

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
Pennington Borough Fire District No. 1  
P.O. Box 387  
Pennington, NJ 08534  
**November 19, 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**

All Commissioners present (Commissioner Schaub arrived after start of meeting.)

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

Also present: Attorney Appleby via Zoom, Chief Demareski and Assistant Chief Ingram present at firehouse.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

One member of the public was present at the firehouse for the meeting.

Chairman Hofacker opened the meeting up for public comments at 7:33 p.m.

There was no member of the public asking to speak on Zoom or at the Fire House. Public comments were closed.

**Chief's Report:**

	<b>MARCH</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>		<b>YEAR-TO-DATE</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>
	<b>TOTAL CALLS</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>%</b>
<b><u>TOTAL FIRE CALLS</u></b>		57		532	
Pennington Borough	11	19.3%		99	18.6%
Hopewell Township - 51	35	61.4%		301	56.6%
Hopewell Borough	3	5.3%		17	3.2%
Hopewell Township - 52	1	1.8%		24	4.5%
Hopewell Township - 53	2	3.5%		18	3.4%
Out-of-District - Ewing	2	3.5%		38	7.1%
Out-of-District - Lawrence	1	1.8%		16	3.0%
Out-of-District - Trenton	0	0.0%		10	1.9%
Out-of-District - Other	2	3.5%		9	1.7%
Hopewell Township - Total		38		343	
<b><u>TOTAL SERVICE-HOURS AT FIRES</u></b>		88		782	
<b><u>TOTAL MAN-HOURS AT FIRES</u></b>		227		2304	
<b><u>WATER USED AT FIRES (gals)</u></b>		7,510		102,460	
<b><u>FIRE CLASSIFICATIONS - BASED ON NFIRS SERIES CODES</u></b>					
100 Series - FIRE					
Building	1	1.75%		15	2.82%
Chimney or Flue	0	0.00%		1	0.19%
Vehicle	0	0.00%		3	0.56%
Brush/Grass/Vegetation	7	12.28%		15	2.82%
200 Series - Overpressure Rupture / Explosion					
Overpressure/Rupture	0	0.00%		0	0.00%
300 Series - Rescue & EMS					
Assist EMS	0	0.00%		20	3.76%
MVA / Extrication	0	0.00%		11	2.07%
Person Search	0	0.00%		1	0.19%
Ice / Water Rescue	0	0.00%		4	0.75%
Remove victim(s) from Elevator	0	0.00%		2	0.38%
400 Series - Hazardous Condition					
Gas Leak (Natural/LP)	3	5.26%		17	3.20%
Combustible/Flammable Gas/Chemical Spill	0	0.00%		6	1.13%
CO Incident	0	0.00%		1	0.19%
Electrical / Power Line Issue - No Fire	0	0.00%		17	3.20%
Hazardous Condition, Other	0	0.00%		4	0.75%
Vehicle accident, general cleanup	0	0.00%		5	0.94%
Aircraft Standby	0	0.00%		1	0.19%
500 Series - Service Call					
Water Issues / Pump Out	0	0.00%		9	1.69%
Animal Rescue/Assist	0	0.00%		3	0.56%
Assist Police/Other Agency	0	0.00%		1	0.19%
Elevator Issues - No Occupants	0	0.00%		4	0.75%
Smoke / Odor - No Fire	2	3.51%		9	1.69%
Cover Assignment	0	0.00%		14	2.63%
Public Service	0	0.00%		1	0.19%
600 Series - Good Intent Call					
Good Intent	17	29.82%		153	28.76%
Smoke Scare - No Fire	3	5.26%		12	2.26%
HazMat Release investigation NO HazMat	2	3.51%		3	0.56%
700 Series - False Alarm and False Call					
False Alarm / CO Alarm NO CO found	2	3.51%		11	2.07%
System Malfunction	8	14.04%		74	13.91%
Unintentional Alarm	12	21.05%		102	19.17%
800 Series - Severe Weather					
Severe Weather or Disaster Standby	0	0.00%		2	0.38%
900 Series - Special Incident					
Special Incident / Incident Report	0	0.00%		4	0.75%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		<b>532</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b>Mutual Aid - Out of Town</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>13.7%</b>
<b><u>TIME OF ALARMS</u></b>				
0000 to 0801	16	28.1%	207	38.9%
0800 to 1600	27	47.4%	241	45.3%
1601 to 2359	14	24.6%	207	38.9%
<b><u>APARATUS USE AT CALLS</u></b>				
ENGINE 51	40	70.2%	338	63.5%
RESCUE 51	12	21.1%	141	26.5%
BRUSH 51	7	12.3%	27	5.1%
TANKER 51	9	15.8%	59	11.1%
TOWER 51	9	15.8%	108	20.3%
UTILITY 51	2	3.5%	7	1.3%
SS51	9	15.8%	57	10.7%
UTV 51	4	7.0%	5	0.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>		<b>742</b>	
<b><u>TOTAL DRILLS HELD</u></b>				
Scheduled Drills		3		35
Special Drills/Work Details/Events		10		24
<b><u>FIRE INVESTIGATIONS PERFORMED</u></b>				
		0		2

