

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2023

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 277th 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 July 11, 2023 meeting was made by D. Stephens, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 112,813.73 and expenses totaled \$44,573.51 for the period of July 12, 2023 through August 8, 2023.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of July 12, 2023 through August 8, 2023 was made by P. Enea, seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS: D. Stephens provided an update to the Board regarding insurance reimbursement from Mc Neil. We received a check in the amount of \$12,121.76 for previous repairs and for replacement of screens and additional light repairs. Anything in the future related to the tree incident in Flemington should be covered. D. Stephens added that the adjuster has been phenomenal to work with. We have received in excess of \$ 18,000.00 in refunds and reimbursements to date.

C. Patkochis advised that the engine repair to Ladder 91 has been completed and is back in service. The total bill for the repair was \$ 10,539.98.

C. Patkochis advised the Board that we will no longer be able to order from Staples utilizing their credit card and ordering online due to a policy change on their part. B. Crampton has looked in to applying for an Amazon Business account for office supplies going forward since the Board is not allowed to have a credit card. We would then be able to order from Amazon and receive an invoice to pay monthly.

C. Patkochis reported that there are two new applicants with completed applications to approve, James Crampton and Michael Abelowitz. D. Stephens made a Motion to approve the applications, seconded by H. Laine. All in Favor, Motion approved.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT C. Patkochis advised of five inspections, 4 smoke certs and 2 complaints.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis advised of 73 calls for service in the month of July for fire and rescue services. The pick up truck has been advertised for sale. New pick up has been lettered and is going out to have lights installed. B. Patkochis

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT R. Geib advised the Board that the QFC is now back to a full staff of 4 fulltime employees. QFC also held a very successful Seafood Boil fundraiser with the help of 15 Landsdowne Catering and Cervenka Farms.

NEW BUSINESS: C. Patkochis advised that the Board is faced with some difficult decisions going forward. As discussed in previous meetings, Tender 1 is now 32 years old and Tender 2 is 17 years old. Both are in need of major repairs. Decisions need to be made on how to proceed with prices going up quickly and estimates of 24-36 months for delivery of a new Tender and repairs taking Tender 2 out of service. It is agreed that repairs to Tender 1 are not a good investment. QFC has been in contact with a vendor regarding repairs/restoration on Tender 2. Bulldog Fire Apparatus has surveyed Tender 2 and provided an estimate of repairs that exceeds the maximum \$17,000.00 threshold that requires 3 quotes. C. Patkochis advised the Board that Bulldog Fire Apparatus is not licensed in New Jersey to perform the work. P. Enea made a Motion to obtain additional bids from qualified vendors for the repairs within the next few weeks to Tender 2, this was seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

B. Patkochis advised that QFC has met with sales representatives regarding replacement of Tender 1. Price increases are approximately \$ 14,000.00 quarterly for a replacement vehicle, regardless of the manufacturer with delivery approximately 2-3 years or more out. A price quote of \$692,000.00 for a Tender within our specifications was received, good until 10/31/2023. C. Patkochis advised that the Board cannot purchase at that amount without financing which would require voter approval and a lengthy approval process through DCA. We also have to allocate price increases into the amount that we apply for based on price increase estimates and additional equipment not included in the price of the truck. C. Patkochis asked that the QFC look into demonstrator models that might become available as the price may fall into a range that the Board would not have to finance. QFC agrees that purchasing a Tender that has already been built would be cheaper and with a much quicker delivery, although maybe not to our exact specification, the price and availability are paramount to continue providing fire protection services to our residents. C. Patkochis recommended to the Board that they move forward with a ballot question to the voters at the November 8, 2023 election regarding the purchase of a new Tender and equipment. C. Patkochis presented Resolution 2023-09 Authorizing placing a Ballot Question on the November 8, 2023 election Ballot to purchase a new Tender and equipment with the amount not exceeding \$ 800,000.00. Additionally, this purchase would be made as a Lease/Purchase. E. Kolibas made the Motion to approve this Resolution, seconded by H. Laine. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM by H. Laine, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President