

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2020

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 227th 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: Motion to dispense with the reading and accept the minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting, as submitted. G. Reichert noted two corrections to be made, recording secretary E. Ennis will make those two corrections. Pending corrections, a Motion was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: G. Reichert advised of a total in income of \$ 64,672.26 and bills totaling \$ 19,949.08 for the period of February 12, 2020 through March 10, 2020

Motion to pay the bills for the period of February 12, 2020 through March 10, 2020 was made by P. Enea, seconded by E. Kolibas. 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 reported that the Budget for this year was approved by the State. Paperwork has been received documenting same.

Additionally, the Audit was completed. C. Patkochis reported that there were no major issues to address and we are currently waiting on a written report from the Auditor. It appears we are in a good place financially and this is the earliest that we have ever completed this process.

C. Patkochis reported that as of today he has not received the signed contract from the QFC for fire services.

C. Patkochis advised that the Attorney for the District has requested Resolutions for the insurance carrier approvals from last month's meeting.

RESOLUTION 2020-16 Authorizing Award of Contract for Workman's Compensation Insurance Coverage.

A Motion was made by G. Reichert awarding the Contract to Benchmark Insurance in the amount \$ 28,402.00, seconded by P. Enea. . Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2020-17 Authorizing Award of Contract for Liability, Grounds, Building, Property, Equipment, Vehicle Insurance Coverage.

A Motion was made by G. Reichert awarding the Contract to VFIS/Nottingham Insurance for \$ 84,924.29, seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised that going forward we will begin doing major purchases by Resolution to avoid working backward.

C. Patkochis advised that B. Crampton presented him with a quote from Comcast for \$ 278.39 for internet and phone service (they do not charge us for TV)

A Motion was made by E. Kolibas to go with Comcast, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised that he has a quote for mandatory service on the TNT tools on Rescue 91 and Squad 91 for a total of \$ 1990.00 from FireFighter 1. G. Reichert made a Motion, seconded by H. Laine to go with the quote from FireFighter 1 to service the TNT tools. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised that he and G. Reichert have had a meeting with another Municipality and their officials at this time regarding shared services for the Fire Marshal's Office. Nothing further regarding this meeting is public at this time.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: N/A

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis gave the report for the month of February. Two Inspections, 4 Smoke Certifications, 2 Re-Inspections, 2 Permits and 1 Complaint. Response to the Complaint was at 363C Pittstown Rd with issues related to fire safety and construction items. Fire Marshal has been in contact with the Township Construction office regarding their involvement.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: D. Desaulniers submitted a comprehensive report for the month's activities. C. Patkochis encouraged the Commissioners to read through the report. D. Desaulniers advised of 61 total calls for the month of February, 32 fire, 29 EMS. Members participated in drills on SCBA training, CPR, driver training and reviewed NHFA Best Practices.

QFC and FTFD Staff put into service the new hosebed dividers on Engine 91, D. Desaulniers adding that with the new dividers they were able to increase the amount of hose carried in the hosebed.

Paratech struts were placed into service on Squad 91. The old Junkyard dogs were relocated to the coffin compartments if needed for added stabilization.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: D. Strange gave the President's report for the month of February. The QFC continues to pursue Department of Health Licensing for BLS services, issue being the need for a joint handbook being developed for QFC/FTFD#1 staff pursuant to DOH guidelines.

Additionally, the QFC voted to contract with Renda Road Inc for the paving of the lot at 67 Quakertown Rd. to include the areas from the apron of the bays to the entrance of the Kingman property. Work to be completed June/July 2020.

The QFC voted at the March business meeting to hire a full-time employee that will hold the rank of

Battalion Chief.

The QFC voted to place the property at 2 Quakertown Road for sale due to declining interest in the live-in program.

The yearly Audit was performed with several minor changes suggested to the Executive Board that are currently being addressed to fall in line with the Auditor recommendations.

Additionally, installation of energy efficient lighting has continued with LEDs being installed in the rear entrance and the parking lot floodlights.

OLD BUSINESS: C. Patkochis inquired of D. Desaulniers regarding the LED headlight replacement. Nothing further at this time, per D. Desaulniers and may wait to the end of the year.

G. Reichert advised that vouchers for Franklin Township quarterly stipends have been submitted for payments. C. Patkochis advised that the first quarterly check was received in a timely manner.

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn at 6:53 PM by G. Reichert, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Ennis, Secretary

Charles Patkochis, President