

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2024

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 290th 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, absent; Assistant Secretary, H. Laine, present.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH: A Motion to accept the minutes of the July 9, 2024 meeting was made by P. Enea, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of income of \$153,726.11 and expenses totaling \$63,611.97 for the period of July 10, 2024 through August 13, 2024.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of July 10, 2024 through August 13, 2024 was made by D. Stephens, seconded by P. Enea. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS: C. Patkochis advised the Board that the State Fire Marshal's Office has been auditing our Fire Marshal's office, has been here two days so far, with additional dates in the coming weeks. This is being done as a precursor to potentially taking over the Union Township Fire Marshal's office. Initial impression is it's not going well. Already has assessed fee of \$928 to QFC for the lounge area downstairs and is requiring that fire doors be installed. Will have to wait and see what the end result of the audit reveals.

C. Patkochis reported that Alexandria Township Consultant's report is forthcoming. D. Stephens advised that the report is over 100 pages and the consultant is due back this weekend to present. Once the report is accepted by the Alexandria Township Committee, we should see our yearly check from them. C. Patkochis will hand deliver a copy of our Audit as well.

D. Stephens advised that he has been back and forth with the Franklin Township CFO regarding Worker's Compensation insurance. C. Patkochis advised that we need to continue to pursue Worker's Compensation Insurance quotes even if it is JIF, which we have tried to avoid, because he have exceeded our budget and need to trim costs where we can. D. Stephens advised that Franklin Township's insurance carrier would more than likely mean that we'd have to switch all of our insurance to them. D. Stephens will get a quote.

C. Patkochis advised that Engine 91 had it's periodic maintenance performed and repairs made to pump. Rescue 91 will go to Fire and Safety to look into a "COM 3" light that is on.

P. Enea made a Motion to purchase HOODS, GLOVES and Battery for Stream Light, not to exceed \$3800.00, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried. Price quotes to be obtained.

H. Laine made a Motion to approve QFC member Kevin Carroll, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised that A. Buterbaugh has been involved in the Audit of the Fire Marshal's office with the State Fire Marshall. Additionally, all fines were paid related to penalties assessed on 24 Baker Rd.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: R. Medine advised of 101 calls for service, 69 Division of Fire and 38 EMS. Many of the calls were related to the storm on 7/16/2024. Various training events and drills have taken place over the past month. Anticipating completion of Brush 91 Vengeance.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: NO REPORT

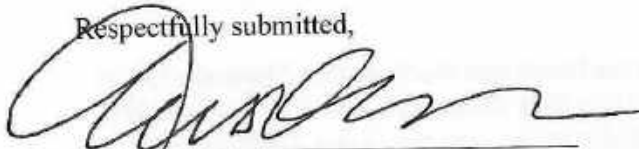
OLD BUSINESS: H. Laine updated the Board on the False Alarm Ordinance. He has submitted it to the Township for consideration and will call to get on the Agenda for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: C. Patkochis advised the Board to assemble a list of potential attorneys to interview to represent the Fire District.

D. Stephens reported that he spoke with a local Grant Writer, Andrew Russano, who advised him that there are a lot of Grants out there that may benefit the Fire District/QFC. A. Russano has assisted Hunterdon County and Kingwood Township in obtaining millions of dollars in aid and may be able to assist us as well. D. Stephens recommended having day staff check the web for available Grants.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM by H. Laine seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President