

**Franklin Township Fire District No. 1**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
January 14, 2025

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 296<sup>th</sup> 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 10, 2024 meeting was made by D. Stephens, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 23, 2024:** A Motion to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 23, 2024 was made by P. Enea, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 3,251.00 and expenses totaling \$28,939.84 for the period of January 1, 2025 through January 14, 2025.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of January 1, 2025 through January 14, 2025 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:**

**RESOLUTION 2025-1 APPROVING AMTRUST FINANCIAL AS WORKER'S COMPENSATION INSURANCE CARRIER FOR THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 15, 2025 THROUGH FEBRUARY 14, 2026**

C. Patkochis read the above Resolution approving Amtrust as our Worker's Compensation carrier for the period referenced in the amount of \$ 48,852.00. A Motion was made by P. Enea to approve, seconded by E. Kolibas. 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 that he would be signing the Contract for Accounting/Auditor Services with BKC/CPA in the amount of \$8,650.00 approved by Resolution 2024-20. Motion made by H. Laine, seconded by D. Stephens. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis reported that we are still waiting for a contract for trash pick up from Republic Services for \$107.00 per month for one year contract. As of the time of our meeting we have not received it.

C. Patkochis updated the Board that Union Township approved an additional \$5,500.00 in Municipal aide for a total of \$50,500.00 for 2024. A voucher has been signed and we should receive the funds following their January 22, 2025 meeting.

C. Patkochis advised that he had no update regarding the Alexandria study, will be reaching out to the Mayor of Alexandria this week,

The following proposed purchases were brought before the Board for approval:

Performance Tires for 8 new tires for Tender 91-1 inside rear tires, under State Contract for \$4,823.76. P. Enea made a Motion to purchase, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

Pager batteries: Minitor V - 10 batteries @ \$23.50 each = \$235.00  
Minitor VI - 10 batteries @ \$23.00 each = \$230.00  
Total \$ 465.00

D. Stephens made a Motion to purchase the batteries, seconded by P. Enea, all in favor, Motion carried.

KNOX Box entry system Contract in the amount of \$6,472.00 to update our outdated system. This amount includes 2 brackets for trucks and 3 brackets for Command/Fire Marshall vehicles. P. Enea made the Motion, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

**FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE PURCHASES UTILIZING FINE/PENALTY FUNDS:**

CAMERA WITH BAG AND ACCESSORIES \$1458.00 D. Stephens made the Motion, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion Carried

First Due/Locality Software Package \$ 6800.00 P. Enea made the Motion, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

ALLEGRA MARKETING Fire scene and Investigatory supplies \$ 745.00 P. Enea made the Motion, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried

C. Patkochis advised the Board that after several inquiries, he has sent a letter to the State Fire Marshal's Office requesting an update on the report from the Audit performed of our Fire Marshal's Office last year. As of meeting time, no response has been received.

D. Stephens advised that he is still hopeful to come up with a cheaper alternative for Worker's Compensation either directly through a JIF or through Township allowing the District to join their policy and reimburse them. Cinnaminson Fire District does this. D. Stephens suggested he will check with Board Attorney to inquire on a possible special JIF or source for insurance for First Responders.

**FIRE MARSHAL REPORT:** A. Buterbaugh provided the Board with his end of year report, see attached detailed report. He advised that 2025 is well underway with 200-300 inspections anticipated and approximately 15 new farms added since last year.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT:** B. Patkochis advised that QFC ended 2024 with at total of 946 calls for service. 539 division of fire and 473 EMS calls. 1600 total vehicle responses and Engine 91 receiving the most activity at 353 calls. The old Brush truck was sold, replaced by new Brush 91 that is presently at Vengeance completing the punch list. Old Tender has not been sold, although there is interest, the pump is now leaking. QFC received almost \$750,000 in Grants in 2024. Stipends paid out in January were done with State Funds received through the Grant. The Supervisor of the Career Staff has given notice that he will be transitioning to Per Diem for another job opportunity which leaves QFC with a staffing issue. B. Patkochis is requesting immediate short term assistance from the Board in staffing one position 5 days a week with a District Employee.



**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: NO REPORT**

**OLD BUSINESS:** H. Laine advised the Board that his last communication with the Township Committee representative regarding the False Alarm Ordinance was before the holidays. At that time he was informed that the Township's Attorney advised them that there are no changes needed to their present Ordinance. H. Laine will be following up with the Township for clarification.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM by E. Kolibas seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President