

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**HOPEWELL BOROUGH DISTRICT NO.1**

**March 12, 2025**

**PRESENT:**       Cmsr. Peters                   Cmsr. Davies  
                  Cmsr. Blasi                Cmsr. Myers

**Call to Order:** The scheduled meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 7:00 pm by Cmsr. Davies following proof of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was given through the Annual Meeting Notice and was filed with the municipal clerk, posted at the municipal building, the board's office, the fire district website, and advertised in the official newspapers of the district as required by law.

**Minutes:** February minutes reviewed and accepted. Motion by Blasi and seconded by Davies.

**Public Comment:** Commissioner Myers spoke about the EMS Billing ordinance and how it was drafted. He was advised that our Board does not draft ordinances, merely suggested they adopt what was drafted by the Township. He was advised to speak with the Boro Administrator. The document they introduced was not the most recent copy given to the Boro by the Board. Question was asked of what type of animal rescue the department provides. Was told that the department has various trainings though maybe not specific to certain animals, rope and water rescues, we adapt and overcome by our true nature most issues as they arise. We also have various contacts with specialists that we can call for advice. Other question was asked about closing of Columbia on Halloween, and they were told to contact the police department.

**Treasurer's Report:**

A copy of the treasurer's report was made available to each Commissioner with a list and description of the bills to be paid. The Chief Financial Officer certified that there were sufficient funds in the 2024 and 2025 budget to pay the bills and designated the account to which each would be charged.

Bills were submitted to be paid from the 2024 budget for a total of \$5,533.37. Bills were submitted to be paid from the 2025 budget for a total of \$76,914.83. Motioned by Commissioner Blasi and seconded by Commissioner Myers to pay the bills as submitted with a roll call vote all in the affirmative passing via majority. Resolution 2025-15 passed 4-0.

Commissioner Myers made a comment about the LOSAP report that was submitted by President Scalice, as he was very impressed.

**Fire Department Administration:** All of the lights have been done. Small roof leak was repaired. Breakfast will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Ladies Aux:** No one present

**EMU Report:** Deputy Chief Morehouse reports 37 ems calls for February. 5 scratches for the month of which is mostly daytime responses when the paid crew is off. Larger scale incidents seem to be occurring, and 152 seems to be the default agency for the Valley. State Licensing – have not submitted the list yet, ambulance still needs to be lettered. Have 2 students interested in EMT class. If they take the Mercer course it is \$2,500 a person. Amwell Valley has been lending a hand at larger incidents. Bunk room will not go forward with a contractor, as the initial quote came in at about \$90,000. Attempting to pull permits to move forward. 152-2 has an oil leak with a \$3,000 repair cost. Would like an opinion on where we are for a referendum on refurbishment in November 2026. Commissioner Davies stated that we will hold a meeting on our work session date in April (23<sup>rd</sup>) to work on budget and long term vehicle replacement. Lengthy discussion on daytime response of 159.

**Fire Chief Report:** 32 calls for February. Wildland rescue call last night for an injured hiker went well, a successful multi-agency response. Several expenses requested to pursue; Budgeted \$10,000 for swift water gear but would like to split that between water gear and brush gear. \$3,000 for brush gear. Hydraulic tool is about \$9,000. Need to replace brush truck fire pump. Expect about \$5-6,000 cost. Rescue will need new tires, DOT only allows tires to be 7 years old. Quint repair – still waiting on quotes for the cylinder refurbish. Radiator sight glass was repaired. Grant writer initial fee of \$5,000 must be budgeted for in 2026. Valley wide truck photo on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Looking to apply for grant for free water donated for wildfires. HVCHS lacrosse game will be honoring the first responders again this year.

**Fire Official Report:** on file

**Attorney Report:** None

**Committee Reports:** None

Resolution 2025-16 to auction old utility vehicle, motion by Csmr. Myers, second by Csmr. Blasi, all in favor resolution passes 4-0.

Resolution 2025-17 to purchase PPE Firefighting gear, motion by Csmr. Peters, second by Csmr. Blasi, all in favor resolution passes 4-0.

LOSAP – list has been posted 92 members qualified; 28 new members need to be signed up. Only \$100,000 budgeted for 2024, will end up allocating all of the funds. LOSAP funds are authorized to increase up to 3.5% by the State LFB.

**Public Comment (non-agenda):** None

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the board, on a motion by Cmsr. Blasi and seconded by Cmsr. Peters unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on April 9, 2025.