

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021

The meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 244th 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 April 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 \$ 843.81 and expenses totaling \$14,787.83 for the period of April 14, 2021 through May 11, 2021.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of April 14, 2021 through May 11, 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 advised that R. Dziminski and G. Reichert would be making some clarifications on the Fire Marshall Ordinances that were recently revised and submitted to the Franklin Township Committee for approval. It was originally reported that no changes were made but after reviewing, R. Dziminski advised that there were changes made and asked for an explanation. R. Dziminski and G. Reichert met with Franklin Township Committeemen, Donaruma and Homulak to discuss where it was learned that changes had been made to align the ordinances and fire code. Specifically, fire alarms being reset and damage to equipment were discussed as well as proposed fees. Non-compliance is easier to address with a Municipal ordinance violation than the Uniform Fire Code. R. Dziminski was satisfied with the outcome of the meeting and feels that going forward meeting as a working group to discuss the matters would be beneficial and create a more transparent exchange of information. G. Reichert also felt the meeting was a positive experience.

RESOLUTION 2021-03 ADOPTION OF THE POLICY HANDBOOK

C. Patkochis read the Resolution for the Adoption of the Policy Handbook. There being no additional changes suggested a Motion was made by G. Reichert, seconded by P. Enea to adopt the Policy Handbook. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried. C. Patkochis thanked H. Laine for his efforts in completing the revisions and recognized what a big job it was.

RESOLUTION 2021-04 PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE FOR PURCHASE OF CHIEF'S VEHICLE THROUGH CAPITAL PROJECT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000.

C. Patkochis read the Resolution announcing a Public Hearing on June 8, 2021 at the District Meeting regarding the proposed purchase of a Chief's Vehicle. The vehicle itself will cost approximately \$36,700.

With the remainder of the proposed monies used to purchase equipment, radios and lettering. A Motion was made by G. Reichert, seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2021-05 APPROVING THE 2020 AUDIT REPORT

C. Patkochis read the Resolution approving the 2020 Audit Report provided by BKC-CPA. The report made one minor recommendation regarding Political Disclosure forms be received from all of our Vendors to insure they are not making or receiving Political contributions in exchange for business. A form will be provided by BKC-CPA to facilitate us receiving the information. G. Reichert made a Motion to accept the report, seconded by H. Laine. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis reported that three bids to purchase a set of Holmatro Tools for the QFC had been received. The QFC proposed the purchase of a set of tools used for demonstration purposes that would be available at a reduced price, have a 1 year service warranty and would include 8 hours of training, delivery and set up, are cordless and portable. The price is \$ 27955.70 through vendor ESI. This is a \$10,000 savings over the purchase of new. A Motion was made by P. Enea, seconded by G. Reichert to purchase the tools. All in favor, Motion carried.

P. Enea reported on various vehicle repairs that are currently underway. Tender II repairs are done and it should be back today. Additional issue of a bad rust condition will need to be addressed but not this year as repairs are not under warranty. Gussets were repaired under warranty. Engine 91 has a bubbling paint issue which is under warranty and B. Crampton will research repair at Pierce's cost at a local paint shop. The air conditioning in Rescue 91 seems to be malfunctioning on and off. D. Desaulniers suggested that he and C. Milcarek have a look at it before sending it out for an expensive repair, could be something simple. B. Crampton will get a price on testing for the Aerial Ladder. P. Enea advised that all of the extinguishers need to be inspected and serviced. C. Patkochis advised that Dependable does this.

C. Patkochis brought up the subject of pool fills and asked for input from the Board on continuing this practice vs wear and tear on equipment. C. Patkochis advised that he felt that if it all possible Tender 2 should not be used due to the recent expense and extent of repairs. G. Reichert expressed his concern at the road time used but also felt it was a good public relations resource that many locals have come to rely on. D. Desaulniers advised that for the most part Tender 1 was being used if the drivers were trained to use the manual transmission so the use of Tender 2 would be at a minimum. C. Patkochis advised that he would propose \$ 25.00 per load be paid to the District and the use of Tender 1 if at all possible but if need be, Tender 2 could be used. D. Desaulniers agreed. The Board is in agreement with this plan.

Additionally, C. Patkochis reported that there had been an issue recently regarding a request for an inspection from an employee which resulted in him workout outside of his job description for that day. It was discussed with R. Dziminski and D. Desaulniers who both felt it could be kept to a minimum going forward and not become a regular practice. Future inspections will be done only as scheduling permits and unless an absolute emergency will not be done outside the scope of the employee's job description that day. G. Reichert advised that he can do inspections as well.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: R. Dziminski reported approximately 6 inspections for April, some were not logged by the inspector, 2 smoke certs, 1 reinspection and 1 permit. 3rd Notices were sent out for overdue registrations. Spoke with NJDEP regarding Rich's Tree Service, wanted to make sure the Bureau of Fire Prevention was aware of their operation. ESP Inspection software now on the Cloud.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: D. Desaulnier reported 58 incidents in the month of April. The QFC conducted training in Engine Company operations, Ladder Company operations and performed general maintenance on the vehicles. D. Desaulniers reported that the QFC had received

quotes for the tool purchase to replace tools that were sold with Squad 91, were outdated and would be placed on Engine 91.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib advised that C. Querry and K. Varin had recently started their employment at QFC after being hired last month. QFC celebrated 70 years since the reorganization of the fire company and will hold a commemorative barbecue fundraiser on Sunday, May 16th.

NEW BUSINESS: G. Reichert advised that Financial Disclosure emails had been sent out by the Township with an extension to June 30th to be completed.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, a Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:25 PM by G. Reichert, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Ennis

Charles Patkochis, President