

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on August 12, 2021 virtually via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / STATEMENT OF NOTICE

Vice Chairperson 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 Chairperson Burd.

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Malkiewicz-	Absent
Vice-Chairperson Burd-	Present
Secretary Agarwal-	Present
Treasurer Tomaro-	Present
Commissioner Novak	Present after appointment

MINUTES SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

None

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA)

None.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2021-42: EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS the Open Public Meetings Act permits the Board of Fire Commissioners of Hopewell Township Fire District No. 1 to exclude the public from a portion of the meeting in order to discuss matters requiring confidentiality per N.J.S.A. 10:4-12; and

WHEREAS, the Board is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Commissioners of Fire District No. 1 in the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer as follows:

1. The Board intends to discuss certain matters which are deemed confidential pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 in Executive Session.
2. The scope of the aforesaid executive session will be limited to the following:
 - A. Commissioner appointment interview
3. Minutes of the Executive Session will be disclosed to the public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

RECORD OF BOARD VOTE ON PASSAGE

Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Malkiewicz						X
Burd		X	X			
Agarwal	X		X			
Tomaro			X			
Vacant						

The Board came out of closed session at 7:15 pm

The following action was taken

RESOLUTION 2021-43: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING INTERIM FIRE COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, Fire Commissioner Augustine Tackacs resigned from the Board of Fire Commissioners effective July 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-70, any vacancy in the membership shall be filled by the remaining members until the next succeeding annual election, held at the time of the general election, at which time a resident of the district shall be elected for the unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, the Board advertised for interested residents to fill the vacancies; and

WHEREAS, the Board conducted interviews on August 12, 2021 to fill the vacancies; and

WHEREAS, the Board has selected Joseph Novak to serve as interim Fire Commissioner with the appointed term expiring December 7, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Fire Commissioners in the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, New Jersey, that the following is appointed to serve as interim fire commissioner until the next succeeding election, with the appointed term ending on December 7, 2021.

RECORD OF BOARD VOTE ON PASSAGE

Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Burd			X			
Agarwal	X		X			
Tomaro		X	X			
Malkiewicz						X
Vacant						

Joseph Novak was sworn in as a commissioner by Vice Chairman Burd.

Moment of silence in honor of Pennington First Aid past Captain and President Shelly Pennington.
Captain Muccioli said a few words about Captain/President Pennington

**RESOLUTION 2021-44: RESOLUTION OF HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT No.1,
COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A
REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONTRACT WITH WITMER PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP INC.
FOR GAS METER SUPPLY**

WHEREAS, Hopewell Township Fire District No. 1 has a need for gas meters in its firefighting and emergency services operations through Witmer Public Safety Group Inc. 104 Independence Way, Coatesville, PA 19320, as a required disclosure contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5: and,

WHEREAS Witmer Public Safety Group Inc. 104 Independence Way, Coatesville, PA 19320 during the prior contract year has in the aggregate exceeded the play threshold of \$17,500.00: and

WHEREAS, Witmer Public Safety Group Inc. 104 Independence Way, Coatesville, PA 19320, has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification and a Personal Contribution Disclosure form which certifies that Witmer Public Safety Group Inc has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Fire District in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Witmer Public Safety Group Inc from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, Witmer Public Safety Group Inc. has provided for a competitive quote for Gas Meter supply in an amount of \$9,573.80; and

WHEREAS the Chief Financial Officer hereby certifies that funds NOT TO EXCEED \$9,573.80 are available as follows.

Line Item: 01-OE-315-300-005 Permanent Property Miscellaneous Firefighter Equipment

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Hopewell Township Fire District No. 1 that the chief of emergency services is hereby authorized to place orders for gas meter and related supplies with Witmer Public Safety Group Inc. 104 Independence Way, Coatesville, PA 19320 not to exceed \$9,573.13: and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Personal Contribution Disclosure form, Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution.

Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Malkiewicz						X
Burd			X			
Tomaro		X	X			
Agarwal	X		X			
Novak			X			

Chief Martin advised that The Canning Group had a quick turnaround on the gas meter resolution.

RESOLUTION 2021-45: RESOLUTION OF HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT No.1, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE PROCUREMENT OF STRYKER MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, INSTALLATION AND ACCESSORIES THROUGH THE BERGEN COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM (11BCCPS)

WHEREAS, a need exists for the acquisition of emergency medical stretcher equipment and accessories for the public safety, health and welfare for the Township of Hopewell Fire District No. 1 operations; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Fire District No. 1, may, without advertising for bids, purchase such equipment under contract through the Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System (#11BCCPS), NJCPA Coop BC-Bid-20-11, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11; and

WHEREAS, the price proposed by Stryker Medical P.O. Box 93308, Chicago, IL 60673-3308, is in the amount of \$44,488.82 Stryker equipment, installation and accessories; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer certifies that funding is available in the amount of \$44,488.82 from:

Line Item: 01-OE-315-400-007 Non-Bond Various EMS Equipment

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Hopewell Fire District No. 1 that it authorizes the Chief of Emergency Services to procure emergency medical equipment from Stryker through Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System (#11BCCPS), NJCPA Coop BC-Bid-20-11 in the amount of \$44,488.82.

Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Malkiewicz						X
Burd			X			
Tomaro		X	X			
Agarwal	X		X			
Novak			X			

At the request of Commissioner Novak, Chief Martin clarified the number of stretchers being purchased and where they are for.

RESOLUTION 2021-46: RESOLUTION OF HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT No.1, COUNTY OF MERCER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT TO RECEIVE CERTAIN BIDS IN ACCORD WITH N.J.A.C.5:34-5.1, E- PROCUREMENT

WHEREAS, the Township of Hopewell Township Fire District No. 1 has appointed a Qualified Purchasing Agent in accord with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey in Administrative Code in response to the Covid 19 crisis has promulgated rules to allow for electronic receipt of bids with the rules at N.J.A.C. 5:34-1 et. Seq. and

WHEREAS, Sean P. Canning, QPA has recommended the use of BidNet e-procurement platform which complies with all the administrative rule as required by the New Jersey Administrative Rules; and

WHEREAS, the electronic procurement platform is available to other officials as required to virtually observe bid openings in a transparent manner and provide for bids available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS the cost to the Fire District and to the Vendors wishing to conduct business with the Fire District is a zero cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the Hopewell Township Fire District No.1, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That Sean P. Canning QPA of The Canning Group LLC is hereby authorized to conduct bid openings and procurement in accord with N.J.S.A.40A:11-9 through E-Procurement in accord with N.J.A.C. 5:34-1 et. Seq., through BidNet at a zero cost to the Township and to vendors for bid response.
- 2.

Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Malkiewicz						X
Burd			X			
Tomaro		X	X			
Agarwal	X		X			
Novak			X			

Chief Martin advised QPA Ocicki returned to work so she will now be working with the Canning group. The Bid procurement will produce more competition during the bidding process.

RESOLUTION 2021-47: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE APPLICATION FOR SARA E. GRISWOLD FOR MEMBERSHIP INTO THE N.J. STATE FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION

Tabled until next meeting due to error in resolution

Vice Chairman Burd stated that Chief Pederson has advised him that KME may be going out of business. Vice Chairman Burd asked Chief Martin to ask the Canning Group about expediting the purchasing process. Treasurer Tomaro asked about the Telesquirt 53 truck committee’s progress on specifications of the truck. A discussion by those present was had.

Secretary Agarwal asked if there is interest in standardizing truck specifications. Commissioner Novak stated he did not think you will get all companies to agree. Chief Novak suggested to speak to the chiefs about standardizing compartment layouts throughout the valley as much as possible.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Tomaro read the summary of the Bills and Claims dated August 12th 2021 and was seconded by Commissioner Novak. Treasurer Tomaro and Chief Martin reported on notable bills. A roll call vote was held and the following amounts were authorized:

Bill List:		\$186,474.85
Payroll Ending	7/17/2021	\$57,102.79
	07/31/2021	\$59,407.91
Total Disbursements:		\$302,985.55

STATION REPORTS

A. UNION FIRE COMPANY AND RESCUE SQUAD REPORT

Deputy Chief Tunnicliffe Reported that the Telesquirt is out getting the repair work done from damage that occurred at the Pennington Titusville Rd Fire. Watch Out for the Copperheads.

B. PENNINGTON FIRST AID SQUAD REPORT

Captain Muccioli reported that July was the squad's busiest month of the year so far. Made Changes due to Covid numbers increasing. Masks required in building again. Captain Muccioli also stated that he is working on the reports request by the board.

C. HOPEWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMU REPORT

Chief Mullen reported on calls and a Shed fire in the borough, a fire in Pennington Fire Company's Local on Pennington Titusville Rd, Mutual aid fires in Princeton and also another in Somerset. Chief Mullen reported that Tanker 52 is in Poconos at Sutphen East for the tank replacement. Hopewell Borough Board of Fire Commissioners decided it would be best for it to go back to the manufacture for repair. Tank specifications were approved today. It should take about 10 weeks. Other minor repairs getting done while it is there. Chief Mullen also reported that the Hopewell Borough Board has interviewed new attorneys. Chief Mullen also stated that If tanker 53 goes out Tanker 53-1 will be retuned to 53. Chief Mullen said they will be attending police promotions tomorrow, assisting with Police youth academy next week and they attended national night out. Chief Mullen reported low response rate due to summer months and a high scratch rate on EMS calls last month. The Borough Board, Chief Brown, and Chief Mullen are discussing options. Chief Mullen reported that State licensing on ambulance is in home stretch. A discussion was had by those present regarding the fire in Somerset. Lastly, Chief Mullen reported he had not gotten an answer from Lawrence township regarding the purchase of old Rescue 22.

D. PENNINGTON FIRE COMPANY REPORT

No one from Pennington Borough Board of Fire Commissioners or Pennington Fire Company attended the meeting.

E. HOPEWELL VALLEY EMERGENCY SERVICES

Chief Martin reported that the board has his report and extended his congratulation to Commissioner Novak. Chief Martin reported Things have been heavy administratively over the past few months and gave his thanks for all the support.

PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA)

As we approach a possible new wave of COVID, Station 52 has ordered some additional PPE and he thanked career staff for work on acquiring PPE.

Chief Martin reminded that Covid protocols on EMS calls are still in effect.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Bailey
Lieutenant