

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2024

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 288th 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, absent; 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 May 24, 2024 meeting was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of income of \$2,818.33 and expenses totaling \$16,960.72 for the period of May 15, 2024 through June 11, 2024.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of May 15, 2024 through June 11, 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:

RESOLUTION 2024-06 Approval of 2023 Audit. C. Patkochis gave an overview of the comments and recommendations of the 2023 Audit Report. E. Kolibas made a Motion to approve the Audit, seconded by P. Enea. . Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-07 Awarding Accident and Sickness Policy to Nottingham Insurance in the amount of \$4801.00. A Motion was made by D. Stephens, seconded by P. Enea. . Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-08 Approval to Join Source Well Purchasing Co-op. C. Patkochis explained to the Board that joining this Co-op is free and helpful in finding pricing on equipment and repairs from local vendors under "state bid" guidelines. A Motion 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.

C. Patkochis advised that Ladder 91's broken pin is still being repaired, issues arose in removal of the pin and work continues on replacing it. Work on Tender 2 is moving along and should be back by the end of the week. It was determined that the frame was bent and a bit more work than initially anticipated. Tender 1 appears to be back to normal but a punch list of additional issues and repairs is being addressed with Fire and Safety.

C. Patkochis reported that there are no new developments with Union Township on the Fire Marshall's Office. We have not been contacted by the NJ State Fire Marshall's Office in reference to an Audit, which they will more than likely want to do.

C. Patkochis inquired of B. Patkochis if there were any new developments with Alexandria Township. B. Patkochis advised there were none.

Kyle Koretsky was presented as a new Junior Member. P. Enea made a Motion to approve, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

W. Hocking was presented to the Board for approval as a new Per Diem employee. H. Laine made a Motion to approve, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis asked for an update on Worker's Compensation Insurance. D. Stephens advised that he has emailed Franklin Township CFO inquiring on a decision and has not heard anything. He advised that he submitted the requested paperwork in person at the Township Building. He will continue to follow up. B. Patkochis advised that there would be savings but it would not be free.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised of a comprehensive report received from the Fire Marshall that includes a \$2000 fine received from Hampton Inn as well as other monthly activities performed by the Fire Marshall. C. Patkochis also informed that Board that he received a request for a Fire Inspector to participate with the Arson Investigation Unit through the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office with Franklin Township Fire District's insurance covering them during the investigations. While it is a good opportunity in theory to gain experience, the Board feels that the insurance issue would prohibit them from approving this request. All Board members agree that the request be denied. C. Patkochis will advise.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis advised of a total of 57 calls for service in the month of May. June has started off very busy with 40 calls already through today. B. Patkochis advised that the 4 candidates have started Fire Fighter 1 and to anticipate a bump in fuel consumption as they are commuting back and forth to Morristown Fire Academy each day. B. Patkochis also expressed that there is interest from QFC to participate in a Drone Team, specifically operating a drone at active fire scenes utilizing thermal imaging. At this time there are several members of QFC that are qualified. C. Patkochis advised B. Patkochis to follow up with additional information on a Drone Team that may be forming through Hunterdon County OEM.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib was not present but emailed his monthly report. He advises of strong interest in membership in all areas. Two Junior members will turn 18 this month and have completed Fire Fighter 1 through the Poly Tech program. D. Stephens made a Motion to approve them for Volunteer Membership pending their physicals, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

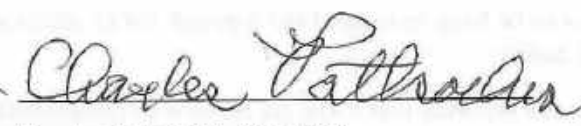
OLD BUSINESS H. Laine will contact Lexpol to determine what we are being billed for. H. Laine presented the Board with a sample False Alarm Ordinance that proposes key changes to the existing Ordinance to include defining terms and schedule of fines. H. Laine has been working with the Fire Marshall to finish and present to Franklin Township Committee for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM by P. Enea seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President