

# Franklin Township Fire District No. 1 Meeting Minutes

July 14th, 2026

Meeting opened with the Flag Salute

The 316th 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 June 9<sup>th</sup> 2026, was made by S.Bell seconded by D.Stephens. 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 \$127,946.55 and expenses totaling \$13,380.55 for the period June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, through July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Motion to pay the bills for the period of June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, through July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, was made by C.Patkochis, 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 received an update regarding Engine 91. Replacement of the transmission filter did not resolve the transmission warning issue. Repairs remain scheduled, with the previously approved authorization of up to \$5,000 remaining in effect. No revised estimate exceeding that authorization has been received.

H.Laine advised the Board reviewed the status of the proposed Franklin Township emergency response billing ordinance.

A draft ordinance, based on a model ordinance supplied by the District's billing vendor and modified for Franklin Township, has been prepared. The ordinance includes exemptions for Franklin Township residents and other protected parties. District Council will review the draft and forward it to the Franklin Township Attorney for consideration.

The Board agreed that emergency-response billing within Franklin Township should not begin until the ordinance has been adopted.

The Board also received an update regarding Union Township. Required documentation with the billing vendor has been completed to allow implementation under Union Township's existing ordinance.

H.Laine advised the Board that the Fire Company is looking to purchase new forestry hose bags and additional nozzles for the new forestry line that was purchased. Motion was made by C.Patkochis and seconded by S.Bell. Roll call vote: P. Enea, aye; S.Bell, aye; H. Laine, aye; C. Patkochis, aye. Motion carried.

# Franklin Township Fire District No. 1

## Meeting Minutes

### **FIRE MARSHAL REPORT:**

- Four annual inspections have been completed.
- Seven residential certifications are completed.
- Numerous follow-up inspections verifying correction of previously identified violations.
- Thirteen outstanding invoices.
- Enforcement activity initiated regarding unpaid registrations.
- Six previously unregistered businesses identified and issued registration forms.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY CHIEF'S REPORT:** The Fire Chief noted that first-half fire response reports had been completed and transmitted to Alexandria Township and Union Township.

The Board requested that future municipal activity reports separately identify fire responses from EMS and other non-fire incidents to better reflect the fire protection services provided.

**QUAKERTOWN FIRE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** No Report.

### **Old Business:**

- First-half fire response reports had been transmitted to Alexandria Township and Union Township.
- Copies of the District's audit have been provided to Alexandria Township, Union Township, and Franklin Township.
- Invoices for 2026 fire protection services had been issued in the following amounts:
  - o **Union Township:** \$55,000
  - o **Alexandria Township:** \$70,000
- No response or payment had been received as of the meeting date.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution 2026-10 and enter Executive Session pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act to discuss contract negotiations and matters subject to attorney-client privilege at 19:00. The Executive Session ended at 19:30.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business a Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:30PM by S.Bell seconded by P.Enea. All in favor, Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wesley Hockin, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Heikki Laine, President