

## Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

### Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2022

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 263rd 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 August 9, 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 \$56,154.36 and expenses totaling \$16,506.16 for the period of August 10, 2022 through September 13, 2022.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of August 10, 2022 through September 13, 2022 was made by P. Enea, 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 updated the Board that the Grant paperwork had been successfully submitted by the August 13, 2022 deadline and we should have an answer sometime in October. Thanks to B. Crampton and Julie, our Grant writer for their efforts. We are hopeful for \$65,020 to purchase a washer/dryer for gear cleaning and 10 sets of turn out gear. The requirements were strict and limited to mostly Fire Districts or Fire Departments would have to apply through their Municipal Government.

C. Patkochis advised that the Board that arrangements have been made to have Physicals done through North Hunterdon Physicians as St. Luke's in Clinton is no longer performing that service at the Clinton Office. The price will be the same for the same service.

C. Patkochis advised that with the increasing cost of insurance we will be obtaining bids this year. Insurance is easily our biggest expense each year and shopping for a better price is warranted.

P. Enea reported on vehicle maintenance and repairs. The Brush truck needed a new muffler. All other trucks received their scheduled service except the ladder. Additionally the cylinders need hydrostatic testing.

**FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:** C. Patkochis advised of 5 Inspections, 3 Smoke Certs, 1 Re-Inspection, 1 Permit issued. The Fire Marshal provided a work log indicating he worked 5 days during the month of August.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT:** B. Patkochis reported that there were 66 total calls for service during the month of August. B. Patkochis updated the Board on the status of a new Brush truck and are looking into options that would be substantially cheaper, most likely a F450 chassis. B. Patkochis advised that additional equipment purchases will be needed with several members returning

to active status recently. The QFC was awarded the Assistance to Firefighters Grant which will provide the funding to put a ventilation system in the rear building. Additionally, they are waiting on the outcome of the SAFER Grants awards that are still pending and would support additional staffing. QFC will not be attending Union Township Community Day and B. Patkochis recommends carefully tracking statistics of responses into Union Township as he has been advised that a different formula for compensation is being considered for 2023. C. Patkochis advised that there is a meeting between Union Twp and NJ Division of Fire Safety on 9/21. B. Patkochis advised that QFC will be doing a stand by detail at South Ridge Community Church for their fire works on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** No report provided.

**NEW BUSINESS:** C. Patkochis advised the Board that the time has come for G. Reichert to step down from the Board and thanked G. Reichert for his many years of service.

C. Patkochis presented **RESOLUTION 2022-05 APPOINTING NEW COMMISSIONER DREW STEPHENS**. D. Stephens accepted the appointment and has filed the election paperwork with the Hunterdon County Clerk's office to run for a 2 year term in November. E. Kolibas made a Motion to accept the appointment of D. Stephens, seconded by P. Enea. Roll call vote, G. Reichert, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

D. Stephens too the Oath of Allegiance for the office of Commissioner.

C. Patchochis read **RESOLUTION 2022-06 APPOINTING FIRE INVESTIGATOR** George Reichert for the remainder of 2022. H. Laine made a Motion to approve the appointment of 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.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:59PM by P. Enea, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President