

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2023

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 275th 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 9, 2023 meeting was made by P. Enea, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised of a total income of \$ 1,405.76 and expenses totaling \$61,128.66 for the period of May 10, 2023 through June 13, 2023. The second installment of the Fire Protection Agreement with QFC was the major expenditure this month.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of May 10, 2023 through June 13, 2023 was made by H. Laine, seconded by P. Enea. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

C. Patkochis read Resolution 2023-06 Approving the Audit Resolution that will be signed and submitted to the State of NJ and printed in the Express Times. A Motion to approve the Audit, with no recommendations was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis presented the Board with Resolution 2023-07 Approving Nottingham Insurance VFIS as the Accident and Sickness Insurance provider at a cost of \$4,786.00 to cover all career and volunteer staff. P. Enea made the Motion to approve, seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis reminded the QFC Officers in attendance that each member, paid or volunteer, need to fill out the beneficiary form for the Accident and Sickness policy to be paid.

C. Patkochis advised that a completed application has been received for C. Pellington. P. Enea made a Motion to approve the application, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

H. Laine advised that there is nothing new to report in regards to LexiPol. There has been one very long and extensive session held, with additional sessions to discuss their finding and recommendations to come. This is a very tedious process with a lot of information to go through before we will see a finished product.

C. Patkochis advised the Board that D. Stephens has received an email regarding the Rescue and we should be receiving reimbursement in the amount of \$7249.60 for repairs we have paid for since the incident in Flemington and they have re-opened claim for the screens and lights that are damaged.

Estimates for those items will be forthcoming. P. Enea advised that the Engine is due for service, Tender 2 is in need to repairs that we held up on with Tender 1 being out of service.

C. Patkochis advised that paperwork for the Board of Commissioners Election was filed on time. Petitions are due at the end of July.

E. Kolibas participated in the virtual Fire District Association meeting. Discussions were held on Open Bills for Fire Fighter, EMTs. All discussions were positive.

C. Patkochis asked or a Motion to sell the old Pick up. E. Kolibas made the Motion, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: Fire Marshal A. Buterbaugh was in attendance and introduced himself, providing some background on himself and his goals for improving the Fire Prevention Office. He has brought the office into compliance with the State of NJ, attends meetings throughout the Township and is up to date on Registrations, Inspections and Permits. He discussed the need to look into an Ordinance for parking in the Fire Lanes in Walmart Plaza. He will investigate whether one actually does exist or if it needs to be presented for approval. It is an ongoing problem that creates a hazard. He performed 1 re-inspection and 3 smoke certs this month.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis reported 63 calls for service in May. An Ordinance to create the position of Fire Police will have it's first reading at the Township Meeting and a Public Hearing in July. The Fire Police candidates are required to complete a course through the Division of Fire Safety. The "force" will be limited to 12 members. B. Patkochis expressed concern that there is a confusion about the Brush Truck build out. He assured the Board that the process, while slow moving, is moving forward.

C. Patkochis expressed his concern over a bid from East Coast presented to outfit the new pick up truck in the amount of \$21,000. He advised there is \$10,000.00 in the equipment budget this year. He reminded the QFC that the Board must adhere to our Budget. C. Vallat advised the Board that the truck could be outfitted with approximately \$ 17,000.00 and perhaps there was other money, either existing or incoming that could be allocated to the truck upfit. The monies mentioned do not include \$ 1855 for radios and approximately \$1000 for lettering. C. Patkochis advised the QFC that the Board will work with the QFC to get the truck outfitted as best we can with the funds we have available. He reminded the QFC of our Budgeting process coming up for next year and the timetables.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib reported that A. Rudd has accepted a position for employment as police officer in the City of Bethlehem, he will be moved to per diem and will take a leave of absence until the end of the year. R. Emerson and G. Cortellesi have both achieved their Fire Fighter 1 certification and are now active. Regretfully, Charter Member Fred Polacsek has passed away at the age of 103. QFC participated in his funeral procession to the cemetery.

NEW BUSINESS: C. Patkochis advised that the Holmatro Tools are due for Service. ESI is the only certified company to perform the maintenance. The quote for service is \$879.00. E. Kolibas made the Motion, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

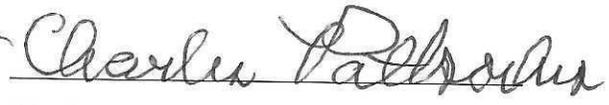
Staples has informed the Board via letter that they are discontinuing their store credit card and switching to a VISA/MC system of providing credit which the Board cannot participate in. We will investigate other ways to make purchases of office equipment.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 by P. Enea, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President

[Faint handwritten signatures and text, possibly including names like "John" and "Mary"]