

## Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

### Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2022

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 256h 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, absent.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH:** A Motion to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2022 meeting was made by G. Reichert, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** G. Reichert advised of a total income of \$3763.72 and expenses totaling \$10,015.50 for the period of January 12, 2022 through February 8, 2022. Of note was the JCP&L electric bill that covered October, November and December 2021 and January and February 2022.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of January 12, 2022 through February 8, 2022 was made by P. Enea, Seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:**

C. Patkochis advised that he has had not contact with either Alexandria or Union Townships regarding contracts for providing coverage.

C. Patkochis reported that as of yesterday, February 7, 2022, we are still waiting on VFIS policy renewal. The quote for the policy is \$40,634.00 and first installment will be due in March. Still waiting on the Workers Compensation policy through AmTrust to be provided.

C. Patkochis advised that we are in receipt of an application to purchase a new Knox system but questioned why it hasn't come up for discussion prior to submitting this application? B. Patkochis advised that the present system is ancient and no one has a key for it. While this is obviously a vital piece of equipment, C. Patkochis advised that additional quotes should be obtained prior to just signing a contract. Is there a distributor in New Jersey? B. Crampton will be contacted to follow up.

C. Patkochis asked for an update on the status of Cellular Carrier as well as IPAD or the like. B. Patkochis and R. Geib were able to come up with a reasonable plan through FIRST NET to outfit 4 trucks with routers so that the IPAD/Surface Pro assigned to the vehicle would act as a GPS and provide cellular hot spots in "dead areas" in the areas serviced. The IPADs we presently have will probably not be able to be updated to use the service. The cost for 4 IPADs through FIRST NET was \$ 1634.94. The cost for service for 4 vehicles is \$ 148.00. G. Reichert made a motion to engage with FIRST NET for a formal quote, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor.

The QFC presented a completed application for Fire Fighter Mason Shoffner for approval. G. Reichert made the motion to approve the application, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor.



C. Patkochis advised the has a quote from Fire Flow for hose, ladder and pump annual testing for \$4865.  
C. Patkochis will ask B. Crampton to obtain additional quotes for these services.

G. Reichert advised that he has discussed the issues with alarm activations at the Hampton Inn with the Fire Marshal and it is agreed that going forward with an Ordinance may be the way to go.

C. Patkochis asked B. Patkochis if he would explain the light pricing for Rescue 91. B. Patkochis advised that LED lights are \$2600 each and two are needed. The original Halogen bulbs are considerably cheaper \$500.00. B. Patkochis said that he feels the Halogen bulbs are fine. P. Enea made the motion to approve the purchase of the bulbs, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor.

C. Patkochis asked R. Geib and J. Nielwodski to give the Board an update on the new phone system they are looking to purchase for the firehouse. R. Geib advised they have been using an phone they purchased on a demonstration basis for the last several weeks and are happy with the performance and features. The phones are Cloud-based with a voicemail. The only issue with a Cloud based system is the ability to send/receive faxes with be lost. Additionally, R. Geib proposes that the QFC will purchase the phones if the Board will continue to pay for the phone service. The cost for monthly service, which would be accessible from any phone to check voicemails, etc., would be \$ 126.00. G. Reichert made a motion to go forward with the new phone system with the District paying the bill, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor.

C. Patkochis advised of the following purchases to be approved.

Mid Atlantic– 15 pairs of gloves @ \$92.00 each	\$1380 (NJSC 17Fleet-00811)
5 Scott Masks @\$312.00 each	\$1560 (NJSC 17Fleet-00819)
Witmer - 10 PBI Hoods @\$52.00 each	\$520.00
20 6" Gaskets @\$13.00 each	\$260.00
20 2.5" gaskets @ \$3.00 each	\$60.00
M+W - 11 Motorola Pagers @392.25 each	\$4314.75 (NJSC A83909)
11 – 3 YEAR warranty @\$60.00 each	\$660.00

Batteries and Miscellaneous equipment \$1221.48

A motion was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by P. Enea to approve the above reference purchases where monies have already been allocated. All in favor.

**FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:** C. Patkochis read the report advising of 3 permits being issued over the last month. Registrations are being received for this year and he has been working with the QFC leadership on the issues involving the Hampton Inn. 2022 LEA report has been submitted.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT:** B. Patkochis advised of 61 total calls for service in January. Currently there are 5 potential new members that have been interviewed and proceeding through the application process. B. Patkochis asked if there was any new information on St. Luke's Clinton medical office reopening for physicals. C. Patkochis advised that was not known. B. Patkochis would like a closer alternative to receive physicals as the alternative location for St. Lukes is out of the area and inconvenient. B. Patkochis proposed Hunterdon but we will try to find out what is happening at the Clinton St. Lukes location first. B. Patkochis inquired on renting turn out gear and would the cost would be as there is on prospective member with a sizing issue and purchasing specialized

sizing is cost prohibitive without knowing how long the member would be here. C. Patkochis advised B. Patkochis to meet with B. Crampton about this. B. Patkochis also advised the mandatory refreshers have been completed by 37 members with less than 10 volunteers still needing to complete them.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** R. Geib advised that he is pleased with the acceleration of interest by new applications for membership. As paperwork is completed they will be presented to the Board. Additionally, he advised that community outreach efforts with Alexandria and Union Townships is progressing with QFC being featured in the Union Township newsletter.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**RESOLUTION 2022-1 EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING SHARED SERVICES**

A motion was made by G. Reichert to enter Executive Session at 7:20PM, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor.

A motion was made by G. Reichert to end the Executive Session at 7:40PM, seconded by E. Kolibas

**NEW BUSINESS:** G. Reichert advised that vouchers for quarterly payments have been submitted to Franklin Township.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM by P. Enea, seconded by G. Reicher. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Elise Ennis

  
Charles Patkochis, President





**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1**  
**TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

February 8, 2022

This session was called to discuss the potential for shared services to be provided for areas covered by Pattenburg Fire Company. B. Patkochis reported that due to several personnel related issues, training records and general discourse within the fire company, it has become apparent to their local government there is a need to seek fire protection services for these areas as they work on a resolution. Informal conversations have taken place so far, with coverage areas and some basic reimbursement costs. Questions were raised as to how this would be accomplished, with the Fire District's commitment to the taxpayers of Franklin Township being our main concern. Staffing 24 hours a day, insurance costs and fuel are also to be considered before any agreement is reached. C. Patkochis advised that a formal meeting with Union Township and its Mayor and Public Safety Director needs to take place so that we have all the information before a decision can be made to move forward on this matter.

Respectfully Submitted



Elise Ennis, Recording Secretary



Charles Patkochis, President

