

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2023

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 273rd 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 April 11, 2023 meeting was made by D. Stephens, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 101,629.26 and expenses totaled \$32,808.89 for the period of April 12, 2023 through May 9, 2023. The second installment from Franklin Township was received.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of April 12, 2023 through May 9, 2023 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:

C. Patkochis advised that he received an email from H. Laine to update the Board on the status of his research on Daniel's Law and the actions he has taken as it pertains to the Board members. He was able to have the personal information of the Board redacted from the website. This included documents from the last 3 years. All other documents have been removed from the website, as allowed by law.

C. Patkochis reported that QFC has purchased a Ford F350 Pick Up truck to take the District's F250 that has been slowly deteriorating. P. Enea will investigate a means of selling the old truck.

C. Patkochis updated the Board on the Worker's Compensation Audit that took place resulting in an additional \$5170.00 owed to AmTrust. C. Patkochis advised that with the increased cost of Worker's Comp Insurance, it is necessary to look into quotes from other companies for next year on all policies, not just Worker's Compensation as all costs are higher. C. Patkochis and B. Crampton will be speaking with various carriers.

C. Patkochis advised that BKC was here for the annual Audit on April 2nd and 3rd. Over the two day period there was only minor suggestion on how payroll taxes are recorded. Additionally, there was concern over how the purchase of the ladder truck was carried out but it was pointed out that the monies were budgeted, meetings held and discussions were recorded in the Minutes of the meetings.

D. Stephens reported that the F350 was added to the insurance, ID card has been received and placed in the vehicle. Additionally, our current insurance carrier was the same insurance carrier we had when the Rescue was damaged by the falling tree and power lines in Flemington. A discussion with our insurance representative was had it was suggested that an email be sent to the adjuster outlining the ongoing

problems and the issues that we have repeatedly had repaired at our cost that continue to cause problems. D. Stephens sent a lengthy email to the adjuster reporting the ongoing issues and they have been given the go-ahead to look into the problems, as well as provided copies of bills we have paid and continue to pay for repairs. We are hopeful that some reimbursement as well as the complete repair/replacement of the damages to take place.

B. Patkochis updated the Board on the contract with LexPol. All policies and procedures from QFC and the Franklin Twp. Fire District have been provided for their review. Will need to set up a meeting once we start getting feedback.

P. Enea reported on Engine 91 air primer and issues with pressure gauges that were not calibrated. Taillights had water in them and were replaced. C. Patkochis added that he is increasingly frustrated with the service personnel that Fire and Safety have been sending as well as the bills we are receiving when things are not being fixed.

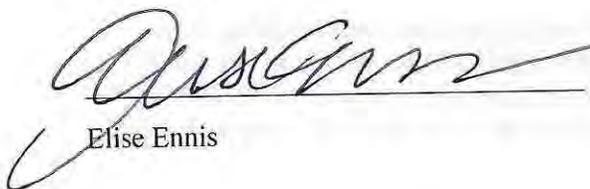
FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised of 9 Inspections and one smoke certification. The Fire Marshal attended meetings with Construction Official and Tax Assessor. Working on a joint mailer with the township to farms that will cost the District nothing. Cracker Barrell was found to be operating without the proper grease filters, resulting in grease buildup. Consider providing pre-plan pictures to QFC for training considerations.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis reported 54 calls in April. ISO project is being re-evaluated and requested design plans for holding tanks at Balmoral/Belmont developments. Possible that plans exist in Fire Marshall's office. It has to be a certified water source for ISO and there is only one recognized at this time in the Township. The QFC is still working on plans for Brush Truck. There are two Junior members coming out of the Hunterdon County Poly Tech program. G. Cortellesi and R. Emerson are ready to take the Firefighter 1 test.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib reported a lot of movement in the ranks of QFC. R. Nallamalla resigned for employment in Newark. He will be missed. J. Boles will move to fulltime FF/EMT from per diem and T. Hinson will be promoted to Operations Supervisor. A. Rudd will be Deputy Operations Supervisor. L. Geib is a new Volunteer EMT and L. Peralta is new to the Junior ranks.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM by P. Enea, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President