

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2024

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 283rd 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 December 12, 2023 meeting was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL END OF YEAR MEETING MINUTES: A Motion to accept the minutes of the December 26, 2023 special meeting was made by D. Stephens, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 8,162.47 and expenses totaling \$62,578.76 for the period of January 1, 2024 through January 9, 2024. The largest expense for this time period was the final payment for the fire truck.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of January 1, 2024 through January 9, 2024 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.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

C. Patkochis read **RESOLUTION 2024-1 APPOINTING FIRE INSPECTOR TIM HINSON** at a rate of \$25.00 per hour. Motion was made by D. Stephens, seconded by P. Enea to approve the appointment of T. Hinson to the position of Fire Inspector from this date through the end 2024. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised that the transmission for Brush 91 no longer goes in reverse. We received two bids to repair the transmission, one from Ralph Anthony and the second from Rob Shockley who was able to locate a used transmission with 55,000 miles on it and will be able to replace the transmission for \$2,800. Motion to have Rob Shockley (Precision) make the repair was made by P. Enea, seconded by H. Laines. All in favor, motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised that we are in receipt of a quote for SCBA Testing by Mid Atlantic \$37.50 per PAK \$ 35.00 per RIT PAK. A Motion was made by E. Kolibas not to exceed \$1500.00 total for the testing, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis asked D. Stephens to get in touch with US Bancorp in reference to obtaining the title for the truck that was just paid off and making sure the insurance company is aware the note has been satisfied.

C. Patkochis advised B. Patkochis and R. Geib that with the impending delivery of 2 new trucks in the coming months, the Board needs to have a list of additional equipment that will be needed.

D. Stephens presented the Board with a possible solution to the increased outlay for maintenance and repairs. D. Stephens advised that he feels quite a bit of the minor repairs and maintenance could be performed in house by C. Milcarek and D. Desaulniers, who are already familiar with the equipment. Some equipment is going un-repaired or isn't being maintained and having someone in-house may avoid this. C. Patkochis advised that it is something we would have to look into, for one, reimbursement for their time and by whom. Additional information will be gathered to discuss at the next Board meeting.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: A. Buterbaugh advised the Board that he has sent out the yearly mailing of registrations and is working on simplifying the filing system. He indicated that he would like to work on an additional ordinance for fines, which he was told would need to be presented to the Franklin Township Committee for approval. There were 17 registrations recorded, 5 smoke detector certs and 10 Re-Inspections.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis reported 846 calls for service in 20203, 470 Fire and 456 EMS. Two members completed Fire Fighter 1 but have not yet turned 18. B. Patkochis advised the Board that Kevin Suydam has returned to active status. E. Kolibas made a Motion to approve the move from In-Active to Active status, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried. B. Patkochis advised the new Tender is in pre-production, soon to be in full production by the end of March with delivery expected by end of March. The new Brush truck is in pre-construction with a trip to Vengeance scheduled for the end of the week.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib advised that Executive and Line officers for 2024 are now in place, fundraising efforts will resume shortly for the Super Bowl. R. Geib advised that there are two new Junior members, Scott Turek and Mackenzie Vallat.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM by P. Enea, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President