

## **Franklin Township Fire District No. 1**

### **Meeting Minutes**

September 14, 2021

The meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 249th 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:** A Motion to accept the minutes of the August, 2021 meeting with noted corrections by G. Reichert, was made by E. Kolibas and seconded by G. Reichert. All in favor, Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** G. Reichert advised of a total income of \$ 187,687.98 and expenses totaling \$8639.83 for the period of August 11, 2021 through September 14, 2021

Motion to pay the bills for the period of August 11, 2021 through September 14, 2021 was made by G. Reichert, seconded by P. Enea. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:**

C. Patkochis advised that online banking should be explored as it would be helpful to be able to log in to our banking periodically to track electronic transfers, etc., throughout the month. G. Reichert will be contacting TD Bank to find out how to proceed.

C. Patkochis updated the Board on the status of the lighting installation on Car 2 (New Tahoe) Car 2 has been at East Coast Lighting in Kennelworth since the first of September. According to their service manager, they are still waiting on additional parts. G. Reichert inquired if they sustained any storm damage and they apparently had quite a bit but our vehicle was not effected.

C. Patkochis reported that he had been in touch with both the attorney and auditor regarding contracts with Union and Alexandria and both agree that a contract is necessary. A copy of proposed contracts with Alexandria and Union were provided to each member of the Board to review. It was agreed that we need to execute these contracts before the 2022 budget is made so that we know what we are working with financially for next year. C. Patkochis has called the Mayor of Alexandria Township to request a meeting.

C. Patkochis asked for an update on the progress of the Public Relations Committee. R. Geib reported that a very successful event was held on 9/13 here at QFC with members of the committee and two prospective members of the Union Township Committee. An overview of the QFC was provided, slide show and tour of the facility along with a comprehensive explanation of how Fire Districts work in conjunction with the fire service and what services are provided to Union Twp. R. Geib felt the event was well received and hopes it will support our efforts to receive funding more proportionately appropriate for the services provided.

C. Patkochis inquired if any FEMA applications had been made for the September 1-2 storm. G. Reichert said that he had no knowledge of a claim but would investigate further. R. Geib advised of the same. Both were advised by C. Patkochis that there may be reimbursement available for some of the resources used.

**FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:** C. Patkochis gave the report. There were 5 Inspections, 4 Smoke Certs, 4 Re-inspections. The Fire Marshal has finished archiving old reports.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT:** R. Medine read D. Desaulnier's report. There were 65 calls for service in the month of August with 2 fires in Alexandria and one in Union Twp. September 1, 2021 was a significant storm with extreme flooding and water rescues. Due to the flooding being widespread, mutual aid resources were unavailable and revealed that additional resources for water rescues are needed. A list of needed equipment is being compiled to be presented and options for operations and technician level training outside of HCESTC are being looked into to expedite the necessary training. C. Patkochis asked for a list of equipment to be provided for budget purposes.

Additionally, the QFC had originally discussed having the District look into replacing Tender 1. The officers of QFC have decided that rather than purchasing a new Tender, they would like the District to purchase Ladder 91 from QFC for the remaining balance of the loan. C. Patkochis advised the Chief and President to find out the payoff of the loan ASAP and that it would need to be added to the 2022 budget.

Finally R. Medine advised that a vehicle demonstration of an F-550 Tac truck did not meet the needs of the QFC but they are looking into some changes that may make the vehicle a suitable choice.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** R. Geib reported that a family and friend level CPR class in an effort to reach out to the community to build relations and help in recruitment. Additionally, Tiffany Senevirante joined the ranks of the Junior membership. She is a first year biology student at Drexel University and resident of Alexandria. She will be volunteering with EMS during school breaks.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:02 PM by P. Enea, seconded by G. Reichert. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elise Ennis

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Charles Patkochis, President