Chief Demareski discussed a house fire in Ewing. Chief thanked everyone who voted to approve the capital purchase of the truck. High water truck is here. Discussion regarding holiday events. Three members are graduating fire school.

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- Motion made by Commissioner DiFalco to approve minutes for October 15, 2024 (open and executive). Seconded by Commissioner O'Connor. **All voted in favor.**
- **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Resolution 2024-25**

Resolution for payment of monthly bills (October 2024) in amount of \$139,934.03. 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		absent

Assistant Chief Ingram discussed purchase orders for Fire Company. Busy month for purchase orders.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Chairman noted that Auditor not present but told that Audit submitted to State. LOSAP projection will be ready for December.
  - Grant writer – Firehouse Grants LLC grant writer retained and applying for two grants.
  - Hopewell Township Shared Services Agreement – will be discussed in closed session.
  - Old First Aid Building – Pennington Res. 2024-5.10/Use and Occupancy Agreement. Pennington Borough Attorney to meet with Attorney Appleby.
    - Other issues to be discussed in closed session.
  - Tanker replacement and communications from Hopewell Township. Voters approved the capital purchaser. Attorney Appleby advised that financing and purchase price needs to be finalized and then an application will need to be made to Local Finance Board. Discussion on fitting out Tanker.
  - Radios: performance issues in hospital. Possibly need to get attorney to write a letter to the hospital.
- **Budget 2025 –**

**DEADLINES:**

- **December 17, 2024 (regular scheduled meeting/Reorganization)**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> reading/introduction/approval**
- **January 11, 2024**
  - **Publish notice of Public Hearing by this date**
- **January 14 , 2023**
  - **Post full budget so can do resolution by title**
- **January 14, 2023:**
  - **PUBLIC HEARING *after* this date; must be not less than 28 days after approval of budget**  
**Approve Resolution so can ready by title**
- **January 21, 2025 (regular meeting)**
  - **ADOPTION no later than this date**

- **February 8, 2023**
- **Notice of adopted budget published**

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Election results for Fire Commissioner:
- Three year term:
  - John O'Connor 1,360 votes.

The term of a member of a board of fire commissioner elected at the time of a general election **shall commence at 12 o'clock noon on the first Tuesday in December.**

- December meeting:
  - REORGANIZATION meeting.

No other business for open session.

### **Executive Session**

- Resolution 2024-26 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 Radice. All voted in favor.

Entered executive session at approximately 8:03 p.m. and returned to public meeting at approximately 9:45 p.m. by motion made by Commissioner O'Connor and seconded by Commissioner Schaub. All voted in favor to return to open session.

- **Adjournment**

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

Meeting ended at 9:46 p.m.