

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2021

The meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 250th 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 September 14, 2021 meeting was made by G. Reichert and seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: G. Reichert advised of a total income of \$332.33 and expenses totaling \$52,513.58 for the period of September 15, 2021 through October 12, 2021. The major expense during this period was the quarterly payment to QFC for Fire Protection Services.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of September 15, 2021 through October 12, 2021 was made by P. Enea, seconded by G. Reichert. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye; H. Laine, aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

C. Patkochis advised that the Budget for 2022 needs to be created and as per the auditors, needs to be presented at the November Board Meeting and voted on at the December Board Meeting. C. Patkochis proposed a Budget workshop take place on Saturday, October 30, 2021 at 10AM to work on the Budget. It was agreed that this was a convenient time for all Board members to attend. The Special Meeting will be advertised and posted by E. Ennis. Additionally, C. Patkochis asked G. Reichert to obtain the required information from the Franklin Township CFO that is due no later than October 25, 2021.

G. Reichert updated the Board on the status of accessing online banking for himself and E. Ennis. The type of account that we presently have does not allow for online access so the bank is providing a new agreement to be signed providing us with a preliminary log on and password with individual access provided to G. Reichert and E. Ennis so that periodic checks are possible.

C. Patkochis advised that the lights have been installed on the new Tahoe. D. Desaulniers advised that mics need to be mounted as well as the console in the back. High Bridge Fire is donating a console that will be retrofitted. He estimated that the Tahoe should be put in service in a week once these items are complete.

C. Patkochis has forwarded copies of the Agreements to both Alexandria and Union Townships and on the advice of the Attorney, has contacted each Mayor as a follow-up for their input.

C. Patkochis asked for an update on the Public Relations Committee. G. Reichert reported that there has been nothing new since the open house attended by Union Twp. Committee-elect members. He said he

felt it was well received and it would be beneficial to have Alexandria and Franklin Twp. Committees brought up to date with the services we provide.

H. Laine reported that there are two of our policies that are affected by the Marijuana Use Policy implementation. Minor language changes have been added to those policies adding “may or should” to the affect that the hiring of an individual cannot be based solely on testing.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised of 5 Inspections, 5 Smoke Certs, 3 Re-inspections and 1 Permit issued in September. The Fire Marshal would like to purchase a case of smoke testing spray at the cost of \$ 79., a major savings over the old cost of approximately \$300 per case. Additionally, his report indicated that a pair of used medical gloves was left in the Fire Marshal’s vehicle and also that inside of the driver’s side door is in need of repair which will be addressed by Ralph Anthony Auto. A DFS monitoring visit took place on 10/1/21.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: D. Desaulniers reported 99 calls for service in the month of September. Members conducted vehicle maintenance and engine company operations. QFC has responded to several traumatic events this month resulting in Medevac landings. He advised that they continue to provide standbys for community events as well as work toward self-sufficiency in water rescue capabilities. 28 members are actively pursuing Operations and Technician level training to be completed by the Spring of 2022. QFC has formed a work group to identify the equipment needs for water rescue personnel. This information will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib reported a successful Open House on 10/11 where 3 candidate volunteer members were interviewed. Back ground checks for them will take place in the coming weeks in hopes to bring them before the membership for vote in November.

A fundraising BBQ was held at South Ridge Community Church as well as a BBQ at the Califon Fire Golf Outing. We also provided parking services and sold food at the 2021 Alexandria Autumnfest.

The membership voted on the removal of on volunteer firefighter for lack of attendance and a removal letter is being drafter to send.

OLD BUSINESS: G. Reichert noted as a follow up to applying for FEMA assistance due to Hurricane IDA, that his research revealed we did not have sufficient damage or expense to file a claim.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:01 PM by P. Enea, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Ennis

Charles Patkochis, President