

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

JULY 9, 2024

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 289th 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 June 11, 2024 meeting was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of income of \$49,853.63 and expenses totaling \$97,216.40 for the period of June 12, 2024 through July 9, 2024.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of June 12, 2024 through July 9, 2024 was made by P. Enea, seconded by H. Laine. 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 advised the Board that Fire and Safety had made a request to display the new Tender 91-1 at a show in North Jersey. Tender 91-1 will be at Fire and Safety for repairs and a representative from Fire and Safety will drive it to the show and then bring it back. P. Enea made a Motion to approve, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis reported that we received a check for Municipal Assistance from Union Township in the amount of \$ 45,000, same as last year, with an additional amount forthcoming once Union Township divides a remaining \$10,000 among Quakertown, Clinton and Pattenburg Fire Companies. Additionally, H. Laine and A. Buterbaugh continue to work with Union Township in acquiring their Fire Marshal's office from the State of New Jersey. There have been phone calls and emails exchanged between the parties and an inspection is scheduled to take place on July 31, 2024 where the State Fire Marshall's Office will audit our records.

Alexandria Township has hired a special Consultant who will be completing a study of fire responses within the township. QFC and a representative from the Board will be meeting with the Consultant on July 10, 2024 to tour our facilities. A comprehensive report of responses, personnel and equipment was requested and submitted prior for their consultant to review. Once the study is completed Alexandria will then determine what their contribution will be.

C. Patkochis advised the Board that when we begin the Budget for 2025, we will need to seriously consider implementing Contracts again with Alexandria and Union Townships due to the uncertainty we have experienced with both Townships over what their yearly Municipal Assistance dollar amount will be, while still providing coverage 24/7 to their Townships.

D. Stephens advised that he has sent repeated emails to the Township CFO and mayor that have gone unanswered regarding Worker's Compensation Insurance. He will continue to try to obtain and answer.

C. Patkochis advised that we have not received the 3rd quarter Municipal Tax check from the Township.

C. Patkochis advised that Ladder 91 is back in service following repair of the swivel pin. The total bill was \$2500.00. D. Desaulniers and C. Milcarek will address an issue with the shore line not plugging in.

The old Tender 91-2 tank repairs have been completed at Fire and Safety. The repairs exceeded the initial estimate of \$22,000.00, but Fire and Safety stuck to their original price. They advised that once they got it taken apart, it was determined that the frame was bent, possibly from an incident where it was backed into a pole at a fire scene years ago. The Tender's pump will be serviced and valves replaced prior to coming back.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised that the Fire Marshal's Office continues to perform well, exceeding the budgeted receipts for the year by \$2000 to date. A. Buterbaugh reported that a fine was received from the Rutgers Property and there are fines outstanding for AT&T and 24 Baker Road. 24 Baker road is under contract to be sold and a smoke detector certification has been requested for closing. A. Buterbaugh advised that he will delay the inspection until the fines are paid.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis advised of an extremely busy month of June with 107 calls for service, 47 fire and 63 EMS. The 4 Fire Fighter 1 candidates attending Morris County Fire Academy have passed their written and practical exams with their Hazmat testing to be completed on Friday.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: No report


OLD BUSINESS: H. Laine advised that he emailed Lexpol but has not heard anything back from them. C. Patkochis advised that B. Crampton received a call in the office from Lexpol inquiring on payment of the bill. B. Crampton advised that we would not be paying the bill. The representative then inquired if we wished to cancel our subscription, to which he replied "yes", then representative then advised that she would advise our salesman of this. We have not received any feedback from Lexpol. C. Patkochis advised H. Laine that he does not have to follow up.

H. Laine supplied the Board with a draft letter to the Franklin Township Committee with proposed changes to the False Alarm Ordinance. The letter was well written, outlining the changes to the ordinance to meet the needs of the issues currently being experienced related to false alarms. C. Patkochis advised H. Laine to submit the letter as written to the Township to get the process started

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

Respectfully submitted


Elise Ennis


Charles Patkochis, President