

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

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 298TH 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 March 11, 2025 meeting was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by D. Stephens. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 109,384.20 and expenses totaling \$78,140.96 for the period of February 11, 2025 through March 11, 2025.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of February 11, 2025 through March 11, 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:

C. Patkochis reported that he and H. Laine met with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Alexandria Township to discuss shared services and it did not go well. H. Laine reiterated that it was not productive. The Deputy Mayor advised that they were not signing a contract with the Fire District. C. Patkochis advised that the meeting was essentially over at that point and advised the Board that we need to proceed with a letter from our attorney advising that continued services will not be provided without a contract.

C. Patkochis advised that Union Township’s Budget, while not approved at this time, indicates a 2% increase to the funding they provide, or \$1000.00.

C. Patkochis advised that Ladder 91, Engine 91 and the Tenders are due for Pump Service and ladder inspection. A quote was received from Fire and Safety for \$2520.00. Motion to have Fire and Safety perform the periodic pump testing and ladder testing was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by P. Enea. All in favor, motion carried.

Additionally, C. Patkochis advised that a quote was received from ESI to perform periodic service on the Holmatro tools in the amount of \$ 897.00. D. Stephens made a motion to have the service done by ESI, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, motion carried.

C. Patkochis reported that a notice was received regarding the annual Worker's Compensation audit. The Notice was forwarded to QFC to being gathering the required information. Once the information is compiled and sent to the auditor a conference call will be held.

H. Laine advised that he spoke with the Attorney who advised he will do research for contracts with Alexandria and Union Townships.

D. Stephens inquired in the status of the gear rack that was requested by QFC. C. Patkochis advised that we are still waiting on a shipping price, which could be as much as the gear rack since it has to be sent via freight. D. Stephens advised that perhaps some of the gear that is presently being stored on the racks that belongs to inactive members be removed to make room for new members and a new rack would not be needed. P. Enea agreed. This will be relayed to QFC.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT: A. Buterbaugh provided a detailed report for the month regarding registrations and inspections (see attached). He also advised the Board that he received an email from the State Fire Marshall's Office that they would not be approving Franklin Township Fire District taking over the Fire Marshall's Office in Union Township. A formal response from the State has not been received.

RESOLUTION 2025-3 – EXECUTIVE SESSION-PERSONNEL

C. Patkochis read Resolution 2025-3 to enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel. P. Enea made a motion to enter Executive Session, 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 there will be two employees, W. Crampton and E. Ennis, leaving employment with the Fire District by the end of this year and efforts to replace them need to begin immediately. C. Patkochis also advised that he will be resigning his position with the Board at the end of 2025. H. Laine asked that a job description for each position be made and distributed.

P. Enea made a motion to leave Executive Session, seconded by H. Laine. Roll call vote, D. Stephens, aye; P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: NO REPORT

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: NO REPORT

OLD BUSINESS: H. Laine advised that there was no update on the False Alarm Ordinance with Franklin Township.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:56PM by P. Enea seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elise Ennis

Charles Patkochis, President