

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2020

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 226th meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Franklin Township Fire District No. 1, Township of Franklin, County of Hunterdon, was called to order by President C. Patkochis at 6:30 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENT: "This meeting is convened in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice of the meeting has been provided by furnishing announcement thereof, to the *Hunterdon County Democrat*, and/or *The Express Times*, and/or the *Star Ledger*, and/or the *Courier News*, by posting notice in the Municipal Building and by filing a notice with the Municipal Clerk."

ROLL CALL: President C. Patkochis, present; Treasurer G. Reichert, present; Secretary P. Enea III, present; Vice President, E. Kolibas, present; Assistant Secretary, H. Laine, absent.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH: Motion to dispense with the reading and accept the minutes of the January 14, 2020 meeting, as submitted. Motion made by E. Kolibas, seconded by G. Reichert. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: G. Reichert advised of a total in income of \$ 5,216.16 and bills totaling \$99,856.94 for the period of January 15, 2020 through February 11, 2020.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of January 15, 2020 through February 11, 2020, was made by P. Enea, seconded by E. Kolibas.. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT – C. Patkochis presented the Fire Protection Agreement between the Quakertown Fire Company and the Franklin Township Fire District No. 1, covering the time period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. The sum of \$ 40,000.00 to be paid in four installments of \$ 10,000 on the following dates: April 15, 2020, July 15, 2020, October 15, 2020 and December 31, 2020. The QFC will be required to submit vouchers to the District requesting payment, prior to the payments being made.

G. Reichert made a Motion to enter into the Agreement, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried. C. Patkochis and P. Enea signed the Agreement and it was passed to QFC President D. Strange to be signed and returned.

C. Patkochis advised G. Reichert to present vouchers to Franklin Township, four in total, for the, following amounts \$ 81,055.00, \$ 84,825.00, \$ 94,250.00 and \$ 116,870.00 for a total of \$ 377,000. G. Reichert advised that he would present the vouchers and follow up on the payments as they come due.

C. Patkochis presented two insurance policies that need to be renewed. The first policy is for buildings and grounds, property and equipment, including the vehicles, with Nottingham Insurance. The amount of this policy is \$ 34,924.29.

A Motion to renew this policy with Nottingham Insurance was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by G.

Reichert. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis presented the Workman's Compensation policy renewal with Benchmark Insurance. The amount of this policy is \$ 28,402.00. C. Patkochis pointed out that per diem employees are insured at a much lower rate than the volunteers.

G. Reichert made a Motion to renew the policy with Benchmark, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised that there is an additional policy for Health and Wellness in the amount of approximately \$ 4,600.00 that will need to be renewed shortly. C. Patkochis advised that the total amount for insurance for this year is less than in years past. For clarification out of the approximate \$ 70,000.00 for insurance, we will get paid back approximately \$ 4,000.00 for the ambulances.

C. Patkochis advised that after speaking with Chief D. Desaulniers regarding hose, pump and ground ladder testing, it was decided to go with Fire Flow based on the quotes received, for \$ 3957.00. G. Bunting will oversee the hose testing to make sure that it is done properly, cleaned and repacked, unlike it has been done in the past. C. Patkochis suggested Foster Wheeler may be a better location as it is cleaner there.

G. Reichert made a Motion to have Fire Flow perform the hose, pump and ground ladder testing done in the amount of \$ 3957.00, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis presented a quote for 1050 feet of 5" Mercedes cloth hose in the amount of \$ 8250 from Witmer Equipment. \$765.00 per 100' length (10) and \$300. Per 50' length.

A Motion was made by G. Reichert to purchase the hose, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

G. Reichert inquired if the old 5" hose had any value. C. Patkochis advised that it would be placed for sale on Gov Deals to see if it would sell. After that a decision can be made as to the disposition of the old hose.

C. Patkochis asked for clarification from D. Desaulnier on the quote received for LED headlights for the Rescue. D. Desaulniers advised he requested B. Crampton find out if the quote was for a pair or just one set of headlights as the quote isn't clear. If the price is for two it would be \$450. Which he feels is reasonable but if the quote is for one, the price is not worth it. C. Patkochis advised we would hold off until the quote is clarified.

