

## Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

### Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2024

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 287th 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 April 9, 2024 meeting was made by D. Stephens, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** D. Stephens advised of income of \$2837.00 and expenses totaling \$20,710.81 for the period of April 10, 2024 through May 14, 2024.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of April 10, 2024 through May 14, 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 gave the Board a synopsis of the yearly audit performed by BKC-CPAs on April 24-25, 2024, the Audit report is pending. Some minor recommendations regarding signed vouchers from vendors, "pay to play" form (Political contributions made by vendors" and making sure we are utilizing vendors based on bids received. Once a formal report is received it will be discussed further. C. Patkochis advised the audit report will be distributed to Alexandria and Union Twps in return for their yearly contributions.

C. Patkochis advised that with the audit issues with vendors, we are looking into joining other Co-op opportunities to make sure we are receiving the lowest possible quotes and state bids. Somerset County participates in a Co-op called Source Well that we are researching as well as reaching out to other counties to see what their resources are.

C. Patkochis updated the Board on Ladder 91 service and ladder testing. One of the bolts on the ladder swivel is shorn off which is a major problem and we were told that it would cost \$20k-40k to fix. The service has been completed and the ladder came back and is now waiting for a resolution to the broken bolt. Pictures have been sent to Fire and Safety and they advise that they should be able to fix the bolt at a fraction of the cost. C. Patkochis went on to say that once it is fixed he recommends only formally trained personnel operate the ladder, that additional training by trained personnel be provided and for the time being, the ladder will not respond to calls outside of the Franklin Township boarders until further notice. Fire and Safety should be able to complete the repair by the end of this week.

C. Patkochis discussed some issues with the new Tender 91-1 that appear to be related to wiring/computer malfunctions and will need to be addressed. Tender 91-2 is at Fire and Safety, the tank has been removed and the frame is being scraped down, nothing concerning that we were not already anticipating.

C. Patkochis advised that Engine 91 needs pump work and brakes replaced.

C. Patkochis updated the Board on Alexandria Township and the study they are conducting regarding fire response to the Township. B. Patkochis has a meeting with their tax assessor and consultant in the next few weeks. A copy of our audit will be provided once we receive it.

D. Stephens advised that he will address Franklin Township allowing the Fire District to obtain Worker's Compensation insurance through the Township with their officials and report back once he receives a response from his emails to the CFO and Township Committee.

C. Patkochis reported that there are 4 individuals scheduled to begin Fire Fighter 1 training at the Morris County Fire Academy in June. The Tuition is \$350 for each candidate for a total of \$ 1400 plus gear rental at \$390 each for a total of \$1560. D. Stephens made the Motion to approve, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

The Holmatro tools need to be serviced through their certified vendor ESI for \$897. H. Laine made the Motion, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

#### RESOLUTION 2024-5 AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE PPE UTILIZING GRANT MONEY

C. Patkochis read Resolution 2024-5 indicating the Board's acceptance of the Grant money from the New Jersey American Rescue Plan Fire Fighter Grant in the amount of \$ 68,000. The money will be spent as follows for PPE:

#### WITMER PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP:

17 SETS OF TURNOUT GEAR AT \$3666.00 EACH TOTAL \$ 62,322.00

(NJ CONTRACT 17 FLEET 00805 TO790)

9 CLARINS 1044 HELMETS TOTAL \$ 3726.00

(MSA BLANKET CONTRACT 20-FLEET 0018)

DIVAL SAFETY:

5 SCOTT AV3000HT FACE PIECES @ \$357 TOTAL \$ 1785.00

(NJ STATE CONTRACT 24 FLEET 61850)

Motion was made by H. Laine to make the above purchases using monies from the Grant, seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis presented the Board with a completed application from QFC for Volunteer member N. Graber. D. Stephens made a Motion to approve, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried. Additionally, Junior members who have or will reach the age of 18, C. McAllister, Davidson and J. Lagun were approved with a Motion by P. Enea, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

**FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:** C. Patkochis advised of \$25,200 billed out in penalties with the majority being for 24 Baker Rd, that has been listed for sale and the ATT property on Cherryville Rd. Additionally, numerous inspections and reinspections were performed. T. Hinson is attending Fire Investigation training.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT:** R. Medine reported 65 calls for the month of April. Driver training on the new Tender is in progress. A successful coin toss fundraiser was held.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** H. Laine reported there was no new information on Lexpol and was asked by C. Patkochis to obtain an update from them on their progress as we are in receipt of a bill for additional services. They have not completed their initial review of our paperwork and have not updated on their progress.

Additionally, H. Laine advised that he is continuing research on an Ordinance for false alarms at Hampton Inn. Attorney Braslow was able to share an Ordinance that Toms River uses and it seems likely that it would work for us.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM by P. Enea seconded by H. Laine . All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President

