

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2024

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 284th 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 January 9, 2024 meeting was made by D. Stephens, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of expenses totaling \$21,580.90 and income totaling \$111,386.55 for the period of January 10, 2024 through February 13, 2024.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of January 10, 2024 through February 13, 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 presented to following Resolutions for consideration by the Board:

RESOLUTION 2024-2 AWARDING WORKER'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE CONTRACT to AmTrust Financial in the amount of \$48,131.00. It was noted that this is a rather large increase over last year's policy however, due to the lack of insurance companies willing to write policies for fire related services, it is difficult to obtain any lower estimates for the required coverage.

Motion to award the contract 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.

RESOLUTION 2024-3 AWARDING CONTRACT FOR LIABILITY, GROUNDS, BUILDING, PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLE INSURANCE COVERAGE TO Emergency Service Insurance Provider (ESIP) McNeil in the amount of \$36,984.00 plus and additional \$824.00 for Cyber Insurance Coverage.

Motion to award the contract to ESIP by D. Stephens, seconded by P. Enea. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised the Board of the following proposed purchases/repairs to be considered:

TFT - Ball Intake Valves (2) to be refurbished in lieu of replacement (cost upwards of \$6000 to replace) they can be refurbished at a cost of \$674.00 (each) plus freight by TFT. Motion by E. Kolibas, to have the ball intake valves refurbished at a cost not to exceed \$2000. seconded by H. Laine, all in favor, Motion carried.

6 New Tires for Engine 91 at a cost on NJ State Bid from Performance Tire of \$3650.84, installed. D. Stephens made a Motion to purchase from Performance, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

Bids for various new equipment for the New Tender 91 due for delivery in late Spring have been received from two vendors. Witmer bid was \$5720.00 with Mid Atlantic coming in at \$ 7520.00 for the same equipment. P. Enea made a Motion to approve the purchase with Witmer for \$5720.00, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis asked D. Stephens to follow up with US Bankcorp on the title for Engine 91 that was paid off last month.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised no detailed report was received from the Fire Marshal this month, however Registrations and Permit fees are being received. Approximately \$12,000.00 has been received so far. Additionally, the Fire Marshal was involved in the incident at Shoprite on Super Bowl Sunday and has been assisting Franklin Township Zoning Department with a property at 24 Baker Road with use issues.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis reported 75 calls for service in January. B. Patkochis advised on communications he has had with representatives of Alexandria Township in reference to coverage area and reimbursements for services provided by QFC. Alexandria is in the process of interviewing consultants to perform reassessments of properties that have not been done in over 25 years. This is encouraging news and will hopefully result in additional funds from Alexandria for shared fire services. With this in mind, Alexandria will not be making their yearly contribution until these numbers can be reviewed. This is a positive development in our relationship with Alexandria Township for shared services. Representatives from the Union Township Committee will be coming to QFC on Friday to meet with the Fire Marshal. Additionally B. Patkochis reported that the County has contracted with CSI for a new CAD system that will result in a large savings for emergency reporting.. Rates from our current reporting system, ESO, are set to increase exponentially in January, 2025. Not only will the County system be free to all users, the County will import our current database for free as well as maintain it.

B. Patkochis advised on the status of the new Tender. It is approaching completion and a trip to the manufacturing plant in Florida is planned for March 4, 2024 to inspect it. We can hopefully expect delivery by the end of April with lettering and moving/installation of equipment taking place after delivery.

B. Patkochis updated the Board on the status of the Brush Truck pre-construction at Vengent. Plans have been reviewed and signed off on. Delivery is expected this summer.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib advised that fundraising is off to a strong start in 2024 with two very successful Barbecues held for Championship and Super Bowl Sundays. M. Abelwicz will be leaving for other employment but will be staying on changing to Per Diem. Applicants are being interviewed to replace him. Additionally, 4 new Junior members are being presented for Board approval. They have already been approved by QFC. They are M. Hlasney, E. Gonzalez, E. Gonzalez and M. Alderman. P. Enea made a Motion to approve these 4 Junior Members, seconded by D. Stephens. All in Favor, Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: C. Patkochis asked for an update on the status of Lexipol. R. Geib advised this is a lengthy and arduous process and we are making progress, however slow. Estimates another 8 months to see the project through.

D, Stephens updated the Board on C. Milcarek and D. Desaulnier providing scheduled maintenance and minor repairs on District Vehicles. He advised that he has spoken with them and they are willing to do it.

Questions remain on how to reimburse them for their time and tracking the work load.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM by P. Enea, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President