

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2023

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 278th 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, present.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH: A Motion to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2023 meeting was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 3,784.53 and expenses totaled \$11,671.81 for the period of August 9, 2023 through September 12, 2023.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of August 9, 2023 through September 12, 2023 was made by P. Enea, seconded by D. Stephens. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS: C. Patkochis presented the Board with three quotes for needed for the minimum repairs needed on Tender 91-2. The quotes ranged in price between \$ 22,000 and \$ 33,900 to make the minimum in repairs to keep it in service without replacement of the frame rails. A quote for the additional work on the frame rails came in at \$86,255.00. A decision was made to inspect the frame rails ourselves (D. Desaulniers, C. Milcarek and F. Hahola) and then revisit the entire project based on their findings. C. Patkochis advised that while the repairs are needed to the Tender to keep it on the road, it doesn't make sense to complete only part of the project when it comes to safety and value for resale down the road. With replacement of the vehicle being in excess of \$700,000.00, P. Enea advised that repair/replacement of frame rails could get us 10 more years out of Tender 2. For now it was decided to await the inspection on the frame rails before making a decision on how to proceed. Tender 2 would be out of service for several months to complete the project.

C. Patkochis reported that a check from Alexandria is forthcoming as the voucher has been signed and returned. We can expect an additional check in the amount of \$ 7000.00 over and above the usual stipend of \$ 42,798.

C. Patkochis advised the Board that the ballot question for November has been submitted to the County Clerk, advertised in the newspaper and posted as required.

P. Enea reported that the paint on the left rear door of Engine 91 will be repaired by Pierce. Total for the repair is \$2316.17 with our portion being \$1633.07 (-20% deductible). E. Kolibas made the Motion to approve the repair, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised that B. Crampton presented him with quotes for 12 helmet liners in the amount of \$ 1370.00. D. Stephens made the Motion to purchase, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

Additionally, D. Strange received a replacement turnout coat to replace the coat that was not the correct size. It was offered by the vendor to purchase the original coat for the discount cost of \$1000.00. P. Enea made the Motion to purchase the coat, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis presented two applications to the Board for approval. Samuel Kohn applied to be an Associate Member and Tom Hlasney applied for a Per Diem position. Background checks have been completed. D. Stephens made a Motion to approve the applicants, pending receipt of a physical for T. Hlasney, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

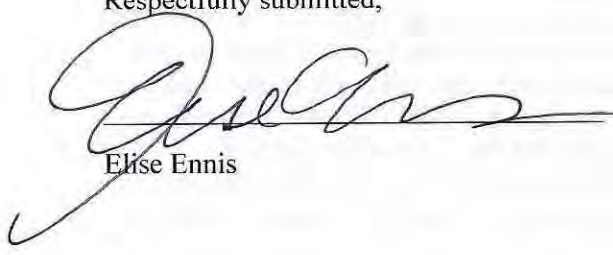
FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: No activity report received. B. Patkochis advised on an incident involving a smell of gas in the area of Garden State Growers. Upon his arrival with D. Desaulniers and FM91 it was determined that Garden State Growers was utilizing two 9,000 tanker trucks to heat their green houses with their own Liquid Propane and adding Mercaptan(which created the smell). No dangerous readings were recorded, Hunterdon County Health Department and HazMat was alerted and it was determined that the entire system was unmonitored and not being managed in a safe manner. Notifications were made by A. Buterbaugh (FM91) to the State as well as local authorities. A. Buterbaugh shut down their operation. C. Patkochis advised the board the A. Buterbaugh has gone over and above to rectify this matter.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis advised of 84 calls for service, 54 for fire. 2 Junior fire fighters are attending Fire Fighter 1 through poly tech classes.


QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib reported that there will be several upcoming fundraising events, including a Cheesesteak night that is especially popular with local residents. They will also be participating in the South Ridge Church fireworks event again this year providing safety and grilling food. Octoberfest will be held October 7 and is by far the biggest fundraising event of the year.

There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 PM by E. Kolibas, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President