

Pine Hill Fire District #1
Workshop Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2025

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Chairman Waddington at 5:30 P.M. Chairman Waddington led the salute to the flag and read a statement regarding the Open Public Meetings Act.

ROLL CALL: Commissioner Waddington – present, Commissioner Wakeley – present, Commissioner Hagarty – present, Commissioner Harris – present, Commissioner Briggs – present.

OTHER OFFICIALS PRESENT: Chief Hunter, Battalion Chief Pizzo, Captain Duvall

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 Hagarty and seconded by Commissioner Wakeley. All were in favor. Motion passed.

- There was no public participation.

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 Hagarty and seconded by Commissioner Wakeley. All were in favor. Motion passed.

WORKSHOP: The first topic on the agenda was the Tower Ladder truck. Chairman Waddington asked if there was going to be a presentation tonight. Chief Hunter said yes, Scott was here from Pierce to go over the ins and outs of purchasing.

Scott Estelow introduced himself as a representative for Pierce Fire & Safety Services. He explained that the lead times are currently 45 to 48 months if the truck was ordered right now, barring any supply chain issues due to tariffs. He said the last price increase was zero percent but in May it will increase 0.75% and after that, he doesn't know what the increase will be. He said the next price increase will be in August, and they usually find out the amount of the increase a month in advance to tell prospective buyers. Scott said there will be no payments made on the truck until it is delivered to the fire department. He asked if there were any other questions.

Battalion Chief Pizzo asked about the finance board meeting. Scott confirmed it is held via Zoom. He said to consult an attorney. Chairman Waddington confirmed we would be using our solicitor.

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Scott suggested that the Commission do their homework by contacting banks before leasing or financing. He explained some of the different leasing options. He said Pierce will do anything the Commission needs to do and to please reach out with any questions.

Commissioner Harris asked what other fire companies did when it came to their new trucks. Scott said there was no easy answer because everyone is different. Chief Hunter asked if the other companies did their financing through Pierce. Scott said yes. Commissioner Harris asked what the loan term would be if we financed through Pierce. Scott said it is usually a ten- or fifteen-year loan. He said he would put the Commission in contact with PNC Bank.

Commissioner Wakeley asked what the interest rate is. Scott said he did not know. He said PNC Bank works for Pierce and they would be able to tell us. He again encouraged the Commission to shop around.

Commissioner Hagarty asked about the contract with Pierce and if pricing risk would be accounted for in the purchase order, for example if the price of steel went up twenty percent. Scott said that they have a clause and would only enact if inflation goes over five percent. He said there were only two times since Pierce started servicing firetrucks in 2013, COVID and World War II, where prices have jumped more than five percent.

Commissioner Harris asked where the truck was located. Scott said it is in Appleton, Wisconsin. Chairman Waddington said he toured that plant once when he was in WI for work.

Scott said that things are always changing. He said lead times are out of control and it is hard maintaining people who want to work. He said they are trying to speed things up, but they are not going to speed the line up just to get trucks out the door because they do not want to lose quality.

Chief Hunter asked if Scott could touch on refurbished trucks. Scott said Pierce is a case by case basis with refurb. He said Pierce kind of stopped doing them due to the backlog being four years. He said refurbished trucks are great but will only give another ten years. Chief Hunter said the other issue with a refurbishment would be that Pierce needs to take the ladder truck to refurbish it. Battalion Chief Pizzo asked if there was no warranty on a refurb. Scott said there would be some warranty. Chairman Waddington asked if we would keep the same chassis, motor, and drive train. Scott said yes. Chief Hunter said we could pay to upgrade it.

Chief Hunter asked Captain Duvall to show everyone a picture of the truck they are looking to get and said it will show the layout. Captain Duvall passed out the photo. Scott said it is smaller than the truck we have now. Chief Hunter said the truck they are looking to buy is three feet

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shorter than the one we currently have. He said that they did their homework on the new truck and there are features they are cutting out. Chief Hunter said that it is a little bit of a custom truck, but they are all the things that we need.

Scott said that in his district, they purchased using a bond. Chairman Waddington said that there is a big difference between a bond and a lease purchase. He said if we were to use a bond, we would have to go out and advertise and it would be a big process. Commissioner Wakeley said it also costs a lot to do a bond. Chief Hunter said he is not trying to force the Commission's hand, but the longer it takes to get this information back, the higher the cost gets. He said we know that price increases are coming. He said we are going to take the increase in May, but we could avoid the one in August. Commissioner Harris asked how we paid for the current ladder truck. Commissioner Wakeley said it was purchased with a bond. Scott suggested weighing options and doing what is best for the Board and the town.

