

**Franklin Township Fire District No. 1**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
June 9, 2020

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 230th 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, present.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH:** A Motion to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2020 meeting as submitted with the wording on page 4 regarding the Memorial Day Ceremony to say School instead of Plan, was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** G. Reichert advised of a total in income of \$ 2129.30 and bills totaling \$43,725.24 for the period of May 13, 2020 through June 9, 2020.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of May 13, 2020 through June 9, 202 was made by G. Reichert, seconded by H. Laine. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:**

C. Patkochis advised that four sets of turnout gear had been requested by QFC to be purchased, as per our goal of replacing 4 sets of gear per year. Lowest bid to our specifications was from the Fire Store totaling \$9640.00.

G. Reichert made a Motion to purchase the turnout gear from the Fire Store, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis also advised that one pair of size 13 boots was requested. Lowest bidder was also from the Fire Store for \$ 350.00.

G. Reichert made a Motion to make the boot purchase, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis reported that a quote was received from Fire Fighter One to service the TNT tools for \$ 1990.00.

P. Enea made a motion to have Fire Fighter One service the tools, seconded by G. Reichert. All in favor, Motion carried. E. Kolibas inquired if it was appropriate to get a second bid for this expenditure. C. Patkochis and D. DeSaulniers advised that they must be serviced by Fire Fighter One to maintain the Warranty.

C. Patkochis reported on possible change to the Accident and Sickness Policy that was discussed last month. There was only one employee that this policy would cover, that person, B. Crampton (more than 25 hours per week) advised that it would be an additional \$2600.00 on top of the \$44,388.00 for the original policy. B. Crampton advised that he was not interested, so no changes were made.

C. Patkochis advised that Attorney Braslow had submitted his annual Pay to Play certificate.

C. Patkochis presented the voucher from Union Township for their yearly payment to the District. The amount was increased by 2% to \$ 30,953.00, an increase of \$ 600.00.

C. Patkochis inquired of G. Reichert an update on the matter of pool fills by the QFC. G. Reichert advised that after meeting with the QFC, they will be reimbursing the District \$25.00 per load. C. Patkochis asked how the records were being kept and at what interval would the District be reimbursed. G. Reichert advised that perhaps quarterly. J. Nielowski suggested at the end of the season (September, usually) and that there were two methods of keeping track, the first in Quick Books where the payments are being recorded and also on the Waiver where there is an estimated number vs. actual number of loads that the owner agrees to, the higher of which they are billed for.

C. Patkochis advised that he and G. Reichert had met with Officers of the QFC regarding possibly increasing the Per Diem hours but were interrupted by an EMS call and then a fire call so the meeting ended with only representatives from the District and B. Crampton so the meeting was cut short. It was decided that because the meeting was cut short a survey would be distributed to the Per Diem staff. 5 or 6 surveys have been returned, some detailed, some with very little information and one of them wasn't signed. Some were forwarded via email to the Commissioners and the additional surveys were received and will be distributed tonight. Waiting on the remaining 6 or so surveys. B. Crampton has sent out an email requesting that the surveys be returned from District staff. The District will also be interviewing a candidate in the near future for a Per Diem position. Some of the District staff have been unable to take on as many hours due to other work responsibilities and school.

**FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:** C. Patkochis indicated that for the month of May there were 0 Inspections, 3 Smoke Detector Certifications, 0 Re-Inspections, 0 Permits and 0 Complaints.

C. Patkochis called on R. Dziminski to bring the District up to date on several issues:

- \*Pre Plans are complete
- \*Working on the print feature with the IPADs as the reports from ER are not printing properly from them. Consider printing a hard copy so that all the information on ownership is available.
- \*Received a check for the back inspection fees from Verizon \$800 (Wakefield and Cushman)
- \*Camp Tecumseh will not be opening as of this date and issue with gate has been rectified
- \*Inspections for businesses are set to resume June 1, 2020
- \*Smoke Detector Certifications will continue by Affidavit until at least September or he hears otherwise
- \*363 Pittstown Road continues to be an issue with difficulty with the landlord. Attempts to gain compliance continue and owner has made an OPRA request on other landlords with the Township. Potentially, each landlord will need to be contacted to assure that they are all in compliance. Fees are due from this landlord on 6/12/20. Landlord was advised that safety is the main issue and the fees have repeatedly reduced to try to gain compliance. Landlord will meet in the parking at 10 AM as Covid will not allow a meeting inside the building. Next step will be having the Attorney get involved
- \*G. Reichert advised that there are businesses not complying with non-life registrations that need to be looked into. Perhaps a registered letter if no response to regular mail or visits to the violators.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT:** D. DeSaulniers advised that there were 40

calls in the month of May. Members continue to attend virtual meetings and training throughout the month. Small groups have continued to hold hands-on in person training mainly in engine company operations. Driver training continues with several members nearing completion. The Clinton water meter has been picked up and is currently being used on all pool fills being conducted by QFC. An electronic pool fill waiver has been created to ensure that we have a signed waiver prior to completing any pool fill. The issue with members taking District vehicles home and not returning them prior to District staff reporting for work was also addressed and will no longer happen.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** J. Nieliwodski reported on the 3 day paving project coming up in June. The project engineer met with us advising of one day of milling, second day is paving and third day is striping. D. DeSaulniers advised that the trucks will have to be moved from place to place to accommodate the paving to give the blacktop time to cure. It will all depend on how the blacktop company feels is fastest and most efficient. Hoping to wrap the kitchen up this month. Primary elections are scheduled for July 7<sup>th</sup>. The Election officials need to be aware that it is not the responsibility of District Staff or the QFC to provide directions for parking and the election officials should be parking offsite.

**OLD BUSINESS:** E. Kolibas inquired on the status of pump testing. C. Patkochis is awaiting a date when this will take place. Several pre-scheduled maintenance projects have had to be rescheduled due to Covid restrictions. C. Patkochis advised that hose testing will be conducted on 6/15/20 at Foster Wheeler. E. Kolibas inquired on the pump testing going out for bid or do we use the same company for a specific reason. It was explained that due to past experience, the companies that are being used have provided the most reliable service, usually the manufacturer, for the price. Going with a cheaper price has ended up costing the District in the past for bad workmanship.

E. Kolibas also inquired on Direct Deposit. C. Patkochis advised that prices have been obtained from several vendors and the present company H&L, is the most reasonable for payroll. Going with a company that would provide Direct Deposit would more than triple the cost. However, if we were to add additional District Staff/hours, it would necessitate having some sort of timeclock system initiated.

**NEW BUSINESS:** G. Reichert reported on implementing a Re-call Policy. A discussion was held regarding the wording "Insubordinate" if someone is not able to return to the station in a Re-call situation and response from the Re-called personnel. C. Patkochis asked that additional work be completed on this policy by next meeting.

Additional discussion was had regarding concerns with manning EMS calls in the future with the Licensing requiring two EMTs on an ambulance.

E. Kolibas also wanted to express appreciation on behalf of the residents of Quakertown for Fred Policheck drive by in recognition of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn at 7:22 PM by G. Reichert, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

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Elise

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Charles Patkochis, President