	0.00%		2	0.42%

900 Series - Special Incident				
Special Incident / Incident Report	0	0.00%	4	0.84%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Mutual Aid - Out of Town</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18.2%</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>14.3%</b>
<b><u>TIME OF ALARMS</u></b>				
0000 to 0801	11	20.0%	71	14.9%
0800 to 1600	29	52.7%	216	45.5%
1601 to 2359	15	27.3%	188	39.6%
<b><u>APARATUS USE AT CALLS</u></b>				
ENGINE 51	39	70.9%	298	62.7%
RESCUE 51	9	16.4%	129	27.2%
BRUSH 51	1	1.8%	20	4.2%
TANKER 51	8	14.5%	50	10.5%
TOWER 51	10	18.2%	99	20.8%
UTILITY 51	1	1.8%	5	1.1%
SS51	2	3.6%	48	10.1%
POLARIS	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>		<b>650</b>	
<b><u>TOTAL DRILLS HELD</u></b>				
Scheduled Drills		3		32
Special Drills/Work Details/Events		2		14
<b><u>FIRE INVESTIGATIONS PERFORMED</u></b>		0		2

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Motion made by Commissioner Radice to approve minutes for September 17, 2024 (open and executive). Seconded by Commissioner Schaub. **All voted in favor.**

- **TREASURER’S REPORT**

**Resolution 2024-22**

Resolution for payment of monthly bills (September 2024) in amount of \$12,742.77. 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

Assistant Chief Ingram discussed purchase orders for Fire Company.

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Status of Audit.
  - Auditor Weiss stated that Audit was filed with DCA. Group Affidavit still needed to be completed and filed. Attorney Appleby to notarize.

- Grant Writer – status update on solicitations for grant writer.
- Hopewell Township Shared Services Agreement
  - Chairman Hofacker stated that a meeting was to take place on Wednesday. Discussion on proportion of payment for services between the Districts and payment of professional services fees. Discussion on promotion of fire service needs at public events.
- Old First Aid Building
  - Attorney Appleby indicated no update was available, but would try again to contact Pennington Borough Attorney Bliss.
- **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - Radios at hospitals. Discussion about communications issues.
  - Letter to membership to determine inactive members so as to update workers’ compensation coverage and LOSAP.
  - Lease of firehouse from Fire Company: bays are leased from fire company.
- **Executive Session**
  - Resolution 2024-23 Resolution authorizing the convention of an executive session in accordance with Open Public Meetings Act to discuss personnel matter. Motion by Commissioner O’Connor, seconded by Commissioner Schaub. Entered executive session at approximately 8:07 p.m. and returned to public meeting at approximately 8:28 p.m.

**Resolution 2024-24**

Resolution authorizing agreement with Firehouse Grants LLC not to exceed \$5000 for grant writer, subject to conditions and additional solicitations under LPCL. Motion by Commissioner O’Connor, seconded by Commissioner Schaub.

**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 Schaub and seconded by Commissioner Radice. All voted in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:28 p.m.