

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING  
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1  
THURSDAY, JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 virtually via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER / STATEMENT OF NOTICE**

Vice Chairman Burd called the meeting to order and stated that the notice of the meeting had been posted on the Hopewell Township Municipal Bulletin Board and forwarded to the Hopewell Valley News and Times of Trenton, and had been posted on the Hopewell Township Fire District Web-Site in accordance with the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Burd

**ROLL CALL**

Chairperson Malkiewicz-	Absent
Vice-Chairman Burd-	Present
Secretary Agarwal-	Present
Treasurer Tomaro-	Present
Commissioner Tackacs-	Absent

**MINUTES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA)**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chief Martin reviewed a proposal from The Canning Group LLC to provide Financial, budgetary, and purchasing services to the Fire District. The group present also discussed other options for these services. Questions were asked by Secretary Agarwal and answered by Chief Martin Regarding the pricing of the services. Chief Martin asked the board members to review the proposal further and let him know if they would like to move forward in entering a contract with The Canning group LLC.

Chief Martin announced that the petitions for commissioner are now available on the Counties website with petitions being due in July. Information is also available on the Fire District website. Counselor Hart recommended a change in the way the ballot is set up.

Chief Martin announced that an advertisement will run in July for a soon to be vacated Commissioners position. Information will also be available on the Fire District website.

Chief Martin informed the board that with their approval he is preparing resolutions for the next meeting to fill the temporarily vacated roles of custodian of records, equal opportunity officer, and the human resources role regarding the upcoming domestic violence policy.

Chief Martin informed the board that the audit and the computer infrastructure project is underway.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Tomaro read the summary of the Bills and Claims dated June 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 and was seconded by Secretary Agarwal. Treasurer Tomaro reported on notable bills. A roll call vote was held and the following amounts were authorized:

Bill List:		\$82,858.22
Payroll Ending	05/22/2021	\$58,841.77
Total Disbursements:		\$141,699.99

**STATION REPORTS****A. UNION FIRE COMPANY AND RESCUE SQUAD REPORT**

Chief Pedersen asked if there was any question on the reports sent out. All Commissioners present declined having any questions. Chief Pedersen reported on the damage to the tank of Tanker 53. It was reported that the top seem of the tank split apart. The reason it happened is unknown. Chief Pedersen, Specialist Lyness, and Deputy Chief Tunnicliffe are looking into how and why the damage occurred. Tanker 53-1 was returned to station 53 and is back in service. The tank company is scheduled to look at the tank on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The truck was picked up and is currently at Defender. Chief Pedersen advised that a Knoxbox has been installed at the main gate of the park on Route 546 on the west post. An email was sent out to the other companies. Chief Pedersen reported that Tanker 71 was added to calls. Treasurer Tomaro asked Chief Pedersen to keep the board up to date on the repair of Tanker 53. Chief Pedersen reported that they are going to plan some water drills soon. Chief Pedersen reported that the truck replacement committee has meetings coming up and will be meeting with the three vendors.

**B. PENNINGTON FIRST AID SQUAD REPORT**

Captain Varrassee reported on monthly calls, the installation of two new power stretchers.

**C. HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMU REPORT**

Chief Mullen reported on monthly calls including a dispatching issue for a fire in Lambertville City. Chief Mullen also reported that the Hopewell Borough Fire Commissioners are looking into replacing the two mechanical sirens with one electronic siren due to complaints from citizens. Chief Mullen reported that Tanker 52 is also out of service. It was reported that there is a bulge in the top side of the tank. The manufacturer of the tank is out of business and other options are being looked into to repair the tank. Chief Mullen reported that Engine 52 has been placed permanently out of service due to damages. Chief Mullen relayed the request for a letter from the board regarding right of first refusal of Engine 52. The Hopewell Borough Board of Fire Commissioners have decided not to replace Engine 52. Chief Martin reminded those present that if there is a fire in Pennington Borough that they need to contact Pennington Public Works right away to start their pumps. A discussion was had by those present regarding poly vs metal water tanks. Treasurer Tomaro asked about the number of times Engine 52 had responded in 2019. Chief Mullen provided this information. Chief Brown Reported on monthly calls. Chief Brown stated he is working on getting members EMS refreshers completed. Chief Brown reported on the state certification of his ambulances and stated he is still working on items to be able to submit the application to the state. Chief Mullen reported on a recruitment open house event that was held on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

**D. PENNINGTON FIRE COMPANY REPORT**

No one from Pennington Fire Company attended the meeting. Pennington Fire Company had provided a report. Secretary Agarwal suggested reaching out to Pennington Borough Fire Commissioners about their attendance.

**E. HOPEWELL VALLEY EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Chief Martin reported on vaccination clinics, assistance with vaccinations for homebound residents and about a diversity Equity and inclusion training that a few staff members attended. Chief Martin reminded those in attendance that HVES is always available to assist the volunteer partners.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA)**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Treasurer Tomaro motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Secretary Agrawal at 8:00 PM. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Bailey  
Lieutenant