

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

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 305th 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, absent; 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 September 9, 2025 meeting was made by E. Kolibas, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Stephens advised of a total income of \$ 145,752.91 and expenses totaling \$67,228.54 for the period September 10, 2025 through October 14, 2025.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of September 10, 2025 through October 14, 2025 was made by D. Stephens, seconded by E. Kolibas. Roll call vote: D. Stephens, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS: W. Hockin presented a demonstration of the new District webpage to the members of the Board. The Fire Marshall has requested the ability to add an additional tab for the Fire Marshal's Office to allow for online payments, etc. W. Hockin will discuss with the provider. Additionally, it was discussed to have a place to post updates on District Meetings and announcement. These items will be addressed with the provider. Overall, the page was well received.

C. Patkochis advised the Board that Hunterdon County has approved the District to participate in their electric co-operative plan. The next bill will be through the new provider. Hopefully this will prove to be cheaper than First Energy.

C. Patkochis advised the Board that the Accountant has provided him with 2026 Budget numbers and would like to know how the Board would like to proceed with building out the budget for next year. The budget, one completed by the Board needs to be submitted to the Accountant to be formalized then initial approval is needed from the Board at the November meeting before being submitted to the DCA for final approval. C. Patkochis will email the Board members with initial budget amounts and the Board will meet for a Special Budget Meeting to finalize those numbers on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

C. Patkochis advised that a billing issue with Stem Brothers was addressed throughout the past month with a \$4016.00 unpaid bill for propane that was delivered for the Dog House but was not effectively billed to the District. C. Patkochis made a phone call to the business officer at Stem who told him that it was an oversight on their part since late in 2023. C. Patkochis informed them that bills were never received but obviously the District will pay the bill. C. Patkochis advised that going forward Stem Brothers will contact the District when propane is delivered so it can be promptly paid.

RESOLUTION 2025-9 - EXECUTIVE SESSION - SHARED SERVICES

H. Laine made the Motion to enter Executive Session, closing the meeting at 7:10 PM, seconded by D. Stephens. Roll call vote. : D. Stephens, aye; E. Kolibas, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

C. Patkochis advised the Board that Union Township Attorney has advised that they will sign a Contract with the District to provide Shared Services in 2026. Attorney to proceed with Contract.

C. Patkochis reported that Alexandria Township Attorney has advised our Attorney that they will not sign a Contract with the District for continued Shared Services in 2026. Discussion on this matter will be made public once a decision is made on how to proceed.

Meeting returned to regular session at 7:25PM

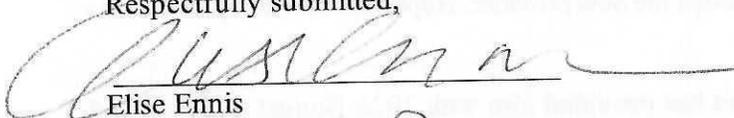
FIRE MARSHAL REPORT: See detailed report attached. C. Patkochis advised the Board that we will not continue to pursue an agreement with Union Township for shared services with the Fire Marshall's Office, after discussions are not progressed effectively.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: NO REPORT

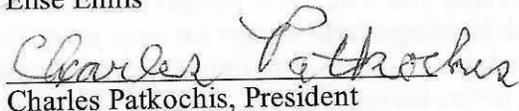
QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: R. Geib provided a detailed report, see attached. R. Geib advised QFC is in the process of making the necessary upgrades to accommodate the switchover to the new CAD system that went into service on 10/01/2025. It was discovered that the computer tablets (MDTs, Mobile Data Terminals) in most of the apparatus do not have the capability needed to run the new CAD software. With that being said R. Geib advised the Board that QFC has begun the process of replacing the tablets. R. Geib requested that the Board consider contributing to the cost of refurbished "Tuff Book" type tablets which would greatly reduce the cost of purchasing new tablets. C. Patkochis advised R. Geib that the District appreciates the QFC looking into the cost saving alternative and requests a quote be provided to purchased used tablets.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:25PM by E. Kolibas, seconded by H. Laine. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Elise Ennis



Charles Patkochis, President