

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2022

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 262nd 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 12, 2022 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 \$148,455.68 and expenses totaling \$33,500.32 for the period of July 13, 2022 through August 9, 2022.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of July 13, 2022 through August 9, 2022 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:

C. Patkochis presented Resolution 2022-04 to authorize the application for a grant through the NJ Department of Community Affairs. Through this grant we hope to obtain approximately \$65,020.00 to facilitate the purchase of a gear washer and dryer and 10 sets of turnout gear. A Motion was made by G. Reichert, seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aya; P. Enea, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis updated the Board on the status of contracts with Alexandria and Union Townships. Payment has been received from Union Township but not a contract. Nothing has been received from Alexandria. C. Patkochis recommended giving an addition 2-3 weeks and then go meet with them to advise in person that without the required signed contract the District would no longer be able to provide services. It was agreed that beginning 1/2023 they should be advised they are on their own for fire protection if we do not have a signed contract.

Discussion continues on the purchase of a new Brush or Tender. It was agreed that a new Tender is out of the question financially and we should continue to make the repairs as needed. This is not ideal with a 30 year old truck but at this point we are left with no affordable options. QFC has formed a committee to look into a new Brush truck.

C. Patkochis advised that QFC has presented an application for membership from William Fleck. W. Fleck is highly qualified and has completed the application process. A motion was made by G. Reichert, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, motion carried. Additionally, Frank Hahola will go from Life Member status to Active. P. Enea made a motion, seconded by G. Reichert. All in favor, motion carried.

P. Enea provided the following update on vehicle maintenance and repairs:

Tender 1: Front tires need to be replaced. A quote for \$1179 from Performance was received (State Bid). E. Kolibas made a motion, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, motion carried. Additionally, rear fill valves need repair/replace and rear lights have a ground issues looked into

Car 1: Driver side rear had a slow leak in the tire. Ralph's repaired it.

Car 2: Scheduled for Cradle Point internet service install.

Tender 2: Due for service, oil, filters, brake check and adjustments. Will be scheduled at BCI. Pump was serviced by Fire and Safety and during service the following was discovered: All discharge gauges were out of calibration by 30 to 40 lbs., Hale primer valve not working. Master intake and discharge gauge out of calibration, diagnostic display improper. Repair of pump issues approved.

Rescue 91: AC not working, Cascade system bottles are due for hydrostatic testing. Per C. Patkochis recommend holding off on testing for now.

Engine 91: Due for service, oil, filters, brake check and adjustments. Schedule with BCI approved. Holmatro tools were serviced and it was discovered that a cutter was damaged costing \$2700 to replace with new jaw. P. Enea made a motion to fix the tool, seconded by G. Reichert. All in favor, motion carried. Pump was serviced by Fire and Safety. During service foam gauge was not working properly, large diameter hose discharge was leaking. Several gauges are broken (should be under warranty) Pump drain is leaking, passenger side front discharge drain is stuck. Repairs authorized above what is under warranty.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised of 1 Inspection, 5 Smoke Certs and 7 Reinspections. The Fire Marshal will be out of the area beginning 8/20 through 8/25.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT Captain Medine advised of 63 calls. Drill on Water supply was held. Day time staffing continues to be a concern. QFC Line officers are meeting to discuss wish list for new Brush truck.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib reported 4 members completed CPR training. Members and their families enjoyed the annual picnic. Octoberfest will be held this year and has obtained major sponsor already.

OLD BUSINESS: Pertaining to the discussion of last month regarding the process for approving membership, it was agreed that the Board should continue to approve membership for insurance purposes.

NEW BUSINESS: C. Patkochis relayed that with the resignation of the Fire Marshal due to personal reasons and G. Reichert resigning from the Board because he is moving out of Franklin Township, the Board would like to have G. Reichert remain in the capacity of Fire Marshal going forward. G. Reichert would be amenable to this and holds all of the required certifications, resulting in a seamless transition requiring minimal training. This will leave an opening on the Board of Fire Commissioners to be filled. Commissioners were asked for any recommendations for a new Board member.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM by G. Reichert, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President