

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2024

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 293rd 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, absent.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH: A Motion to accept the minutes of the October 8, 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 \$75,347.59 and expenses totaling \$19,483.00 for the period of October 9 through November 12, 2024.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of October through November 12, 2024 was made by P. Enea, seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

RESOLUTION 2024-10 FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT WITH QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY FOR 2025 C. Patkochis presented the Resolution to the Board, which provides fire protection to the Franklin Township Fire District for 2025 in the amount of \$200,000.00. E. Kolibas made a Motion to approve, seconded by P. Enea. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-11 APPROVING BKC-CPA,LLC, AUDITOR

C. Patokchis read the Resolution approving the appointment of BKC-CPA, LLC as Auditor to the Board for 2025. D. Stephens made a Motion to approve, seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-14 INTRODUCTION OF 2025 FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET

C. Patkochis presented the Board with a proposed Budget for 2025 in the amount of \$638,000.00, \$467,000.00 to be raised by Township of Franklin Fire Tax (.084 cents per \$100.00 of assessed property value). \$26,000.00 of the total amount is the amount in penalties collected by the Bureau of Fire Prevention in 2024. A portion of those monies will be used for the purchase of a new Knox Box system and additional training for investigators. The Budget represents a \$9,000.00 increase over 2024. D. Stephens made a Motion to approve, seconded by P. Enea. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2024-13 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATION OF THE NJ RESCUE PLAN FIRE FIGHTER GRANT

C. Patkochis read the Resolution approving the acceptance of the New Jersey Rescue Plan Fire Fighter Grant monies as a special item of revenue not included in the 2024 Fire District Budget. The form will be signed by the President of the Board and returned to the Auditor to be submitted with Budget documents upon approval. P. Enea made the Motion, seconded by D. Stephens. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye: C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

D. Stephens advised of no new information for Worker's Compensation carrier.

C. Patkochis advised of no update from the State Fire Marshall's office audit for Union Township. We are still hopeful to receive an additional \$3500-\$5000 from Union Township for fire services we have provided.

C. Patkochis advised that the Alexandria Township Committee response area study has still not been made public.

RESOLUTION 2024-12 EXECUTIVE SESSION-Personnel

P. Enea made a Motion to enter into Executive session regarding personnel matter, seconded by D. Stephens. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye: C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

THE MINUTES OF THIS EXECUTIVE SESSION AT A TIME IN WHICH THE SUBJECT MATTER IS APPROPRIATE TO BECOME PUBLIC.

E. Kolibas made a Motion to re-enter Regular meeting, seconded by D. Stephens. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye: C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: No report. C. Patkochis advised that the A. Buterbaugh presented a quote to purchase New Jersey Administrative Code Book in the amount of \$651.78. D. Stephens made the Motion, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis advised of 80 calls for service during the month of October. 40 calls away from a record year for QFC. Goal to get a handle of needed repairs. B. Patkochis added that Blowhard Fans are in need of batteries. B. Patkochis also advised that US Congressman Tom Kean visited QFC in relation to the QFC receiving \$577,000.00 from the Federal SAFER Grant to help with the recruitment and retention of volunteers.


QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib advised of two new Junior members who are interested in EMS. R. Geib also advised that he and B. Patkochis had participated in phone call with FEMA and provided the Board with a breakdown of how the funds received from the Federal SAFER grant will be utilized of the 4 year execution time of the grant. \$200,000.00 for marketing, purchase of 20 sets of turnout gear for new members, \$120,000.00 for a grant administrator, \$100,000.00 for stipends, \$30,000.00 for a new sign as well as promotional texts and 20 hours to create a professionally produced promotional film about QFC.

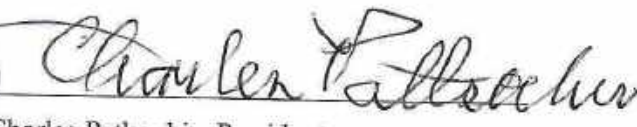
OLD BUSINESS: C. Patkochis advised that in an email H. Laine reported that he has asked the Franklin Township Committee to formally introduce the proposed new False Alarm Ordinance at their December meeting and has asked the Clerk to add it to their Agenda for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 PM by D. Stephens, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Elise Ennis


Charles Patkochis, President

10/10/10

The following information is provided for your information only. It is not intended to be used as a basis for any decision.

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