Chief Hunter asked what if we intend to buy a truck but don't purchase it by August. Scott said it is tough with us being a fire district. He said if we can get a signed letter of intent in making the purchase, they could hold the price. Chief Hunter said he doesn't know how long the finance side takes but if we can try to get a letter of intent done before August, we could save money. Chairman Waddington asked what Pierce needs from us and if we need to have state approval. Scott said to consult with our attorney, but all Pierce would need is a purchase order.

Scott said they have had anywhere from three to seven percent interest rates. He said COVID drove order increases through the roof. Commissioner Harris asked if Covid hurt Pierce. Scott said yes, a lot of employees with a lot of experience walked away and it has been hard to get new employees in.

Commissioner Harris asked if the chiefs saw the truck they wanted when they went to Ocala, Florida. Chief Hunter said it was the same manufacturer and like the truck Chews Landing got, but ours would be a custom package. He said they want a 2025 truck with 1980s technology. Commissioner Harris asked if it would be stock. Chief Hunter said no. Battalion Chief Pizzo said it would have a different pump and tools. Scott said a lot of people spend money on emergency lights, lettering and striping, paint color and paint scheme. Battalion Chief Pizzo said we would not get a generator, which Scott said would save us around \$40,000.

Chairman Waddington asked if there were any other questions. There were none. Commissioners Harris and Briggs thanked Scott for coming out. Scott said they could contact him with questions any time.

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There was a discussion between the Commissioners on the pricing of a new truck. Commissioner Briggs said she got an estimate. Chairman Waddington said they want to see payment options for ten-, fifteen-, and twenty-year terms. Chief Hunter said on the day we sign the contract, Pierce will fly someone out from Appleton, WI to see how much our trade in value would be.

Commissioner Briggs said Scott also said that they give substantial discounts if we make payments during the four years the truck is being built. Commissioner Harris clarified that we would not be giving Pierce our ladder truck until we receive a new one. Chief Hunter said that is correct. Commissioner Harris asked what happens if our current ladder truck breaks. Chief Hunter said that then we would have no trade in value. He also said that waiting four years is one of his concerns because we can no longer get a new motor or brake lights for the current truck. Battalion Chief Pizzo said a lot of the parts are obsolete and we would have to redo the entire engine system.

Commissioner Harris asked Chairman Waddington and Commissioner Briggs if we can afford a new truck. Commissioner Hagarty said typically we would have someone run financial models. He said we need to look at all options and alternatives. There was a discussion between the Commissioners over pricing. Commissioner Hagarty said that usually a financial advisor would run the numbers. There was a discussion on who to use as an advisor.

Commissioner Harris said it seems like if we don't do this soon, we may not have a ladder truck at all. Chief Hunter said there is no other dedicated career ladder truck in our area.

Commissioner Harris asked if we would have to raise the tax rate to do this. Chairman Waddington said we would have to see what the payments would be. Commissioner Hagarty said we have to look at all scenarios. There was another discussion on which financial advisor to use.

Commissioner Wakeley said he thought it was \$1.1 million for our current ladder truck. Battalion Chief Pizzo said the only thing we really need is a rescue compartment. Commissioner Hagarty asked if the chiefs knew any other departments that are in the same situation. Chief Hunter said they could ask Scott. Commissioner Briggs asked if Chief Hunter had any news on the grant he applied for. Chief Hunter said he sent an email to Corey Booker for an update.

There was a discussion on who the trucks were leased from in the past and previous interest rates. Chairman Waddington said to ask Scott about their leasing company and then reach out to other leasing companies. Battalion Chief Pizzo said they would get him the name of the company they were talking about. Commissioner Hagarty said it looked like we had some modeling to do. Chairman Waddington agreed and said then we will know from there if we can afford it or not. Commissioner Briggs said she would reach out to Scott and that Commissioner Wakeley is

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supposed to be working on it with her. Chairman Waddington asked if there was anything else about the tower ladder. There was nothing.

The second subject on the agenda was biweekly pay. Chairman Waddington said he knew we need to have a discussion regarding that. He said he is not in favor of biweekly pay. He said they moved to bimonthly pay because it makes things easier and saves the Commission money by having less billing periods. He also said it gives us a clear cut for the beginning and ending pay of each month and year. There was a discussion on biweekly versus bimonthly hourly rates and salaries. Chief Hunter said we did biweekly pay for twenty years and then it went away. He said they want to move to biweekly pay for the volunteer firefighters. Battalion Chief Pizzo said biweekly pay would be easier for him because we currently do payroll too far in advance and it makes it retroactive pay. He said this causes the volunteers to be almost a month behind on pay. There was a discussion on reconciliation. Commissioner Harris told Battalion Chief Pizzo he has done a lot of hard work, and he is happy to see he cares about his people. He said he deserves an answer, and he thinks the Commission can vote on it tonight. Commissioner Hagarty agreed.

