

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2022

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 257th 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 February 8, 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 \$3199.83 and expenses totaling \$39,784.31 for the period of February 9, 2022 through March 8, 2022. The largest expense being for insurance.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of February 9, 2022 through March 8, 2022 was made by G. Reichert, 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 he has had no contact with anyone from Alexandria Township regarding the agreement it appears to be that they are waiting to see what transpires. B. Patkochis advised that he and R. Geib attended the Budget Meeting held at Union Township and they indicated a 2% increase was in the plan. B. Patkochis advised that \$45,000.00 was proposed by himself and they advised that the increase would be greater than the percentage they are giving their employees. The budget is not determined by public safety, response to calls or rateables. A 4th Budget Meeting will be on 3/16/22. It was decided that additional time be allotted to work on an optimal outcome for the Agreements with both Townships.

C. Patkochis advised that insurance premiums for VFIS and Worker's compensation have come in somewhat higher than last year. The total for both eats up \$79,000.00 with additional monies for the sickness policy that renews in July totaling an additional \$5,000 +-. Additionally, an expected Worker's Comp audit by Benchmark is forthcoming and may result in additional costs due to them.

C. Patkochis commented on the quote for a new Knox Box system and the need to table this if possible due to unexpected expenses. B. Patkochis agreed that this could be revisited at a later date.

P. Enea reported on truck repairs. There is a Cummins recall on Engine 91 as well as a pump and Jake brake repair. The command module on Ladder 91 experienced a problem and Fire and Safety helped B. Crampton trouble shoot it and a part was ordered to fix in house. Fire and Safety help to diagnose a problem with a loose steering box. New bolts have been ordered. The rear lights on Rescue 91 were reported to be not working, or intermittent. C. Milcarek will troubleshoot for a possible wiring issue.

C. Patkochis advised that the 30-40 gallons of old foam we have stored needs to be removed from the premises as soon as possible. An estimate for removal will be obtained.

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to approve the Hose, Ladder and Pump Testing with Fire Flow for \$4865.00. A Motion was made by G. Reichert, seconded by P. Enea, all in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to approve the purchase of 4 tires for Ladder 91 from Performance Tire for a total of \$2840. A Motion was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by G. Reichert.

B. Patkochis reported that the QFC is waiting for the mounts to arrive before we move forward on purchasing IPADS.

C. Patkochis advised that he has an application from QFC for membership for Michael Hammond that is complete. G. Reichert made a Motion, seconded by H. Laine to approve membership. All in favor, Motion carried.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis read the monthly report for the Fire Marshal. 2 Inspections, 3 Smoke Certs and 1 re-Inspection took place. R. Dziminski report a meeting with Franklin Twp. School officials as well as the architects and Fire Sub-code regarding the windowless basement. Looks like it will be a lengthy process due to differing opinions on how to rectify it. 2nd and 3rd notices were sent out for registrations.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis reported 54 calls in February with Vehicle extrication and EMS drills being well attended. A meeting was held with ISO to review the ratings of the QFC.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: B. Patkochis gave the report for R. Geib who was out of town. B. Patkochis advised of a successful Super Bowl Barbecue fundraiser regardless of the need to raise prices due to the higher cost of chicken and ribs. He reported that career membership has added two more full time positions to a total of 4. One member will be at the station 24/7. The plan is to have one person staff overnight and two in the day time. The shift would be 24 hours on and 72 hours off.

B. Patkochis asked about an additional applicant and a possible issue with turn out gear. Specifically, a size that is not currently on hand. Can we purchase or rent? It was decided after a short discussion to look into renting but the applicant needs to pass the physical portion prior to doing this.

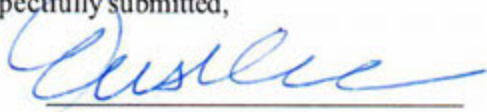
M. Shoffner was injured at fire school and has not responded to repeated calls regarding treatment for injuries by Worker's Compensation. He will be asked for his resignation.

Additionally, the new phone system has been installed and activation of existing phone numbers pending next week.

OLD BUSINESS: C. Patkochis reported that a voucher for payoff of Ladder 91 has not been received so a check would not be forthcoming this month. G. Reichert reiterated that repeated reminders to submit the required vouchers have been made over the past several months. B. Patkochis advised he would follow up.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 PM by P. Enea, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President

