

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1
Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2020

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 238th 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 6:00 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.

OATH OF OFFICE: The Oath of Office of Commissioner was administered to Charles Patkochis who was elected during the November, 2020 General Election, by Recording Secretary, E. Ennis

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021: Following a short discussion, Commissioners agreed that the positions they are presently holding should stay the same.

G. Reichert made a Motion to keep all positions the same for 2021, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH: A Motion to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting was made by G. Reichert, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: G. Reichert advised of a total income of \$ 811.00 and expenses totaling \$26,679. 82 for the period of November 11, 2020 through December 7, 2020.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of November 11, 2020 through December 7, 2020 was made by P. Enea, seconded by H. Laine. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS: C. Patkochis presented Resolutions 2020-24 through 2020-36 covering the time period of December 7, 2020 through December 14, 2021, reading the Title and Description of each.

- **RESOLUTION 2020-24** **APPOINTING FIRE INSPECTOR** (David Sulpy) at a rate of \$19.00 per hour.

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, G. Reichert made the Motion; 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 2020-25** **APPOINTING FIRE OFFICIAL** (Richard Dziminski) at a

rate of \$22.00 per hour.

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, G. Reichert made the Motion; 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 2020-26** **APPOINTING FIRE DISTRICT RECORDING SECRETARY** (Elise Ennis) at a rate of \$ 20.00 per hour

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, G. Reichert made the Motion; 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 2020-27** **APPOINTING ATTORNEY** (RichardM. Braslow, Esq)

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, G. Reichert made the Motion; 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 2020-28** **APPOINTING ACCOUNTANT** (William M. Colantano of Bedard, Kurowicki and Co.)

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, G. Reichert made the Motion; 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 2020-29** **ADOPTION OF CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, G. Reichert made the Motion; 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 2020-30** **AUTHORIZING REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, G. Reichert made the Motion; 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 2020-31** **DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, G. Reichert made the Motion; 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 2020-32** **AUTHORIZING APPROVAL AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, G. Reichert made the Motion; 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 2020-33** **ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAM TO CHARGE MITIGATION RATES FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY**

SERVICES BY QFC FOR THE FIRE DISTRICT

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, G. Reichert made the Motion; 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 2020-34 ENTERING INTO INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH A
NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED COOPERATIVE ENTITY
FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING FIRE
APPARATUS**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, G. Reichert made the Motion; 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 2020-35 DESIGNATING SURETY BONDING FOR
COMMISSIONERS**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, G. Reichert made the Motion; 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 2020-36 APPOINTING AUDITOR (William
M. Colantano of Bedard, Kurowicki and Co.)**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, G. Reichert made the Motion; 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.

C. Patkochis advised that B. Crampton would continue working one day a week as a Per Diem employee for the Fire District in 2021. Compensation will be \$ 23.00 per hour.

G. Reichert made a Motion, seconded by P. Enea to approve B. Crampton as a Per Diem employee at the rate of \$23.00 per hour. All in favor, Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2020-23 The Budget for 2021 was read a second time by C. Patkochis with no comments or corrections needed. The Budget totals \$ 500,000.00 with \$ 392,000.00 to be raised by the Fire Tax.

G. Reichert made a Motion to approve the 2021 Budget, 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.

G. Reichert reported that the Fire Marshal Ordinances have been given to the Franklin Township Committee. It is not clear if they will be approved prior to the end of the year as there is only one meeting left and that is a workshop, not a public meeting. The first meeting of 2021 is January 14, 2021 which is after the first meeting of the Fire District. G. Reichert will find out when they will be on the agenda at a public meeting.

C. Patkochis read the Fire Protection Agreement between the Franklin Township Fire District No. 1 and the Quakertown Fire Company. The District will pay the QFC for services on a quarterly basis in 2021, totaling \$ 115,000.00.

P. Enea made a Motion to approve the Agreement with QFC for services, 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.

C. Patkochis presented a list of equipment requested by the QFC. The list was put out for bid with the following results:

CONTINENTAL FIRE – 10 set of Fire Service Harness \$218.70 each - Total		\$ 2187.20
4 set of Rescue Harness \$ 463.80 each		\$ 1855.20
10 pair of gloves \$ 61.40 each		\$ 614.00
TOTAL		<hr/> \$ 4656.20
WITMER FIRE STORE – 3 Strap Model UMVS 1625 11 \$29. Each		Total \$ 87.00
1 Strap Model UMVS 2544 11 \$38.		38.00
2 Strap Model UMVS 0565 11 \$24.		24.00
2 Pole Mounts \$32		64.00
4 Chest Harness \$195.		780.00
1 Extension Ladder \$575.		575.00
Freight (Ladder)		200.00
3 Helmets \$259.		777.00
3 Helmet fronts \$37.		111.00
TOTAL		<hr/> \$ 2680.00
FIRE FIGHTER ONE - 2 Scott Pak \$2078.47		Total \$ 4156.93
2 Scott Cylinders 885.84		1771.68
TOTAL		<hr/> \$ 5928.61

Total for equipment from three vendors totals \$ 13,264.81. There is money available in the Operating and Equipment budgets to make these purchases.

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

H. Laine reported on the progress of the Policy Handbook and that, for the most part, the needed changes in verbiage have been made. Would like to have another meeting with representatives of QFC to go over the Handbook one last time before presenting a final draft, hopefully this will be accomplished before year end.

C. Patkochis reported that, to date, the Squad has been advertised on Social Media for sale with some interest within the County. Unfortunately, it is not an option to have it sold through a Broker to another agency due to it being owned by the District. There was discussion about how to proceed if it does not sell locally or within NJ. Gov Deals, additional advertising (costly), etc were discussed. A new piece of apparatus cannot be purchased without the sale of the Squad being completed first. Additional efforts will be made to expedite the sale. It will be sold with all equipment.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised of 7 Inspections, 6 smoke certifications, 3 re-inspections and 3 permits for the month of November, per the report submitted. C. Patkochis noted that the Fire Marshal has done an outstanding job this year, far exceeding the estimated budgetary responsibility at \$20,681.00 to date.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: D. Desaulniers reported 62 calls for the month of November. The QFC meetings have returned to Virtual. The QFC continues to monitor the

Department of Health guidelines regarding COVID 19 protocols and will adapt policies for safety as needed. There will be a Hydraulic Tool demonstration next week and the Chief would like anyone from the District who would like to attend to do so. The QFC would like to thank the FTFD for their continued support to the QFC over the past year and looks forward to working together next year.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: J. Nieliwodski advised that the QFC would like to have a representative from the District on their Career Member Committee and feels this will help keep the lines of communication open. G. Reichert and P. Enea, who represent the District in QFC matters will sit on the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:38PM by P. Enea, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Ennis

Charles Patkochis, President