

Pine Hill Fire District #1  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 3, 2019

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Waddington at 7:31 P.M. Chairman Waddington led the salute to the flag and read the Open Public Meetings Act.

**Roll Call:** Commissioner Davis – *present*, Commissioner Hassett – *present*, Commissioner Wakeley – *present*, Commissioner Warrington – *present*, Commissioner Waddington – *present*

**Other Officials Present:** Chief Dukes, Deputy Chief Greer, Solicitor Carlamere, Captain Hunter, President Steve Rabchuk, and Mayor Green

**Minutes:** Chairman Waddington asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes for December's meeting and closed session. There were none. A motion was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Wakeley to accept December's regular meeting minutes and closed session minutes. Motion passed with three yes votes. Commissioners Hassett and Warrington abstained.

**Communications List:** Chairman Waddington explained the communications listed on the agenda and asked for a motion to approve. A motion to approve the communications list for December was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Wakeley. Motion passed with three yes votes.

**Old Business:**

**Committee Chair Reports:**

- **Fire Equipment and Apparatus Liaison:** Commissioner Wakeley said that the cost of the new Tahoe vehicle for the Chief came in at under \$45,000 and included emergency lighting. Commissioner Warrington said that there was a discussion about vehicles other than the Tahoe because of containment issues. Chairman Waddington said that the new law regarding containment has not been passed yet. Chief Dukes said that we could build a box inside the command vehicle to contain contaminated gear. Deputy Chief Greer said that the containment boxes are vented to the outside. There was some more discussion regarding this issue.
- **Community Relations Liaison:** No Report
- **Information Technology and Equipment Commissioner:** No Report
- **Insurance Fund Commissioner:** No report
- **Fire Prevention Commissioner:** No report
- **EMS Liaison:** Commissioner Warrington informed everyone that there is a problem with Pine Hill's EMS provider, Gloucester Twp. EMS Alliance. There were some problems with personnel issues, but Chief Dukes took care of that. However, the State of NJ recently placed several GTEMS's ambulances out of service due to safety issues. There has also been a mass exodus of qualified staff. The GTEMS is a private entity and Gloucester Twp. Mayor David Mayer had decided to replace GTEMS with AMR (American Medical Response) for EMS services. This agreement for Gloucester Twp. does not include Pine Hill. As of January 31, 2019, the GTEMS Alliance will cease operations leaving the residents of Pine Hill without EMS coverage. Commissioner Warrington said he was told that there will be no interruption of service until January 31<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Warrington said that this is an emergency matter that needs to be discussed in a closed session at tonight's meeting; the safety of the residents is paramount.

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**NEW BUSINESS:** Chairman Waddington asked if there were any questions regarding the payment of bills for December. There were none.

○ **Resolution 19-01:** Approval and payment of bills

- A motion to approve resolution 19-01 was made by Commissioner Warrington and seconded by Commissioner Hassett. Roll Call vote: Commissioner Davis – yes, Commissioner Hassett – yes, Commissioner Waddington – yes, Commissioner Wakeley – yes, Commissioner Warrington – yes. Resolution 19-01 is approved and adopted.

Chairman Waddington explained that in order to receive the lowest price for the Chief's new vehicle the Fire District had to, by resolution, agree to participate in the NJ State Approved Cooperative Pricing System. Chairman Waddington asked if there were any questions regarding Resolution 19-02. There were none.

○ **Resolution 19-02:** Participation in the NJ Cooperative Pricing System

- A motion was made by Commissioner Warrington and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approve Resolution 19-02 and participate in the NJ Cooperative Pricing System. Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Davis – yes, Commissioner Hassett – yes, Commissioner Waddington – yes, Commissioner Wakeley – yes, Commissioner Warrington – yes. Resolution 19-02 is approved and adopted.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:** See attached report. Chief Dukes mentioned that there is still a high call volume for natural gas leaks at Chalet Apartments. Chief Dukes said that since the new Tahoe vehicle will come with emergency lights, the emergency lights on the current vehicle will be transferred to the Deputy Chief's vehicle. Chief Dukes also informed everyone that he has been asked to handle the funeral arrangements for Richard Desmond, a well-known fire official.

**FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT:** See attached report for month end and year-end.

**FIRE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR' REPORT:** See attached report

A motion was made by Commissioner Warrington and seconded by Commissioner Hassett to approve all reports presented at tonight's meeting. Motion passed with five yes votes.

**OPEN THE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC:** Chairman Waddington asked for a motion to open the floor to the public. A motion to open the floor to the public was made by Commissioner Wakeley and seconded by Commissioner Hassett. Motion passed with five yes votes.

Walt Davis, 1 Franklin Ave asked to speak to the commission.

1. Mr. Davis asked about the recent testing for new fire fighters. Chief Dukes said that six candidates were invited but only five participated in the agility test. One candidate notified the Chief that he could not attend. Chief Dukes said that all five candidates passed the agility test.
2. Mr. Davis asked if they are qualified and ready to work. Chief Dukes said that the candidates need to be interviewed and have background checks completed before a decision on who will be hired. Mr. Davis asked if they were volunteers who were tested. Chairman Waddington said no, the candidates who were tested are applying to full-time positions.
3. Mr. Davis said that he thought that the hiring of only one firefighter was approved. Chairman Waddington said that one new hire was approved for 2018 and one is approved for 2019. Chairman Waddington explained the steps in the hiring process for Mr. Davis.

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4. Mr. Davis asked about the scheduling. Chairman Waddington said that the two current firefighters will stay on their current shifts. However, the new hires will work 12-hours shift for four days per week. Chairman Waddington further explained that we still have duty crews and volunteers to assist with fire calls. There was some further discussion on this issue.
5. Mr. Davis asked if the candidates met the qualifications. Chairman Waddington said yes.
6. Mr. Davis said that the Chief mentioned last month that progress was a long way off regarding mutual aid. Chief Dukes said that what he mentioned was not about mutual aid. Chief Dukes said he was referring to a meeting of the Camden County Fire Chief's Association. The Fire Chief's Association is working on implementing a set of minimum standards and it will take some time to get all the municipalities to agree.
7. Mr. Davis said that he would like to have a private meeting with the Chief. Chief Dukes told Mr. Davis to call him.
8. Mr. Davis said that he is going to send in an OPRA request for a record of all the fire call runs for the last year and a half. Chief Dukes informed Mr. Davis that the Pine Hill Fire Department responded to 876 fire calls in 2018.

**CLOSE FLOOR TO THE PUBLIC:** Chairman Waddington asked for a motion to close the floor to the public if there were no other questions. There were none. A motion to close the floor to the public was made by Commissioner Warrington and seconded by Commissioner Wakeley. Motion passed with five yes votes.

**Closed Session:** Chairman Waddington said that there is a need for a closed session to discuss the EMS issues mentioned earlier by Commissioner Warrington.

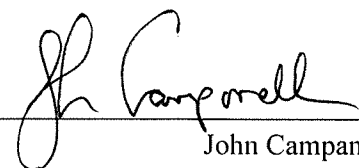
**Resolution 19-03:** Closed Session: A motion was made by Commissioner Warrington and seconded by Commissioner Davis to approved Resolution 19-03 and enter a closed session. Motion passed with five yes votes. Closed session entered at 7:57 p.m.

**Outcome of Closed Session:** The regular part of the meeting was re-opened at 8:43 p.m. with Chairman Waddington informing those present that nothing was approved in closed session but that it is important for the safety of the residents to resolve the issue with our EMS service. It may require a special meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Waddington asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Warrington. Motion passed with five yes votes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

  
Kenneth Davis  
Commission Secretary

  
John Campanella  
Fire District Business Administrator