

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO.1
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on February 9, 2023 in person and via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / STATEMENT OF NOTICE

Commissioner 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 Commissioner Burd.

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Burd-	Present
Vice-Chairperson Novak-	Present
Secretary Jones-	Present
Treasurer Tomaro-	Present
Commissioner Rodriguez-	Present

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA): None

TREASURER’S REPORT

BILLS & CLAIMS

February 9, 2023

Authorized cash disbursements requiring approval for payment of bills in the following amounts:

Bill List		\$40,293.56
Pay Date	February 2, 2023	\$65,980.66
Total Disbursements:		\$106,274.22

Commissioner Tomaro mentioned the notable bills. Discussion was held regarding Overtime budget and use of per diem employees. Chief Martin will begin adding budget summaries quarterly to review budget status.

RECORD OF BOARD VOTE ON PASSAGE

Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Tomaro	X		X			
Jones			X			
Rodriguez		X	X			
Novak					X	
Burd			X			

WORK SESSION: Fire and EMS Response Discussion

Discussion was held regarding EMS coverage in Hopewell Valley when Pennington First Aid Squad closes on March 1st and Capital Health contract beginning on April 3, 2023. Conversation with Hopewell EMU and Union EMS were had about splitting Pennington district on Main Street and expanding the coverage areas. Hopewell EMU has offered to add the Elm Ridge area of Pennington to their usual coverage area. Discussion was also had about using Ewing and Lawrenceville for mutual aid coverage. The Commissioners discussed altering the current schedule for staff to cover overnights and weekends, notification would need to be given to the employees by mid-February. All volunteers at Pennington First Aid Squad are encouraged and welcomed at other Valley EMS departments to continue volunteering. The thought of a quick response vehicle and Officer of the Night were also mentioned. District would need to seek approval from the Dept of Health for a 30 relief to alter responses. Since the Pennington Fire Aid Squad buildings future is in question, Chief 51 will ask about housing an ambulance at Station 51 temporarily to keep an ambulance centrally located in the Valley. Lt Wilson will share the schedule with the Valley Chiefs to help coordinate paid staff and volunteers. Briefly discussed how operations will run after Capital Health is on boarded. Chief Mullen spoke about the call tones changing in the future and the tone for Capital Health will most likely not be the same as Pennington First Aid Squad. The Fire Districts two main objects are their continued quality of service to the residents of Hopewell Valley and their support of the volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS

**RESOLUTION 2023-29
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A
FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT APPLICATION
FOR PORTABLE RADIOS**

WHEREAS the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has made available funding through their Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program; and

WHEREAS after consultation with the Chief of Emergency Services and Chief of the Union Fire Company and Rescue Squad identified the need for replacement portable radios; and

WHEREAS after research have found radios that would provide interoperability among Hopewell Valley, Mercer County, Hunterdon County, Bucks County, and the New Jersey State Police.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Hopewell Township Fire District No. 1, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, that the Hopewell Township Fire District No. 1 hereby is authorized to apply for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant application in the amount of \$47,005.50 of which if granted, the Hopewell Township Fire District No.1 would be required to contribute five (5) percent of the overall cost in the amount of \$2,350.28.

RECORD OF BOARD VOTE ON PASSAGE

Commissioner	Moved	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Tomaro			X			
Jones	X		X			
Rodriguez, Jr.			X			
Novak		X	X			
Burd			X			

PUBLIC COMMNET (NON AGENDA):

Chief Mullen provided a status update of the new tower on New Road. Training on EMS billing was discussed and will be coordinated with the contracted billing company.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Fire Commissioners went into closed session at 8:44 pm.

RESOLUTION 2023-30

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. Personnel
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
Tomaro		X	X			
Jones	X		X			
Rodriguez, Jr.			X			
Novak			X			
Burd			X			

ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Fire Commissioners returned to open session at 9:10 pm after checking the vestibule and virtual waiting room for meeting attendees. Commissioner Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Tomaro at 8:52 pm. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Randi Malkiewicz, Admin Clerk

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02 / 16 / 2023
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