The third subject on the agenda was overtime. Commissioner Hagarty said to start with the facts: in the budget, for a period of time \$40,000 was for overtime, but \$30,000 was dedicated to sick time buyback. Chief Hunter and Battalion Chief Pizzo said they did not know that. Commissioner Hagarty explained that they decoupled it and specifically put aside \$30,000 for sick time buyback and \$10,000 in overtime. He said that is what the budget reflects. He said at the last meeting we discussed a request to increase the overtime budget total to \$17,500. He said the second part of that was the ability of the chiefs to have control over that money.

Battalion Chief Pizzo said he came up with \$17,500 because he thought it was comparable to the last few years overtime expenditures of around \$16,000. He said he is trying to keep the hours the same. He said the chiefs vowed on their end to cut some of the things overtime is used for. He said they found out at the last county chief's meeting that they are now willing to reimburse for calling firefighters back in up to a certain point, they just have to have a billable party. He said the Camden County scrapyard would be a willing party and the county OEM is working on this. Battalion Chief Pizzo said they are on the right track, but they want to cut back on some of the callbacks. He said we have been a very successful operation. There was a discussion. Commissioner Wakeley clarified if the county will reimburse for an entire truck of career staff. Battalion Chief Pizzo said yes, whoever comes back from the call will be reimbursed their overtime rate. He said their FEMA rate is not part of it. Chief Hunter said the county knows they are doing this and the county depends on them. He said other departments in the county are doing the same thing. Commissioner Wakeley asked if they would get a stipend for the volunteers. Battalion Chief Pizzo said no. Battalion Chief Pizzo said most of the overtime was for training, classes, and fires and calls in Pine Hill. Commissioner Briggs said she thinks the

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chiefs do a great job managing the overtime. Chairman Waddington asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Wakeley said he wanted to talk in closed session.

There was a five-minute bathroom break.

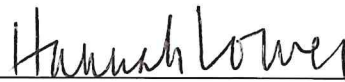
The last topic discussed was MVA billing. Chairman Waddington said he looked through the rates and said it seemed like a drastic increase. He said he wanted to redo the resolution and discuss new rates. He said he wanted to talk about residents and non-residents in the new resolution. He also said Winslow's rates are lower than ours. There was a discussion on rates. It was agreed between the Commissioners and chiefs to bill 75% of Winslow's rates. Chairman Waddington said he would have Business Administrator Lower paste the new rates into the current resolution and add residents and non-residents. Chairman Waddington said the new MVA billing resolution should be good to go by next week.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Waddington asked if there were any other issues that needed to be addressed. There were none. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hagarty and seconded by Commissioner Wakeley. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.



Christopher Harris
Commission Secretary



Hannah Lower
Fire District Business Administrator



Pine Hill Fire District #1

Pine Hill Fire Department

Motor Vehicle Collisions, Fire and Specialized Rescue Services

RESOLUTION #25-27

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICES PROVIDED AT MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISIONS, FIRE AND SPECIALIZED RESCUE SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners, Borough of Pine Hill, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, through the Pine Hill Fire Department provides various emergency service; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners deems it appropriate to set forth a fee schedule for providing service in an attempt to offset rising costs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Fire Commissioners, Pine Hill Borough, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that:

A fee schedule is hereby adopted for the following referenced services:

MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS

Level 1 - \$400.00

Provide hazardous materials assessment and scene stabilization. This will be the most common "billing level". This occurs almost every time the fire department responds to an accident/incident.

Level 2 - \$470.00

Includes Level 1 services as well as clean up and material used (sorbents) for hazardous fluid clean up and disposal. We will bill at this level if the fire department has to clean up any gasoline or other automotive fluids that are spilled as a result of accident/incident.

Level 3 – CAR FIRE - \$570.00

Provide scene safety, fire suppression, breathing air, rescue tools, hand tools, hose, tip use, foam, structure protection, and clean up gasoline or other automotive fluids that are spilled as a result of the accident/incident.

ADD ON SERVICES

Extrication - \$1200.00

Includes heavy rescue tools, airbags, cribbing etc. This charge will be added if the fire department has to free/remove anyone from the vehicle(s) using any equipment. We will not bill at this level if the patient is simply unconscious and fire department is able to open the door to access the patient. This level is to be billed only if equipment is deployed.

Creating a Landing Zone - \$355.00

Includes Air Care (multi-engine company response, mutual aid, helicopter). We will bill at this level any time a helicopter landing zone is created and/or is utilized to transport the patient(s).

Itemized Response: You have the option to bill each incident as an independent event with custom mitigation rates, for each incident using, itemized rates deemed usual, customary and reasonable (UCR). The incidents will be billed, itemized per apparatus, per personnel, plus products and equipment used.

HAZMAT

Level 1 - \$660.00

Basic Response: Claim will include engine response, first responder assignment, perimeter establishment, evacuations, set-up and command.

