

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2023

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 272nd 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 March 14, 2023 meeting was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 3,821.29 and expenses totaled \$61,774.99 for the period of March 15, 2023 through April 11,2023. The first quarter payment on the Fire Protection agreement was made.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of March 15, 2023 through April 11, 2023 was made by P. Enea, seconded by D. Stephens. 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 an update the status of contracts with Union and Alexandria Townships. Union Township has added \$5,000 to the \$40,000 yearly contribution totaling \$45,000. Clinton Fire will also receive an additional \$5,000.00. Alexandria's budget vote was postponed to this coming Thursday. No information is available on an increase from Alexandria at this time.

D. Stephens advised that new insurance cards have been received from McNeil and are being distributed to the proper vehicle by T. Hinson. B. Patkochis asked for the Board to clarify our coverage for the gym equipment. Additionally, D. Stephens will inquire about an access code for online training.

C. Patkochis advised that the Worker's Compensation Audit has been completed by a private 3rd party and forwarded to AmTrust. He thanked QFC leadership for their comprehensive response with documentation. C. Patkochis anticipates that we will owe additional money but hopes it will not be a big number.

Additionally, BKC was on site for the yearly audit on 4/2 and 4/3/2023. It appears there are some very minor recommendations this time around regarding documenting withholdings for payroll. The Audit Report is forthcoming.

P. Enea advised that Tender 1 is back in service after the tank was fixed as well as back chute. Side chute is still an issue and will be investigated. In the meantime, don't use side chute. Tender 2 leak was fixed major rust problem remains a concern. Additionally both monitors on the Rescue are bad, B. Patkochis questions whether this is a result of the tree/electrical issues in Flemington? Therefore, would it be

covered by insurance? New monitors are \$8300.00 from Fire and Safety. P. Enea advised that SCBA cylinders have been tested and pumps certified. Hose testing will take place later this month.

C. Patkochis discussed the different processes for acquiring a new Tender to replace the 32 year old vehicle in our fleet. We don't have the funds to pay cash at the price that the vehicles are going for. We can go \$450,000.-\$475,000.00 but nothing is available to order in that range. Are there any demonstrator vehicles? The minimum price at Fire and Safety for one off the lot is \$519,000.00 and we cannot afford that in cash. Next year our loan will be paid off so that will make some more room to pay cash. The finance option is there but the process is tedious; we may have to end up going that route. QFC will continue to look into all options.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis read G. Reichert's report for the month. Registrations have been received and fees processed through the Clerk's office. Spoke DCA regarding Code issues.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis advised of 83 calls for service during the month of March. B. Patkochis advised that it was discussed last year that the QFC is in need to radios for the engine and ladder. Referred to B. Crampton for quotes to be obtained. B. Patkochis requested the Board's permission to use the Chief's vehicle to attend NY State Firemen's Expo, permission granted. No updates on the new Brush truck. May 1st is the cutoff for Fit Testing and Mandatory refreshers. B. Patkochis advised that there is a set of plans for the addition at St. Katherine's Parish Center. There are two students in Fire Fighter 1.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib advised that there were no new applicants during the past month. Full time FF/EMT employee, Nick Volpe has resigned to take a job with DC Fire. Jacob Haas has moved from Per Diem to Full time effective 4/1/2023. The QFC will begin interviewing prospective candidates to fill the Per Diem openings later this month.

RESOLUTION 2023-04 – EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL

Motion to enter Closed Executive Session to discuss Personnel was made by E. Kolbas, at 7:09 PM, seconded by P. Enea, all in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised that after speaking with current Fire Official, George Reichert regarding issues effecting his availability to the Fire Marshal's office, it was agreed that G. Reichert will resign the position for a candidate that will better suit our needs. Having received G. Reichert's intention of resigning the position, the Board has offered the position to Andrew Buterbaugh.

Motion to leave Closed Executive Session was made by D. Stephens, seconded by E. Kolibas, at 7:24 PM, all in favor, Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2023-05- APPOINTING FIRE OFFICIAL-ANDREW BUTERBAUGH

D. Stephens made a motion to appoint A. Buterbaugh to the position of Fire Official effective 4/14/2023 at a rate of \$25.00 per hour, seconded by E. Kolibas. . Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, abstain; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:30PM by E. Kolibas, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President