

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2021

The meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 248th 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 July 13, 2021 meeting 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 \$ 3520.00 and expenses totaling \$34,827.54 for the period of July 14, 2021 through August 10, 2021.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of July 14, 2021 through August 10, 2021 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:

H. Laine gave an update on the information he had gathered regarding the Marijuana Use policy and how it affects the District. After speaking with the insurance carrier it appears that our policies do not have to be changed. It was discussed briefly and agreed that any instance of use would be dealt with on a case by case basis and ultimately we cannot decline a perspective employee a job based on a positive marijuana test but that any positive test while in the line of duty would be dealt with on a law enforcement level. C. Patkochis advised that he has been in touch with Attorney Braslow who advised him that a sub-committee meeting would be held on 8/22/21, one day after the policy would become effective, to debate the issue where police/fire/EMS is directly involved.

G. Reichert advised that he had been in touch with Franklin Twp CFO regarding our quarterly payment that has not been received. The CFO was looking into the issue. G. Reichert will be following up on the issue.

P. Enea advised that Engine 91 is back from the paint repair and looks good. C. Patkochis advised that the Engine and Ladder pumps need to be serviced well t the Aerial Ladder Testing. Total \$2900 to complete. P. Enea made a motion to spend \$2900 for the service, seconded by G. Reichert. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis inquired if the QFC had established a Public Relations committee. R. Geib advised that he QFC committee is comprised of himself, M. Papenfuhs and other members of the QFC. G. Reichert and H. Laine will represent the District. A meeting is scheduled for August 30, time to be determined, to have representatives from Union Twp Committee tour the facilities, meet with our committee members and get an overall introduction to Fire District and QFC and the services we provide to their Township. The hope is to clarify the difference between the District and the QFC. We will arrange a meeting with Alexandria Twp with the same goal in mind.

C. Patkochis advised that he had spoken with Attorney Braslow regarding contract with the Twps. Of Union and Alexandria and while not mandatory, he would recommend. It was agreed as a whole that we should pursue this for budgetary considerations going forward. G. Reichert commented that the way we do business is similar to a school board and maybe that would make a contract easier to understand for the Twps. P. Enea added that the Twps shouldn't do business without a contract.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis gave the report. There were 2 Inspections, 6 Smoke Certs, 5 Re-inspections and 1 permit. The Fire Marshal is working on archiving old reports.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: D. Desaulnier's report was read by C. Patkochis. He reports 90 calls for the month of July. The QFC members trained in Engine Company Operations, Truck Company Operations and did various repairs and maintenance on the building and equipment.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib reported that there are two new Junior members that have been approved. Nathan is a 17 yo from Pittstown, soon to be 18 and will hopefully attend fire school then and Russell who is 14 yo from Hampton. Additionally, C. Patkochis advised R. Geib that Career Member Applicant O'Connell's background report was done with no issues. R. Geib asked if background checks needed to be done for Junior Members. C. Patkochis advised they should be done when they reach the age of 18 and become a regular member.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:53 PM by P. Enea, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Ennis

Charles Patkochis, President