

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1
Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2025

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 308th 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 NJ Advanced Media and NJ.COM, 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, absent; Assistant Secretary, H. Laine, present.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE WAS ADMINISTERED TO RETURNING BOARD MEMBER H. LAINE AND NEW MEMBER, S. BELL.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH: A Motion to accept the minutes of the November 11, 2025 meeting was made by H. Laine, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 978.31 and expenses totaling \$69,968.14 for the period of November 12, 2025 through December 9, 2025.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of November 12, 2025 through December 9, 2025 was made by P. Enea, seconded by S. Bell. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; S. Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

C. Patkochis read RESOLUTION 2025-29 Approving the 2026 Budget with no recommendations or changes by the DCA. The Budget for 2026 is \$679,000.00 with \$ 506,000.00 raised by the fire tax. There being no further discussion by the Board, P. Enea made a motion to approve the budget with H. Laine seconding the motion. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; S. Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis introduced the following appointment/re-appointment Resolutions for the annual re-organization of the Franklin Township Fire District for approval by the Board for 2026.

2025-12 AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ACCOUNTANT – BKC-CPA,PC

2025-13 AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR – BKC-CPA, PC

2025-14 AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR – W. CRAMPTON

2025-15 AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY – J. SORDILLO /FIRM

2025-16 AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF RECORDING SECRETARY- HOCKIN

2025-17 REMOVED

2025-18 AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF FIRE OFFICIAL –A. BUTERBAUGH

2025-19 AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF FIRE INSPECTOR – S. SMITH

2025-20 AUTHORIZING 2026 MEETING DATES

2025-21 AUTHORIZING SURETY BOND FOR COMMISSIONERS

2025-22 AUTHORIZING MITIGATION RATES

2025-23 AUTHORIZING CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN

2025-24 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

2025-25 AUTHORIZING HOUSTON GALVISTON CO-OP

2025-26 AUTHORIZING SOURCEWELL CO-OP

2025-27 AUTHORIZING BERGEN CO-OP

2025-28 AUTHORIZING OFFICIAL NEWS OUTLET

D. Stephens made a motion to approve the above listed re-organization Resolutions for 2026, seconded by S. Bell.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
C. Patkochis	x			
S. Bell	x			
P. Enea	x			
D. Stephens	x			
H. Laine	x			

C. Patkochis inquired on a Workers Compensation issue that involved a Junior Member of QFC at the Fire School. There was no written report submitted. D. Stephens will follow up on behalf of the Board to determine responsible party.

C. Patkochis advised of a quote for helmet fronts in the amount of \$ 815.00 from Witmer. S. Bell made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised that QFC has requested 3 Fire Pro 300 thermal imaging cameras (TIC) in the amount of \$4275.00. There is money left in the account for fines collected by the Fire Marshal's office to cover this purchase. S. Bell made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, motion carried.

C. Patkochis reported that when Ladder 91 went for service at Fire and Safety, it was reported that the ladder was bent. When the ladder went for inspection over the summer, there was no issue reported. In that time frame, B. Patkochis advised that there were no instances of damage being reported during drills or calls for service. C. Patkochis stressed that the ladder is to be used by trained personnel only. In the meantime, we are waiting for the completed report from Fire and Safety.

W. Hockin advised the Board that he has been researching ways to improve connectivity at fire scenes and for the Fire Marshall to work remotely at inspections, etc. and was made aware of a promotion thru AT&T for cradlepoint devices. After discussion on the best way to improve connectivity, it was agreed that the Board would purchase two cradlepoint devices and one hotspot to install in the cradlepoints in Fire Marshall's car as well as Brush 91. P. Enea made a motion to approve, seconded by D. Stephens, all in favor, motion carried.

H. Laine advised of no new information on shared services contracts with Union and Alexandria Townships.

C. Patkochis advised the Board that two incomplete applications (no background checks or physicals) are pending completion before they will be considered.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT: See the attached detailed report from A. Buterbaugh outlining the goals and objectives of the Fire Marshall.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: See attached report from B. Patkochis who advised he would like to develop a master plan with Board for providing fire service and future equipment purchases.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: See attached report from R. Geib outlining the past month's events involving QFC including the annual Fund Drive mailer.

NEW BUSINESS: ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2026

PRESIDENT: C. Patkochis nominated, **H. Laine**; seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor.
VICE PRESIDENT: D. Stephens nominated **C. Patkochis**, seconded by S. Bell. All in favor
TREASURER: P. Enea nominated **D. Stephens**, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor
SECRETARY: C. Patkochis nominated **P. Enea**, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor
ASSISTANT SECRETARY: C. Patkochis nominated **S. Bell**, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor

PRESIDENT; H. LAINE
VICE PRESIDENT: C. PATKOCHIS
TREASURER: D. STEPHENS

SECRETARY: P. ENEA
ASSISTANT SECRETARY: S. BELL

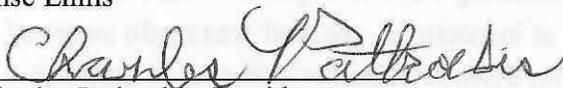
C. Patkochis advised the Board that the Special End of Year Meeting to wrap up will be held on Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at 6:30PM

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:28PM by H. Laine seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President

PRESIDENT: H. LAINE
VICE PRESIDENT: C. PATKOCHIS
TREASURER: P. STEPHENS