

Franklin Township Fire District No. 1 Meeting Minutes

February 10th, 2026

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 311th 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 the January 13th, 2026 was made by D.Stephens seconded by C.Patkochis. All in favor, Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D.Stephens advised of a total income of \$14,260.42 and expenses totaling \$45,924.36 for the period January 13th, 2026, through February 10th, 2026.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of January 13th, 2026, through February 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.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS:

Resolution 2026-2 to Award of Contract for Workers Compensation Insurance Coverage

H.Laine advised the board that they would award AmTrust for the Workers Compensation Insurance. Motion to Approve Resolution 2026-2 by C.Patkochis seconded by S.Bell. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; S.Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

Resolution 2026-3 to Award of Contract for Liability, Grounds, Building, Property, Equipment, and Vehicle Insurance Coverage

H.Laine advised the board that they would award EAB Insurance Group for Liability, Grounds, Building, Property Equipment, and Vehicle Insurance. Motion to Approve Resolution 2026-2 by D.Stephens seconded by S.Bell. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; S.Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, Abstain. Motion carried.

W.Hockin advised the board that he is working with First Net to create the new “portal”, which should be live in March.

H.Laine advised the board that the Fire Company has requested a new Ground Monitor for fire operations as the current one is broken and not repairable. The price is \$2,921. A motion was made by C.Patkochis

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seconded by P.Enea. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; S.Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

H.Laine advised the board that they would like to look into billing for services on motor vehicles accidents. FTFD previously billed for services and would need to look at the ordinances. H.Laine and D.Stephens to follow up with billing agencies and ordinances.

FIRE MARSHAL REPORT:

Bureau of Fire Prevention Report (January 2026)

Financial Status (as of 2/3/26):

Billed: \$29,834

Collected: \$13,862

Outstanding: \$15,647

A 2026 Revenue/Cost Analysis email was sent to commissioners on 1/21/26.

Financial Requests:

\$148 – IAAI membership/certification renewal (Buterbaugh)

\$721 – KnoxConnect yearly renewal (KnoxBox key/user access system)

\$6,300 – FirstDue software (inspection, invoicing, pre-planning, asset management)

\$1,300 – NJIAAI conference registration

\$39.99 – TV wall mount to protect sensitive information from public view

Request for a new office chair

Fire Department Communication Issues (Quakertown Fire Company – QFC):

The fire marshal report some communications issues with old accounts and fire safety programs account information to be updated.

FirstDue Pre-Planning: Bureau will spend significant time updating property pre-plans in 2026; seeking confirmation that QFC will use this data.

Hunterdon County CAD Pre-Plan: CAD allows limited pre-plan notes (4 lines). QFC asked to provide a template for desired information.

Municipal Ordinance:

Inspector Smith coordinates with FTPD and the Prosecutor's Office to confirm procedures for issuing fire lanes and open burning tickets.

Proposal to revise ordinance to reduce fees for farms in Franklin Township.

Inspections:

Inspector Phillips: Began annual permit inspections on 2/3/26.

Inspector Smith: Conducting a periodic internal audit of files to maintain compliance with NJDFS guidelines.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief B.Patkochis reported that they took 66 calls for service for January. They are looking into replacing broken equipment. Additionally, Federal Grants are opening up in March, hoping to apply for a radio grant. Motion to approve D.Snyder as a past Chief of QFC pending onboarding paperwork.

QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President R. Geib reported that they cancelled their first fundraiser due to the weather, but they made up for it with a very successful Superbowl Fundraiser BBQ. The old 91-51 has been sold.

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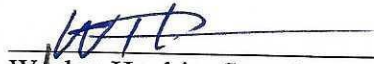
Resolution 2026-4 – Execuitive Session – Shared Services Agreement

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.

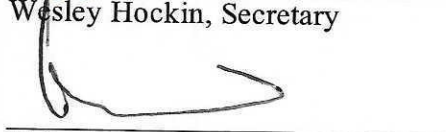
Executive Session ended, regualr session returned AT 19:37.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Wesley Hockin, Secretary



Heikki Laine, President