

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2022

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 260th 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 May 10, 2022 meeting was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by G. Reichert. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: G. Reichert advised of a total income of \$2,463.54 and expenses totaling \$40,992.36 for the period of May 11, 2022, through June 14, 2022.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of May 11, 2022 through June 14, 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 presented Resolution 2022-02, a Resolution accepting the 2021 Audit as presented. Each member of the Board was provided a detailed copy of the Audit and also a synopsis that will be posted on the website and as a public notice in the newspaper. C. Patkochis read the Resolution in its entirety. E. Kolibas made a Motion to accept the Audit, 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 presented Resolution 2022-03, a Resolution to purchase a Health and Wellness insurance policy from Nottingham Insurance Co. with a premium in the amount of \$ 3,470.00. This is approximately \$1,000 less than last year's policy. P. Enea made a Motion to approve the purchase, seconded by E. Kolibas. . Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised that additional copies of the Contracts with Alexandria and Union Townships were provided to them. Additionally, they were advised that they must be signed as this considered a “shared service” and it is required by State Statute.

C. Patkochis reported on a Federal Grant that has become available for Covid Relief, up to \$75,000. It can be used to purchase additional PPE, perhaps a second Gear Dryer, Turnout Gear, Gloves, etc. It must be applied for through the Fire District. Applications are due by mid-August of this year.

C. Patkochis addressed a new garbage collection contract with Republic Services, with a large price increase and advised the Board that he has reached out to other trash collections companies for quotes. He has been unsuccessful thus far but feels the price increase is worth looking into to try to save some

money. D. Desaulniers will look into who the Township uses and provide that information to the Board to consider.

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

LADDER 91-

- Annual Ladder testing was completed on June 13, 2022. No issues found.
- The Ladder needs to be scheduled. W. Crampton contacted BCI to get the motor services and they do not want to do the work due to the ladder needing to be raised to raise the cab. So, Fire and Safety was contacted to conduct the service of the engine, ladder, pump, CAFS, generator. Fire and Safety will be contact us when the truck can come in.
- The AC compressor is short cycling with a fluid leak around the compressor line.
- The Transmission cooling Line is chaffed and will need repair.
- The voltage meter is dropping at idle.

Engine 91-

- Needs to be scheduled for the annual pump service.
- A need to service light appeared for the Transmission.
- The Services can be done by Fire and Safety at the Station.
- The Holomotro rescue tool need to be serviced.

Tender 91-2

- Needs to be scheduled for annual pump service.

Rescue 91-

- The AC is blowing warm air.
- The Cascade system bottles need to be hydrostatic tested.
- The TNT tools are scheduled for service June 27 and 28, 2022.

Tender 91-1 –

- The tender was found to have an oil leak. The truck was sent to BCI. They found the valve cover gasket leaking, jake brake gasket leaking. The jake brake out of adjustment. Clutch needed adjustment. All the items were repaired.
- During the drill last night there was a voltage drop. The truck will need to be checked to find the voltage issue.
- The front tires need to be replaced.

Brush 91-

- The truck broke down during a call. The rear axle shaft bolts broke off. The truck was limped back to the station. The following day the truck was towed to Rick Allens repair in Hampton. Rick repaired both sides of the axle shafts, replaced the U joints, changed the oil.
- After the truck was returned to the Station the throttle cable broke, D. Desaulniers made the repairs.
- The transmission will need to be addressed. When you attempt to put the truck in reverse it grinds very badly and needs to be forced into gear.

C. Patkochis advised that the number of vehicle issues in the fleet is concerning due to rising cost of repairs and how quickly these issues are consuming our budget. At this rate we will exhaust our funds before the end of the year. That being said, he recommends servicing/making need repairs to Ladder 91, Tender 91-2 and Engine 91 and asked for a Motion spending up to \$11,000. P. Enea 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 if the QFC had any policy on Junior Members being required to apply for Regular Membership upon reaching the age of 19, specifically in regard to T. Unkert. R. Geib reported that T. Unkert was presently working on the application now.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised of 18 Inspections, 7 Re-Inspections, 5 Smoke Certs and 1 Permit. Per the report, R. Diziminski advised that farm inspections are continuing and a final proposal from Architects for the Franklin Township School to fix their issues has been reviewed by him and will now go to the Township Construction Official Approval. R. Diziminski will be resigning effective 12/31/22, letter attached was read by C. Patkochis. C. Patkochis noted that the Board has someone in mind to take over the position but is not yet ready to make the announcement.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: D. Desaulniers gave the report. There were 52 calls in May, 31 requiring a fire company respond. Several were mutual aid. Several drills were held and well attended, specifically a live burn, two rescue drills and a water service drill for Garden State Growers. C. Patkochis advised that the Board should start considering replacing Brush 91 and/or Tender 91-2 soon as both are reaching their useful life expectancy and delivery could take up to two years on a new vehicle.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib reported that the QFC has received the Title for Ladder 91 and will be completing the transfer this week to the District. The QFC attended the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at the Franklin Township School as well as holding a very successful Barbecue Fundraiser. No new members this month.

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