

## Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

### Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 280th 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 October 10, 2023 meeting was made by D. Stephens, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 145,813.44 and expenses totaled \$12,651.75 for the period of October 11, 2023 through November 14, 2023.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of October 11, 2023 through November 14, 2023 was made by P. Enea, seconded by H. Laine. 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 advised that the new pick up truck is almost ready, C. Vallat advises by the end of the week it is anticipated to be complete, has been added to insurance.

H. Laine advised that he received some updates on Daniel's Law but still needs to review what the additions/changes are, will report at next meeting. B. Patkochis advised the Board that LexPol is still a major work in progress but has seen work being done. It is a huge project. Twice monthly meetings are coming that will involve the committee moving forward, logins will be provided.

C. Patkochis presented the proposed Budget for 2024 to the Board. The total budget is \$597,000.00 with \$458,000.00 to be raised from the fire tax. The rate would go from 0.081 to .0084 cents per \$100.00 of assessed property value. H. Laine made the motion to present the proposed 2024 to the NJ DCA for approval, seconded by D. Stephens. Roll Call Vote D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis reported regarding the purchase of a new Tender. The ballot question to purchase the Tender was passed at the Election on November 7, that being said, after discussion with Attorney Braslow and our accountant, the preferred method to purchase would be to pay cash out of surplus rather than finance. There are major expenses that go along with financing and purchasing over time, along with the anticipated 29 month delivery on a truck to be built. The QFC will be meeting with Co-OP vendors to seek a spec truck already in production that we can pay cash for that meets our needs and would be purchased out of surplus, no more than \$575,000.00.

### **RESOLUTION 2023-10 NEW JERSEY STATE GRANT TO PURCHASE PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT**

C. Patkochis presented Resolution 2023-10 to the Board for approval to participate in a Grant for funds up to \$70,000 to purchase PPE. A motion 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.

**RESOLUTION 2023-11 FIRE PROECTION AGREEMENT WITH QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY**

C. Patkochis presented Resolution 2023-11 to the Board approving the Fire Protection Agreement for 2024 with Quakertown Fire Company to provide fire services to Franklin Township in the amount of \$ 200,000.00. A Motion 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.

**RESOLUTION 2023-12 APPROVING BKC AS AUDITOR/ACCOUNTANT TO THE BOARD**

C. Patkochis presented Resolution 2023-12 to the Board approving BKC as Auditor/Accountant to the Board for 2024. A Motion was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by H. Laine. Roll call vote D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

**FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:** C. Patkochis advised of 4 Inspections, 3 Smoke Certs along with 20 farm inspections and 19 instances of follow up on outstanding issues. The Fire Marshal has asked the Board to purchase a new computer for the Fire Marshal's office next year as the present computer's operating system is not compatible with new programs.

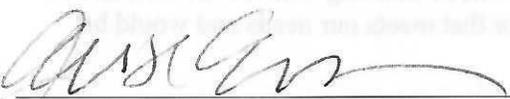
**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT:** B. Patkochis advised of 83 calls for the month of October, on track for 850-875 calls for 2023 with 50% being fire calls. Day time staffing is still presenting a problem. B. Patkochis reported to the Board regarding an October 19, 2023 email notification from PEOSHA of an anonymous complaint of QFC members not being trained of FIT tested. Within days, proof of training and FIT testing of 50 plus members was provided by W. Crampton and T. Hinson and the complaint was closed by PEOSHA per the Assistant Chief Of PEOSHA, Division of Fire and Safety. B. Patkochis then received a phone call in reference to an additional complaint from an Area Planner at Division of Fire and Safety. B. Patkochis requested the complaint in writing prior to engaging in discussion but to date a written complaint has not been received. Several days have passed and nothing has been received.

B. Patkochis advised the Board that they and their family members are invited to a family Thanksgiving meal to be held on Sunday, November 19 at 5PM, please RSVP to B. Patkochis with number attending.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** R. Geib reported that a successful Steak and Wing fundraiser was held, this is the last fundraiser for the year. R. Geib advised that the nominating committee will be making their recommendations at the next department meeting in December. R. Geib advised that QFC has a new Junior member to present to the Board for approval, R. Brereton, Alexandria Township resident. P. Enea made the motion to approve R. Brereton, seconded by D. Stephens, all in the favor, motion carried. Additionally, R. Geib advised that repairs to the basement ceiling are under way and should be completed soon, performed by QFC membership.

There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 PM by P. Enea, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President