

# Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

## Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2023

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 279th 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 September 12, 2023 meeting was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 100,072.03 and expenses totaled \$57,928.14 for the period of September 13, 2023 through October 10, 2023.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of September 13, 2023 through October 10, 2023 was made by P. Enea, seconded by D. Stephens. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:** C. Patkochis advised the Board that Fire and Safety has submitted the lowest bid for refurbishment of Tender 2. The amount is \$ 22,000 with work set to begin in December that will be invoiced next year. The QFC committee that inspected the undercarriage determined that the initial undercoating was not performed properly, resulting in the appearance of more issues than initially thought. It will also need tires as they are overdue for replacement. E. Kolibas made the Motion to have Fire and Safety perform the work, seconded by P. Enea. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis reported on the Budget plan for next year. It will depend largely on the outcome of the ballot question at the vote on November 7, 2024. C. Patkochis will prepare a proposal to be discussed at the next regular meeting with scenarios for a passing result and negative result to the ballot question. Additionally, the rateables form from the Tax Assessor is needed to prepare the Budget, C. Patkochis will look into it.

C. Patkochis advised that the Board needs to look into a new fuel oil provider as the present company has changed hands. After looking into several options, local vendor Van Doren/Patriot came forward with a maximum price of \$ 3.59 per gallon for a maximum 2000 gallons of heating oil. If the price happens to be lower, we will be billed the lower cost. The Board will go with Van Doren/Patriot.

**FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT:** C. Patkochis read the Fire Marshal's report indicating 13 Inspections, 6 Smoke Certs and 3 Re-inspections. The Bureau will now assume jurisdiction for multi-family dwellings in Franklin Township, taking over for the state. There are presently 14 multi-family dwellings separate from the Hampton Inn. East West Connection is appealing a violation written for an unsafe egress. Fire Official will follow up with the County.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT:** No report.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** R. Geib advised that L. Geib passed her EMT and has begun riding as an EMT, currently working on driver training. The QFC has seen an uptick in interest for Junior Volunteers. R. Geib believes it is due to outreach to local clubs and schools. Oktoberfest was held for the 15<sup>th</sup> year with a strong response from the community. 47 members were on hand to provide assistance during the event.

There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 PM by D. Stephens, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President