C. Patkochis reported on the need to develop a handbook now that the QFC is applying to the State to get licensed for the ambulances. The process involves compiling a book containing policies and procedures. We have a book from Burlington and also Washington Emergency Squad to use as a guideline in creating one for ourselves. We will continue to adapt and add to it to fit out needs. D. Desaulniers advised that the problem with the State is their requirement to have proof that each member signs off on each policy. The QFC is considering an online version that would give everyone access.

RESOLUTION 2020-15 ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR EMPLOYEES

C. Patkochis read the Resolution into the record with the following salaries established for paid employees of the Fire District

2020 EMPLOYEE SALARIES

William Crampton	\$22.00 per hour	
Greg Bunting	\$17.50 per hour	
Thomas Hoffman	\$16.50 per hour	
Richard Dziminski	\$21.00 per hour	
Michael Hannigan	\$16.50 per hour	
William M. Judd	\$16.50 per hour	
Timothy Hinson	\$16.00 per hour	
David Sulpy	\$16.00 per hour	Inspections \$18.00 per hour
Lewis Moore III	\$16.00 per hour	
Robert Petrusky	\$16.00 per hour	
Nicholas Volpe	\$16.00 per hour	
Rohit Nallamala	\$16.00 per hour	
Elise Ennis	\$19.00 per hour	

G. Reichert made a Motion to accept Resolution 2020-15, seconded by P. Enea. Roll Call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised that the QFC has presented an application for a new member, Richard Boss. B. Crampton is awaiting confirmation on the background check. C. Patkochis advised that we could conditionally approve him pending the background check

P. Enea made a Motion to approve R Boss, pending background check, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: N/A

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised that all registration invoiced have been sent out, with January 31, 2020 as the cut off to pay their registration fees. Fines have already been sent out to those not in compliance. For the month of January there were 0 Inspections, 2 Smoke Certs, 1 Re-Inspection, 4 Permits and 0 Complaints. There was one fire investigation at 12 Tinnes Court. The 2019 LEA report has been submitted to the State.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: D. Desaulniers gave the report. There were 63 calls for the month of January, 30 Fire and 33 EMS. Members completed their FIT testing, mandatory refresher training as well as familiarization on Rapid Intervention skills and tools. QFC is continuing to explore several grant programs to provide assistance in procuring equipment, staffing and building improvements, including security and what they refer to as building hardening.

D. Desaulniers requested funding in the amount of \$ 1000 to pursue training at "The Art of Firemanship Days" in Harrisburg, PA on May 16 and 17. This would include the cost of training by professional firefighters from Pennsylvania and Maryland and lodging for multiple members along with the use of a Fire District vehicle for transportation. D. Desaulniers pointed out that valuable training could be passed on to members by those attending the training.

G. Reichert made a motion to spend up to \$1000 for this training program and lodging, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

D. Desaulniers also requested funding in the amount of \$1000 to attend the New York State Association of Fire Chiefs Expo in Syracuse, NY from June 10-13, 2020. Having attended in the past and paying their

own way, it proved to be a valuable event for both learning and finding new vendors that provided the QFC with better pricing on equipment. The QFC is requesting the funding for lodging and the use of a Fire District vehicle to attend. G. Reichert advised that the NY Fire Expo is like no other and feels it is worth the trip.

P. Enea made a Motion to spend up to \$ 1000 for this event and lodging, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion passed.

C. Patkochis made it clear that this would use up the \$2000.00 that the Fire District has budgeted for this year.

C. Patkochis also pointed out that he was impressed by the comprehensive report and the detail provided by the Chief.


QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: D. Strange gave the January report. He advised that the QFC was unsuccessful in receiving Department of Health certification during the initial ambulance inspection and is currently awaiting a reinspection date. There were two successful fundraisers held. Firefighter Rob Geib is attending EMT initial training. The QFC received one application for membership from Richard Boss that was approved pending background check and physical.

OLD BUSINESS: C. Patkochis advised that an offer of a Per Diem position was made to an individual that was interviewed. Upon contacting the applicant, he declined the position.

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn at 7:05 PM by, G. Reichert, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis, Secretary



Charles Patkochis, President