

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2023

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 270th 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 D. Stephens, 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 10, 2023 meeting was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 2,583.91 and expenses totaling \$35,802.64 for the period of January 11, 2023 through February 14, 2023. The first payment to McNeil for insurance was the largest expense.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of January 11, 2023 through February 14, 2023 was made by D. Stephens, seconded by P. Enea. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

C. Patkochis updated the board on the status of a contract with Union Township. Several attended the Budget Review meeting held two weeks ago where a number of supporting reports were submitted as requested from 2021 to date, with no feedback having been received as of today. C. Patkochis advised that it is the decision of the Board solely to continue to provide coverage or stop. This will all depend on the increase in funds from Union Township.

The Board voted to approve the following contracts for maintenance and repairs to the following vendors:

- FIRE FLOW \$5030.00 – Hose, Ladder and Pump Testing for Engine, Ladder and Tender 2
- CONTINENTAL \$3508.00 – Hydro-testing of Cylinders on Rescue 91 and 64 SCBA cylinders
- MID ATLANTIC \$1312.00 – Flow Test 32 SCBA tanks @\$41.00 each
- FireFighter1 \$3128.00 – Repairs and yearly maintenance on Rescue 91

E. Kolibas made a motion to approve the above contracts, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2023-03 APPROVING SEAN SMITH AS FIRE INSPECTOR

P. Enea made a motion to approve Sean Smith as Fire Inspector at a rate of \$22.00 per hour, seconded by D. Stephens. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised the Board that we have received notification of an audit on our Worker's Compensation policy that is upcoming. It is done on a yearly basis and mainly looks at records maintained by the QFC for Volunteers and Career members. The audit could result in additional monies being owed depending on what their findings are.

P. Enea advised that Tender 91-1 is out of service due to valves leaking. Attempts were made to repair. Additional work and/or modifications may be looked into. Ladder 91 is out for repair for the oil leak. Currently waiting for parts, should be done by tomorrow evening. The pickup and the Chief's car are both due for service.

C. Patkochis advised that he will go to the Franklin Twp office to submit the vouchers for quarterly payments.

C. Milcarek reported on the water leak and status of repairs. Approximately \$43,000.00 in damage to the office, floor and downstairs lounge area. Floors, carpeting and some walls and ceiling tiles have been removed/replaced. The drying out process has taken a long time. Repairs are expected to take place in the coming weeks, hopefully the floor will be completely removed and updated to something easier to keep clean and will hold up to traffic.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised that all registrations have been mailed out. No Inspections. G. Reichert has attended a meeting on the updates to the basement at Franklin Township School.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: R. Nalamala gave the Chief's report. He advised of 63 calls for service in January with an average of 12 fire fighters for major calls. The QFC continues to seek funds through Grants for equipment. The ventilation system that is being paid for with grant money is being installed in the Dog House. Requested information has been submitted to Union Township Committee. The QFC would like the District to consider a Tender Replacement Plan.

The QFC presented new applicant Gavin Cortellessi for approval by the Board. A completed application was reviewed and deemed to be complete. P. Enea made a motion to approve the application, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, motion carried. G. Cortellessi starts fire school tonight.

The QFC advised that Tyler Carey will be changing his status back to active. P. Enea made the motion to approve, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, motion carried.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Not available.

NEW BUSINESS: C. Patkochis informed the Board about a company called Lexipol that would help the Board and QFC align their policies and guidelines while at the same time making them accessible through an app. C. Patkochis, B. Patkochis, W. Crampton and R. Nalamala attended a demonstration of their product and all agree we would benefit from it. The cost for the subscription will be \$8278.00 this includes a 10% discount because we insure through Mc Neil. P. Enea made a motion to go with Lexipol, seconded by D. Stephens. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 PM by P. Enea, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted


Elise Ennis


Charles Patkochis, President