

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2023

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 271st 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 February 14, 2023 meeting was made by H. Laine, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 105,513.96 and expenses totaling \$28,804.15 for the period of February 15, 2023 March 14, 2023. The first quarter payment from Franklin Twp was received.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of February 15, 2023 through March 14, 2023 was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by P. Enea. 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 updated the board on the status of the contract with Union Township. He advised that he had a very unproductive communication with the Mayor of Union Township which resulted in the Mayor refusing to communicate with C. Patkochis any longer. Contact was made with an different Union Twp Committeeperson who indicated that and additional \$5,000.00 was discussed unofficially. There is a budget meeting tomorrow. B. Patkochis indicated that information that was requested from Union Twp OEM for 3 years of records including equipment, personnel and responses outside of our primary were submitted. B. Patkochis, R. Geib and the Board agree that a \$5,000.00 increase is not enough money to continue to provide the level of coverage we are presently providing to Union Twp. C. Patkochis suggests waiting for the budget to get passed then wait and see what actually happens.

C. Patkochis advised that the Rescue had been to Continental for cylinder hydrostatic testing along with smaller cylinders being taken in groups. Ladder 91 had an oil leak and this has been repaired, along with yearly service completed. Tender 1 was serviced, has an air leak, DOT inspections completed but is not in service due to a water leak. Tender 2 has some major rust issues and the fuel tank is resting against the body.

H. Laine gave a brief overview of Daniel's Law. It is a law that was passed when a District Court Judge's son was murdered by a disgruntled defendant that was able to find the home address of Judge in his case, went to her home and killed her son while also intending to kill her. The law allows for public figure's personal information to be redacted from all public access outlets. H. Laine will research and report back on how it effects members of the Board.

C. Patkochis advised of the following projects and tasks to be completed by the following Board members.

P. Enea will continue to represent the Board and coordinate vehicle maintenance and repairs with B. Crampton. C. Patkochis asked D. Stephens to follow up with McNeil on permanent insurance cards for the vehicles since only temporary cards were supplied and head up contacts with insurance carriers. H. Laine will coordinate with QFC representative R. Nalamalla on getting up and running with Lexipol. E. Kolibas and C. Patkochis will represent the Board with the Townships of Franklin, Alexandria and Union.

C. Patkochis had a brief conversation with Attorney Braslow regarding future vehicle purchases. C. Patkochis advised B. Patkochis that we need to come up with a plan no matter what we buy to pay cash as lease/Purchase is entirely too complicated and a major project in and of itself. Attorney Braslow indicated that we should find a stock unit paying all cash which is preferred method of DCA. D. Stephens suggested a Tender demo unit. More discussion is needed.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis read the Fire Marshal's report that included 3 smoke detector certifications. S. Sean spent a lot of time getting us up and running with DFS as there was a lapse in transfer of access that we were not initially aware of. Thanks to S. Sean for his efforts.

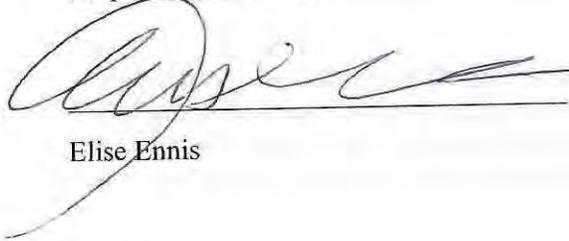
QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis reported 50 calls for service in February with a mild winter creating an early and intense brush fire season. He credits a major QFC response along with the NJ Forrest Fire Service has kept property damage at a minimum. B. Patkochis advised that the QFC vehicle committee has been out looking at potential vehicles to purchase and will continue to try to come up with a plan. There are 2 students currently taking Fire Fighter 1 and a student taking EMT. B. Patkochis indicated that a fulltime employee will be moving creating an opening

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib reported that the water damage claim has been processed and repairs are underway on the meeting room, Fire Marshal's office and the lounge area downstairs. He also reported that a loudspeaker ringer for the phone system as been installed in the engine bay. A demonstration of the speaker revealed a major improvement in the volume of the ringer.

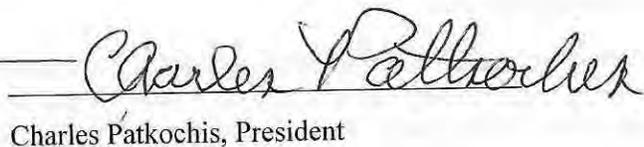
NEW BUSINESS: E. Kolibas reminded the Board that the required Financial Statements for DCA are due at the end of June and to complete them online.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM by D. Stephens, seconded by E. Kolibas . All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President