

# Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

## Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2022

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 261st 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 June 14, 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 \$602.48 and expenses totaling \$46,306.47 for the period of June 15, 2022, through July 12, 2022.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of June 15, 2022 through July 12, 2022 was made by G. Reichert, seconded by P. Enea. 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 reported on the contract status with Alexandria and Union Townships. Union Township has reportedly signed the contract and a voucher for payment was returned to them for their payment on July 5, 2022. Alexandria Township is sticking by their stance that they will not sign a contract and that they are making a "contribution" to the Fire District and not paying for a service. M. Ford from the DCA has been contacted by our attorney and will be reaching out to Alexandria.

C. Patkochis advised that he has been working with B. Crampton to come up with a list of items for the PPE Grant. At this time quotes for a new gear washer and dryer. The Grant needs to be submitted by August 19<sup>th</sup>.

C. Patkochis advised that Verizon services have been disconnected and we will no longer have service with them.

C. Patkochis reported that he and representatives from QFC had met with a salesperson from Pierce regarding the purchase of a new Tender. It was determined that due to the potential of the prices increasing during the build out time of two plus years, that we should be considering other options. The possibility of a \$400,000 truck becoming a \$600,000 one is just not feasible. B. Patkochis advised that we should be considering replacing Brush 91 because that could be accomplished within our budget even though the County is down another Tender with Pattenburg's Tender being destroyed and our Tenders coming to the end of their useful life. B. Patkochis recommended asking for additional funds from Union Township based on increased calls for our Tenders.



C. Patkochis advised that he had two completed applications for membership to QFC. Roy Emerson and Jennifer Schaeffer have both successfully completed the application process including physical exam and background checks. P. Enea made a motion to approve their applications, seconded by G. Reichert. All in favor, motion carried.

P. Enea provided the report on vehicle maintenance and repair issues:

TENDER 91-1 – Had a charging issue and alternator was removed and taken to Garden State Electrical for repair/rebuild. It was repaired and put back in. Front tires need to be replaced.

Car 91-1 and 91-2 – Had oil change by Ralph Anthony

Rescue 91 – TNT tools were serviced by Fire Fighter 1

All the repairs discussed last month have been scheduled to take place shortly.

**FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:** C. Patkochis advised of 6 Inspections, 9 Smoke Certs and 12 Reinspections. The Fire Marshal will be out of the area from 7/25 through 7/29 but will be available by phone if needed.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT:**

B. Patkochis reported 64 calls for service in the month of June. Drew Stephens is an active member again, his status will change from Life Member to Active. B. Patkochis advised that he would like the Board to consider changing facilities for physicals as St. Luke's in Walmart Plaza is apparently closed for good and it is too far to ask potential applicants to drive to their next closest facility in Phillipsburg. He suggested contracting with Hunterdon Healthcare.

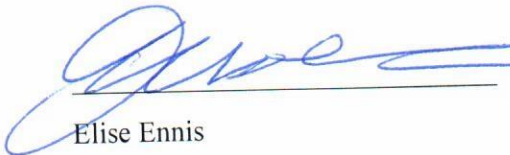
**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

J. Nielowodski presented the President's report advising of the status change for D. Stephens and the addition of R. Emerson and J. Schaeffer to their ranks. There will be a family picnic on July 30<sup>th</sup> and Octoberfest will take place this fall with the planning already in the works.


**NEW BUSINESS:** G. Reichert asked for clarification on the necessity of the Board to approve new members of QFC since QFC had already done so. C. Patkochis advised that although he agrees it seems redundant, since the Board carries the insurance, it is necessary to memorialize the completed application in our minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM by G. Reichert, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President