Level 2 - \$2360.00

Intermediate Response: Claim will include engine response, first responder assignment, hazmat certified team and appropriate equipment, perimeter establishment, evacuations, set-up and command, Level A or B suit donning, breathing air and direction equipment. Set-up and removal of decon center.

Level 3 - \$5570.00

Advanced Response: Claim will include engine response, first responder assignment, hazmat certified team and appropriate equipment, perimeter establishment, evacuations, first responder set-up and command, Level A or B suit donning, breathing air and detection equipment and robot deployment. Set-up and removal of decon center, detection equipment, recovery and identification of material. Disposal and environment clean up. Includes above in addition to any disposal rates of material and contaminated equipment and material used at scene. Includes 3 hours of on scene time – each additional hour @ \$391.00 per HAZMAT team.

FIRES

Assignment - \$375.00 per hour, per engine / \$470.00 per hour, per truck

Includes:

- Scene Safety
- Investigation
- Fire / Hazard Control

This will be the most common "billing level". This occurs almost every time the fire department responds to an incident.

OPTIONAL: A fire department has the option to bill each fire as an independent event with custom mitigation rates.

Itemized, per person, at various pay levels and for itemized products use.

ILLEGAL FIRES

Assignment - \$375.00 per hour, per engine / \$470.00 per hour, per truck

When a fire is started by any person or persons that requires a fire department response during a time or season when fires are regulated or controlled by local or state rules, provisions or ordinances because of pollution or fire danger concerns, such person or persons will be liable for the fire department response at a cost not to exceed the actual expenses incurred by the fire department to respond and contain the fire. Similarly, if a fire is started where permits are required for such a fire and the permit was not obtained and the fire department is required to respond to contain the fire the responsible party will be liable for the response at a cost not to exceed the actual expenses incurred by the fire department. The actual expenses will include direct labor, equipment costs and any other costs that can be reasonably allocated to the cost of the response.

BACK COUNTRY OR SPECIAL RESCUE

Itemized Response: Each incident will be billed with custom mitigation rates deemed usual, customary and reasonable (UCR). These incidents will be billed, itemized per apparatus per hour, per trained rescue person per hour, plus rescue products used.

Minimum billed \$375.00 plus \$52.00 per hour, per rescue person. Additional rates of \$375.00 per hour per response vehicle and \$52.00 per hour per rescue person.

CHIEF RESPONSE

This includes the set-up and Command and providing direction of the incident. This could include operations, safety, and administration of the incident.

Billed at \$230.00 per hour.

MISCELLANEOUS / ADDITIONAL TIME ON-SCENE

ADDITIONAL TIME ON-SCENE (for all levels of service)

Engine billed at \$375.00 per hour.

Truck billed at \$470.00 per hour.

Command at \$230.00 per hour.

Miscellaneous equipment billed at \$320.00.

MITIGATION RATE NOTES

The mitigation rates above are average "billing levels" for one hour of service, and are typical for the incident responses listed, however, when a claim is submitted, it may be itemized and based on the actual services provided.

These average mitigation rates were determined by itemizing costs for a typical run (from the time a fire apparatus leaves the station until it returns to the station) and are based on the actual costs, using amortized schedules for apparatus (including useful life, equipment, repairs, and maintenance) and labor rates (an average department's "actual personnel expense" and not just a firefighter's basic wage). The actual personnel expense includes costs such as wages, retirement, benefits, workers comp, insurance, etc.

Residents of Pine Hill Borough

It is understood that the Pine Hill Fire Department will accept any payment from the insurance carrier of a Pine Hill Borough Resident that utilizes the billable outline above. The payment received from the insurance carrier will be considered as receiving payment in full for the services provided. No additional billing will be issued for the balance.

Residency will be determined by the address of which the motor vehicle is registered. In the case where there is not a vehicle then residency will be determined by the legal address of the involved party.

Non-Residents of Pine Hill Borough

It is understood that the Pine Hill Fire Department will accept any payment from the non-resident that utilizes the billable outline above. The balance of the monies not covered by insurance will be the responsibility of the non-resident. The billing company will make two attempts to collect

monies due by mail to the non-resident. If after the two attempts and the monies have not been collected the Fire District will write off said monies as to not go into collections.

DATED: April 3, 2025

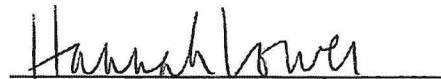


Christopher Harris
Commission Secretary

Record of Vote:

| Commissioners: | Motion | 2nd | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|----------------|--------|-----|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Briggs | | | X | | | |
| Hagarty | | | X | | | |
| Harris | | X | X | | | |
| Waddington | | | X | | | |
| Wakeley | X | | X | | | |

I, Hannah Lower do hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted at the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners held on April 3, 2025.



Hannah Lower
Business Administrator