

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2024

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 294TH 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.

OATH OF OFFICE: The Oath of Office of Commissioner was administered to P. Enea and D. Stephens, who were re-elected during the November 2024 Election, by Recording Secretary, E. Ennis.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025: D. Stephens made a motion that the Officer designations remain as assigned for 2025, seconded by H. Laine. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Officers were re-elected as follows:

President: C. Patkochis

Vice President: E. Kolibas

Secretary: P. Enea III

Treasurer: D. Stephens

Assistant Secretary: H. Laine

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH: A Motion to accept the minutes of the November 12, 2024 meeting was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 794.47 and expenses totaling \$64,612.92 for the period of November 13, 2024 through December 10, 2024.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of November 13, 2024 through December 10, 2024 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: C. Patkochis advised the Board that the 2025 Budget was granted approval through the NJDCA. The total Budget for 2025 is \$638,000.00 with \$467,000.00 to be raised by taxes.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-15 ADOPTION OF 2025 BUDGET**

P. Enea made the Motion to approve the 2025 Budget, seconded by H. Laine. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis read **RESOLUTIONS 2024-16** through **2024-30** regarding appointment and approval of District Employees, Vendors and Programs by title to the members of the Board and highlighted any changes to them as appropriate with the following results:

- **RESOLUTION 2024-16 APPOINTING FIRE OFFICIAL ANDREW BUTERBAUGH**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-17 APPOINTING FIRE INSPECTOR SEAN SMITH**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-18 APPOINTING FIRE INSPECTOR TIMOTHY HINSON**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-19 APPOINTING ATTORNEY JOSEPH SORDILLO, ESQ**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-20 APPOINTING ACCOUNTING FIRM BKC, CPA**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-21 APPOINTING DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR WILLIAM CRAMPTON**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-22 APPOINTING RECORDING SECRETARY ELISE ENNIS**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-23 APPROVING 2025 MEETING DATES**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-24 APPROVING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-25 APPROVING SURETY BOND FOR COMMISSIONERS**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-26 APPROVING CASH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-27 APPROVING PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-28 APPROVING MITIGATION RATES**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-29 PARTICIPATION IN HOUSTON-GALVESTON CO-OP**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

- **RESOLUTION 2024-30 PARTICIPATION IN SOURCEWELL CO-OP**

C. Patkochis asked for a Motion to accept the above Resolution as read, P. Enea made the Motion; seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised that he has received no updates from Alexandria Township regarding their coverage area study. B. Patkochis advised that the report is to be made public on 12/12/24.

C. Patkochis reported that several emails and attempts to contact Union Township regarding the additional funding have not been successful. Their next meeting is 12/18/2024, we are hopeful that additional funding will be approved. A. Buterbaugh advised that a report is still forthcoming from the NJ State Fire Marshall audit of our office with regard to taking over Union Township. He was told to be patient.

D. Stephens advised that he is still looking into the application process for Worker's Compensation Insurance for next year. This needs to be ironed out as we went over budget in 2024 due to Worker's Comp insurance premiums and audit being more than anticipated.

D. Stephens is also looking into an issue with Rescue 91 regarding a repair of a module that insurance has covered in the past. He will contact Fire and Safety to find out whether or not to proceed with insurance.

C. Patkochis advised the Board that the ownership Title for the Brush truck has been turned over to the QFC and will be dropped from the insurance. D. Stephens will contact insurance.

C. Patkochis advised the Board that he had been in contact with Republic Services regarding trash service and after a lot of back and forth, their cost proposal went up. After contacting them again, the price came down significantly, but they want to have a 3 year contract signed with no limit on price increases. More work to be done to straighten this out.

C. Patkochis also advised that Van Doren Oil delivered fuel oil with a price of \$3.41 per gallon as a "Full Service" Customer. The cost last year was significantly less. C. Patkochis and B. Patkochis agreed that we do not need to be "Full Service" as we have members who take care of service and repairs. Will look into cheaper rates from other providers going forward or a price adjustment from Van Doren.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT: C. Patkochis advised that the Fire Marshall has requested to purchase uniform shirts for his office in the amount of \$ 238.50. D. Stephens made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, motion carried. A. Buterbaugh added that he is just about wrapped up for the year with final reports for the year due to the State by 1/31/2025.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis reported 86 calls for November. QFC will be meeting with meeting with the marketing consultant regarding recruitment for 2025. There has been discussion to revamp the written application for membership. B. Patkochis reported that the Brush has been sold, will live out it's life in Iowa.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib advised of annual election results (See attached report) The annual Senior Citizens Luncheon will be held on Wednesday December 11 and annual Christmas Party will be Friday, December 13.

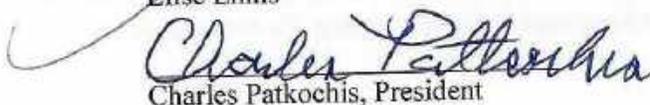
OLD BUSINESS: H. Laine advised that there was no action taken on the proposed changes to the False Alarm Ordinance at the November Franklin Township Meeting. He will check to see if it is on the agenda for the December meeting,

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM by E. Kolibas seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1
Special Meeting Minutes
 December 23, 2024

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 295th 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 9:00AM.

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: C. Patkochis, Present; E. Kolibas, Present; P. Enea, Present; D. Stephens, Present; H. Laine, Present.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens gave the financial report for the period of December 12, 2024 through December 23, 2024. Income for that period was \$605.81 and expenses were \$4,998.74.

Motion to pay the bills for the time period of December 12, 2024 through December 23, 2024 was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by H. Laine. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; H. Laine, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion passed.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

RESOLUTION 2024-31 AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS/ENCUMBRANCES FOR 2024 BUDGET

C. Patkochis read Resolution 2024-31 authorizing transfers/encumbrances of budgeted monies to cover expenses for the remainder of 2024.

The transfers are as follows:

FROM	TO	TOTAL
GAS, OIL	INSURANCE	\$6000.00
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	INSURANCE	\$7000.00
UTILITIES	INSURANCE	\$1000.00
FIRE EQUIPMENT	INSURANCE	\$1000.00
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$1500.00
SALARIES AND WAGES	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	\$2000.00
ADVERTISING	FIRE PREVENTION	\$ 500.00
FIRE EQUIPMENT	PAYROLL TAX EXPENSE	\$ 500.00
TOTAL		\$19,500.00

A motion was made to approve to Resolution 2024-31 approving the transfers by P. Enea, seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; H. Laine, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. All in favor, Motion carried.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business to discuss a motion was made by P. Enea, seconded by E. Kolibas to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 PM. All in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:



Elise M. Ennis, Secretary



Charles Patkochis, President