

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

April 14th, 2026

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 313th 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 H.Laine 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 H.Laine, present; Treasurer D. Stephens, present; Secretary P. Enea III, present; Vice President, C.Patkochis, present; Assistant Secretary, S.Bell, present.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MONTH: A Motion to accept the minutes of March 10th, 2026, was made by S.Bell seconded by C.Patkochis. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; S.Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D.Stephens advised of a total income of \$117,637 and expenses totaling \$25,602.10 for the period March 10th, 2026., through April 14th, 2026.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of March 10th, 2026, through April 14th, 2026, was made by S.Bell, seconded by P.Enea. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; S.Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

H.Laine advised the board of Resolution 2026-6 Amendment of Resolution 2025-23 Cash Management Plans Approving EFTs for monthly reoccurring bills. Motion to approve the Resolution Amendment was made by P.Enea, seconded by D.Stephens. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; S.Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

H.Laine advised the board that the Fire Company Chief has asked for more fire hose adaptors for Brush 91. Motion was made by P.Enea, seconded by S.Bell. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; S.Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

H.Laine advised the board that the District is purchasing a Time Clock to enhance hours worked. Motion was made by S.Bell a, seconded by C.Patkochis. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; S.Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

H.Laine advised the board that they need to be an approval for the annual hose and pump testing in the amount of \$5,890. Motion was made by P.Enea a, seconded by S.Bell. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; S.Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT:

Inspections:

Inspector Phillips is working on reinspection's from old inspections to get acquainted with business owners. Annual permits are completed for 2026. Inspector Smith is producing SOP on fire lane tickets as

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1 Meeting Minutes

per municipal ordinance and will be working on other projects such as private fire lanes and cistern identification for any enforcement needs in the future.

Registrations:

29 outstanding invoices which have been issued penalties to collect.

Investigations:

FO Buterbaugh spoke with Detective Henley at Hunterdon prosecutor's office who confirmed they would be collecting evidence samples if a crime is involved during a fire. My recommendation is that we develop an SOP to clearly outline procedures to preserve and potentially collect evidence. If necessary, in the event a crime is not immediately apparent. Budget for this to be proposed in May 2025.

FM Car:

Advised, there have been some instances where the keys have been left inside the car and unlocked. The FM reminded the keys should not be in it, and the doors should be locked. FM thanked W.Hockin for the upgrades done to the FM Car.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: No Report.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Geib advised they have 3 new members to be approved. A successful coin toss was held, and they are preparing for the 2nd Annual Golf Outing. Quakertown is going to hold some community hall rentals and department training for the month.

Resolution 2026-6 – Amendment to Resolution 2025-23 Cash Management Plan Approving EFTs

P.Enea made the motion to approve the Resolution seconded by D.Stephens. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; S.Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

Resolution 2026-7 – Executive Session – Shared Services Agreement

C.Patkochis made the motion to enter an executive session, closing the meeting at 19:00, seconded by S.Bell. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; S.Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

Executive Session ended; regular session returned AT 19:27.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7.27PM by C.Patkochis seconded by S.Bell. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Wesley Hockin, Secretary



Heikki Laine, President