

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1
Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2025

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 297th 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 New Jersey Advance 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, absent; 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 14, 2025 meeting was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: C. Patkochis advised of a total income of \$ 116,462.72 and expenses totaling \$ 38,812.31 for the period of January 15, 2025 through February 11, 2025.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of January 15, 2025 through February 11, 2025 was made by P. Enea, seconded by H. Laine. Roll call vote, P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

C. Patkochis read the following Resolution authorizing award of contract for insurance coverage. After many meetings and phone calls, an estimate for coverage from First Responder was received and although the quote for Worker's Compensation was much lower, the total for all coverage would be \$111,637.00, about \$20,000 more than we are presently paying.

RESOLUTION 2025-2 AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTACT FOR LIABILITY, GROUNDS, BUILDING, PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLE INSURANCE COVERAGE WITH MCNEIL (ESIP) For the period of February 15, 2025 through February 14, 2026 in the amount of \$41,677.00. A motion was made by P. Enea, seconded by E. Kolibas to approve. Roll call vote, P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis updated the Board that he and H. Laine would be meeting with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Alexandria Township on Thursday, February 13, 2025 to discuss continued coverage and a Contract for coverage. Additionally, C. Patkochis reported an additional payment for 2024 was received from Union Township in the amount of \$5,500. The goal will be to have a Contract for coverage with Union Township signed this year as well. There is no update on Union Township and Fire Marshall's Office.

C. Patkochis advised that a quote for hose, ladder and pump testing was received from Fire Flow. Additional quotes exceeded \$6000. H. Laine made a Motion to approve Fire Flow for hose, ladder and pump testing, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised the Board that Tender 2 went to BCI for an issue with the brakes where excessive rust was discovered on the brakes and muffler. It is now back in service.

C. Patkochis advised that Republic Services has resolved the billing/price for the next 12 months at \$107.00 per month.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT: A. Buterbaugh submitted a detailed monthly report, see attached. Income so far for registrations and permits is approximately \$13,500. A. Buterbaugh advised that he has submitted a response to the State Fire Marshal audit report.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: B. Patkochis advised the Board of 80 calls for service for the month of January, 47 Fire and 41 EMS. Mandatory refreshers were completed. Recruitment and reevaluation of Career Staff to achieve consistency in staffing is a priority. With T. Hinson going from Full Time Career Staff to Per Diem, as posting has been made to recruit new Full Time and additional Per Diem personnel to improve staffing. Meeting room upgrades have been completed, paint, window treatments, new TV and audio system with hopes of additional hall rentals. B. Patkochis inquired on delivery of requested gear racks. C. Patkochis advised that there have been issues with fluctuating quotes on freight costs slowing down the process.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib advised to two very successful fundraising barbecues being held on NFL Championship Sunday and Super Bowl LIX Sunday.

OLD BUSINESS: H. Laine advised the Board that he will be meeting with Franklin Township Committeeman S. Donaruma tomorrow morning to discuss the Board's proposed changes to the False Alarm Ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:51PM by H. Laine seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Elise Ennis


Charles Patkochis, President