

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2021

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 240th 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 December 7, 2020 meeting was made by G. Reichert, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF END OF YEAR MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 29, 2020: A Motion to accept the minutes of the December 29, 2020 End of Year meeting was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: G. Reichert advised of a total income of \$ 97,600.00 and expenses totaling \$71,190.74 for the period of January 1, 2021 through January 12, 2021.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of January 1, 2021 through January 12, 2021 was made by P. Enea, seconded by G. Reichert. 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 reported that the proposed Ordinances from the Fire Marshal have been submitted to the Franklin Township Committee but it is not clear exactly when they will appear on their agenda. Their next public meeting is January 28th.

C. Patkochis asked that G. Reichert make sure that the vouchers for quarterly Fire Tax payments to the District from Franklin Township have been submitted. G. Reichert will get them from B. Crampton and do so and also follow up with them periodically.

C. Patkochis requested an update from H. Laine on the status of the Policy Handbook. H. Laine advised that he it has been revised and at this point would like to have one more meeting with the QFC to make sure everything is inline with them. It can be published to a shared folder on Office 365. C. Patkochis advised that we need to wrap this up so that it is in place by next meeting. H. Laine agrees and will make every effort to complete it.

C. Patkochis asked for input from representatives of the QFC present and the Commissioners regarding their thoughts on future large purchases, i.e. Tenders, car or pick up truck and additional needs. Please

prepare accordingly to discuss at future meetings. Keeping in mind that we will be purchasing directly and not utilizing financing as this process is very labor-intensive and costly. D. Desaulniers added that prices for apparatus will be rising in the next month.

C. Patkochis gave an update on the sale of Squad 91. On January 9, 2021 a check for the balance of \$96,000 was received from Oldwick Fire Co. and they took delivery. C. Patkochis advised that the Squad has been dropped from the insurance.

C. Patkochis gave the following assignments to Commissioners to be the liaison to the QFC:

Purchasing: C. Patkochis and E. Kolibas
Financials and Insurance: G. Reichert and E. Ennis
QFC Executive and Line Officers: G. Reichert and H. Laine
Repairs and Maintenance: P. Enea

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis read the report for the Month of December 2020. 2 Inspections, 4 Smoke Certs and 3 Re-Inspections. They are in the process of mailing 65-70 Non-Life Registration forms to businesses. There was a discussion on a couple of local properties housing commercial businesses that may not be on the list, specifically, the Stryker property where there is a trucking business and greenhouses that are not registered. This will be relayed to the Fire Marshal. The office will be staffed on Monday and Wednesday or Thursday.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: D. Desaulniers submitted a detailed report of end of 2020 statistics for the QFC which included 679 total emergency calls. He reported 17 calls for service to date for 2021. He thanked the Commissioners for their continued support of the QFC and looks forward to future projects in the coming months.

A supervisor and deputy supervisor have been appointed to handle the day to day operations. These supervisors have been given the rank of Lieutenant. A list of Operational officers for 2021 was submitted and is attached.

Covid-19 vaccines are being offered through the County OEM. The QFC is tracking members that have been vaccinated.

Deputy Chief B. Patkochis sent out an email with suggestions of ways the District could help QFC with funding projects in the coming year, most notably, the hiring of a Grant Writer to assist in obtaining grant monies. This would be especially beneficial for large capital purchases. This suggestion was well received by the District and seen as a necessary tool in obtaining grants.

Additionally, D. Desaulniers advised that the QFC would like to obtain quotes for LED headlights for all the vehicles. It is a costly undertaking, potentially more than \$ 500 per light, but seen as a needed addition as the headlights are often overwhelmed when emergency lights are activated. D. Desaulniers will sit down with B. Crampton to get prices.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President R. Geib gave the report. See attached list of Executive Officers, Operational Officers and Trustees for 2021.

QFC has reached a settlement with Century Link for the repair of the damaged parking lot from the falling transformer. All other claims have been withdrawn.

A Superbowl Sunday BBQ fundraiser is planned for February 7, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS: C. Patkochis would like to look into either a snowblower or plow for the pick up to both take care of snow removal on the property as well as an advance response vehicle to clear access for emergency calls. There was a brief discussion regarding potential liability on other's property but it is something to consider for our property maintenance. More information will be gathered for the next meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Ennis

Charles Patkochis, President