

**Franklin Township Fire District No. 1**

**Meeting Minutes**

November 11, 2025

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 307th 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, 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 October 14 and 28, 2025 meeting was made by H. Laine, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** C. Patkochis advised of a total income of \$ 1,226..61 and expenses totaling \$17,909.04 for the period October 15, 2025 through November 11, 2025. Motion to pay the bills for the period of October 15, 2025 through November 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:**

**RESOLUTION 2025-10 – 2026 FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT WITH QFC**

C. Patkochis presented the 2026 Fire Protection Agreement with QFC to the Board for approval. The Agreement in the amount of \$ 235,000.00, will be paid out over the course of the agreement, as scheduled. There being no discussion, P. Enea made a Motion to approve, seconded by H. Laine. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 2025-11 – Introduction of 2026 Budget**

C. Patkochis introduced the 2026 Budget with each Board member having received a copy and having reviewed the proposed budget totaling \$ 679,000.00, of which \$ 506,000.00 will be raised by taxation. The tax rate increased from .084 cents per \$100.00 of assessed value to .091 cents per \$ 100.00 of assessed property value. There being no comments or issues brought forth, P. Enea made the Motion to submit the budget for 2026 to the DCA for approval, seconded by H. Laine. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

W. Hockin advised the Board that the new webpage is up and running. An additional page was added supporting the Fire Prevention office services. The new company will bill quarterly.

H. Laine advised of no updates on contracts with Alexandria and Union Townships. An email was received from our Attorney apologizing for the slow response on his part to the repeated requests for updates.

C. Patkochis advised that the DCA approved our participation in the Bergen County Co-op.

C. Patkochis presented the following purchases/services for Board approval:

Tender 91-1 service to be performed at BCI Trucking at a date to be determined. Motion by E. Kolibas, second by H. Laine, all in favor.

Tires for the Explorer \$911.00 on State Bid from Performance Tire. Motion by E. Kolibas, second by H. Laine, all in favor.

Name tags for turnout gear for 11 firefighters to meet current safety standards. Total \$1110.00. Motion by H. Laines, second by P. Enea, all in favor.

Detail cleaning of 3 District owned cars, Explorer for interior and exterior and both Tahoes exteriors. Total \$1,000.00 to be performed by Califon Auto Detailing. Motion by E. Kolibas, seconded by H. Laine, all in favor.

C. Patkochis advised the Board that the Reorganization and Swearing in of new Board member will take place at the December 9, 2025 meeting.

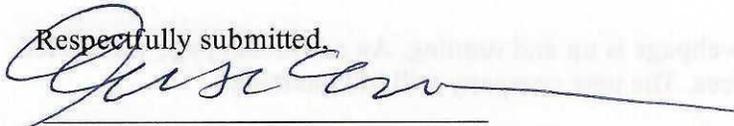
**FIRE MARSHAL REPORT:** See attached detailed report. C. Patkochis advised the Board that the Shared Service with Union Township for the Fire Marshall's office is a dead issue. W. Hockin is working on completing the rear cabinet of the Fire Marshal's car.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT:** B. Patkochis advised the Board of 87 calls for service including 41 fire calls. Fire Prevention visits to the Franklin Township and Alexandria Township Schools took place during Fire Prevention week. B. Patkochis advised that Brush 91 has taken on a different role, responding first due on CO Alarms, etc. in place of Engine 91, resulting in less wear and tear and requiring less manpower. The new ambulance will be put into service soon. Goals for 2026 are to complete Tender 91-1 toolbox and flare box and finish outfitting Brush 91-1 and he is hopeful for a grant to cover the cost of new portable radios to replace severely outdated radios currently in use. B. Patkochis advised of the resignation of A. Buterbaugh as the Supervisor of Paid Staff. On an encouraging note, B. Patkochis advised that overall membership including Junior membership, is greatly improved and 3 members will be starting Fire School in January.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** R. Geib advised the Board of two new Junior members, as well as the resignation of Career Member A. Buterbaugh, and Per Diem members, S. Gilmore and D. Higgins. QFC is currently seeking to fill these vacancies and will be managing the Supervisor duties in the interim. The annual mailer will go out in the next couple of weeks and fundraisers are complete for 2025. There will be a Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Celebration for members coming up in the next few weeks. Additionally, QFC has transformed the radio room into an office for the paid crew to utilize for reporting, etc. It will also for utilized for inhouse dispatch when the need arises during times of high call-volume.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:13PM by H. Laine, seconded by E. Kolibas. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Elise Ennis

  
Charles Patkochis, President