

## Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

### Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2021

The meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 245th 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.

C. Patkochis announced the Public Hearing to discuss the Capital Project purchase of a Chief's Vehicle. There being no public in attendance for the Public Hearing, C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:32 PM. The Motion was made by G. Reichert, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH:** A Motion to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting was made by E. Kolibas and seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** G. Reichert advised of a total income of \$ 32,286.64 and expenses totaling \$83,981.69 for the period of May 12, 2021 through June 8, 2021.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of May 12, 2021 through June 8, 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:**

C. Patkochis announced the Public Hearing at 6:33PM to discuss the Capital Project purchase of a Chief's Vehicle. There being no public in attendance for the Public Hearing, C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:34 PM. The Motion was made by G. Reichert, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2021-06 PURCHASE OF CHIEF'S VEHICLE THROUGH CAPITAL PROJECT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000.** C. Patkochis read the Resolution to make the purchase of the 2021 Chevy Tahoe from Hertrich Fleet Services in the amount of \$ 36,671.60 under NJ State Contract, with the remaining amount to purchase equipment for the vehicle and lettering.

G. Reichert made the Motion to purchase the vehicle, seconded by P. Enea. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis read the quote from East Coast Lighting for the purchase of lights and radios for the new Chief's Vehicle under NJ State Contract in the amount of \$ 10,609.28. H. Laine made the Motion to award the contract, seconded by G. Reichert. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis read a quote from Aerial Testing Company in the amount of \$1295.00 for perform inspection and testing on Ladder 91. G. Reichert made a Motion to award the contract, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to approve the purchase of set of Extrication Tools from ESI in the amount of \$ 27,955.70. H. Laine made the Motion, seconded by G. Reichert. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis inquired of R. Medine, representing the QFC, if there is an update on the delivery of the new Extrication Tools. R. Medine advised that the Chief has sent an email requesting a delivery date.

C. Patkochis reviewed the Recreational Marijuana Use policy supplied by Attorney Braslow that had been distributed via email to members of the Board for review and comment. H. Laine inquired how it would impact policies already in place and advised that he would research and report at a later date. A group discussion expressed concerns regarding hiring process, testing procedures, accidents, etc. The impact on insurance was also discussed. R. Geib advised that he had also researched this and feels guidance will be needed to handle the issues properly as they pertain to volunteers and employees alike.

C. Patkochis advised that there are two Commissioner seats coming up for the November Election. A notice has been posted in the Express Times and Commissioners wishing to run for re-election should complete the process to appear on the ballot according to the timeline supplied by the County Clerk's office.

P. Enea reported on the Engine 91 paint repair quote received to repair bubbling paint. The quote covers warranty work that will be reimbursed by Pierce in the amount of \$ 3600. The work will be performed by Elizabeth Truck Center. Tender 2 is back in service.

C. Patkochis advised that VFIS had supplied a quote for the Accident and Sickness insurance policy in the amount of \$4388.00, same amount as last year. G. Reichert made a Motion to purchase the policy from VFIS, seconded by H. Laine. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

G. Reichert advised that the Fire Marshall Ordinances have been re-done, revisions approved by R. Dziminski will be reviewed by Township Committee at their worksession on Thursday.

**FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:** The Fire Marshall reported 10 Inspections, 3 Smoke Certs, 1 Re-inspection and 5 Permits with zero complaints. All 2021 registrations have been paid. There was a discussion regarding findings at Garden State Growers that were of a major concern. R. Dziminski reported finding a food truck being operated on the property inside a pole building supplying food to employees. He is working with Garden State Growers to fix this and other problems on the property.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT:** R. Medine gave the Chief's report. He reported 62 called for the month of May. The fire company participated in ladder and draft operations drills.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** R. Geib reported a successful barbecue fundraiser to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the QFC re-organization on May 16<sup>th</sup>. They also participated in the annual Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremony remembering the 5 men of Franklin Township who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II, along with all other brave men and women who died for our country. The QFC is in receipt of the District policies and will be incorporating and distribute them to the QFC membership as well as making them readable only on the One Drive.

**NEW BUSINESS:** An open discussion was held with all in attendance regarding the development of a committee to work on public relations with the municipalities we service. The hope is to make them aware of the amount of time and effort availed to them on a regular basis where their own emergency

services may be falling short. In an effort to bring this awareness a meeting will be held in the near future to establish a committee to educate and represent the FTFD and QFC. Meeting to be determined.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:20 PM by P. Enea, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elise Ennis

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Charles Patkochis, President