

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021

The meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 243rd 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 March 9, 2021 meeting was made by G. Reichert, with a minor spelling correction noted and seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: G. Reichert advised of a total income of \$ 88194.25 having received the quarterly Fire Tax Payment from Franklin Township and expenses totaling \$41185.68 of which the first quarter payment to Quakertown Fire Company was a large portion, for the period of March 10, 2021 through April 13, 2021.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of March 10, 2021 through April 13, 2021 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. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

G. Reichert advised on the status of the Fire Marshal Ordinance revisions with Franklin Township Committee. He reported that they were adopted at the 4/8/2021 meeting without changes to any of the proposed fees. Any changes were in format only. The will be published on 4/22/2021.

H. Laine reported that the Policy Handbook has been revised to include a title box for each individual policy. He asked for clarification on the Residency Policy and ER Response. Residency Policy was briefly discussed and deemed to be irrelevant. It will be removed. ER Response also discussed and will be worded to reflect having the proper CURRENT certification to act in the capacity of which you are trained, regardless of the type of call you are present at. C. Patkochis thanked H. Laine for a job well done, the changes made were perfect and made the document much more user friendly. The entire Board was extremely grateful for the hard work that went into this document. The changes will be made and a Resolution will be made at the next meeting to adopt the Policy Handbook.

P. Enea reported on repairs to equipment that are currently in progress or needed. Tender 2 batteries have been replaced. C. Patkochis advised this is the most utilized of equipment and repairs should be made that are needed so it stays in service. Low voltage alarm, test alternator, etc. Service can be done here. Engine 91 Shocks were replaced, check engine light revealed a header needed to be replaced (under Warranty) which brought on another issue with a wiring short being discovered (not under Warranty) but the cause

of the electrical short being the result of the technician having lifted the cab to make the repair and water that had collected running directly into the wiring area. This is being disputed with the company. Also, paint bubbling which Pierce will pay for and we take to a local shop. Additionally, dump valve issues and pump governor. P. Enea reported that all extinguishers were inspected and serviced.

C. Patkochis reported on the status of the generator service contract. We received a quote from Limitless Power Solutions who will provide twice yearly service for \$ 450.00. This is \$ 100.00 less than the new owner of Mt Salem Electric has quoted.

G. Reichert made a Motion to award the contract for generator service to Limitless Power Solutions, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis reported that he received a quote for a new Chief's Vehicle and it was a great deal but unfortunately it was learned that the company is not under State Contract. We will be investigating obtaining the vehicle through the available Co-ops we belong to and update at next meeting. The Auditor has advised that as long as we are under State Contract it does not have to go out for bid. Vehicles are very difficult to come by and ordering a vehicle is not an option at this time.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised the report includes 6 Inspections, 4 Smoke Certs 2 Re-Inspections and two permits. The Fire Marshal also sent out 12-13 Registered Letters for properties who have not responded to letters and visits to get registered. C. Patkochis also reported that the DEP is aware of issues at Rich's Tree Service with mulch piles and soil conservation issues.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: The Chief reported 83 calls for the month which is high considering none were the result of bad weather issues. The QFC participated in mandatory refresher courses, CPR, FIT testing and Engine Company Operations. D. Desaulniers also updated the Board on the purchase of a demo set of Holmatro Rescue Tools from ESI. They are on State Bid and a quote should be sent to the Clerk email. There was a brief discussion on having the ladder on the Ladder Truck serviced at regular intervals. F+S does this for High Bridge based on use. This will be investigated further as needed.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib reported that the QFC continues to seek additional Career Members. Two candidates are presented tonight, Chris Querry and Kyle Varin. They have completed the application process, have been approved by the QFC and are currently in the background process and have physical exams to complete. The QFC also participated in the virtual training course : Step Up and Lead by Deputy Chief, Retired, Frank Viscuso. It was attended by 20 plus members and was well received. P. Enea agreed that this course was very informative.

NEW BUSINESS: P. Enea advised that Board members should be checking their email for financial disclosure updates from the Township and are required to update when requested. This is done electronically through a link from the Township Financial Office.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM by E. Kolibas, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Ennis

Charles Patkochis, President