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## Arlington Fire District

11 Burnett Boulevard  
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

### **BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS' MONTHLY MEETING January 11, 2000**

ATTENDEES: Comm. John Richardson, Chairman  
Comm. Ralph Chiumento  
Comm. Gerard Philipp  
Comm. Paul Lahey  
Comm. Karen Pells

Attorney: Gerard Comatos  
Treasurer: James Passikoff  
Secretary: Renee Gaddis

Chairman Richardson opened the meeting of the Arlington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners' Monthly Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

- I. Chairman Richardson turned over the meeting to Ray Nichols, of Nichols Oxygen to discuss the bid pricing of the new engine of \$368, 500.

Comm. Chiumento stated he wants more bids for competitiveness.  
Discussion with the Board and Chief Hellmann regarding E-One prices and specs compared with other companies.

- II. Chairman Richardson stated that the District Architect was present to discuss the sub station plans.

A motion was made by Comm. Lahey and seconded by Comm. Philipp to hold a special meeting on Wednesday February 16, 2000 at Arlington Headquarters at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the input and comments from the companies regarding the future substation and how we are going to man it.

- Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Comm. Philipp and seconded by Comm. Chiumento to drop any future investigation into the Avis building.

- Motion Carried.

III. Comm. Richardson requested Comm. Lahey and Comm. Philipp to review Abstract 12B.

IV. **MINUTES**

A. December 14, 1999 Board of Fire Commissioners' Monthly Meeting.  
A motion was made by Comm. Philipp and seconded by Comm. Chiumento to approve the Minutes as printed.

- Motion Carried.

V. **MONTHLY REPORTS**

- A. Chief's Report - December 1999
- B. Training Report - December 1999
- C. Inspectors Report - December 1999

VI. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Letter received January 7, 2000 from Local 2393 regarding a temporary addendum to Article 33 and Article 39.
  - Chairman stated that they will discuss at a later time.
- B. Letter dated January 5, 2000 to the Board of Fire Commissioners from Local 2393 regarding input on increasing coverage in the south end.
- C. Letter dated December 17, 1999 from Standard Security, Life Insurance, offering "Spirit of Volunteerism" scholarship in New York State.
- D. Letter dated December 15, 1999 from Local 2393 to Board of Fire Commissioners regarding ambulance dispatch to structure fires.
- E. Letter dated December 15, 1999 from Local 2393 to Board of Fire Commissioners regarding second ambulance.
- F. Received Thank you card December 15, 1999 from Pauline Owen, thanking AFD for all the responses to her calls.
- G. Memo dated December 15, 1999 to Susan Miller, Town Clerk, from Office Manager Doyle regarding the results of the Commissioners Election held on December 14, 1999.

- H. Minutes of the November 23, 1999 Association of Fire Districts of Dutchess County meeting.

VII.

**PERSONNEL**

- A. Letter dated January 10, 2000 from Paul Speedling, Station #3, requesting the following be dropped from the active roles of the AFD.

1. Lauren Bell
2. Graham Campbell
3. Allen Chien
4. Brian Diehl
5. Ricky Frasure
6. Roy Grimes
7. Leiza Schatz
8. Robert Stein
9. Joseph Tarquinio, Jr.

A motion was made by Comm. Philipp and seconded by Comm. Chiumento to drop the aforementioned members from the active roles of the Arlington Fire District.

- Motion Carried.

- B. Letter dated January 4, 2000 from Captain Spielvogel, Arlington Engine Co. #1 to the Board requesting the following be dropped from active roles of the AFD.

1. David Spooner
2. Nicholas Rodriguez
3. Chad Clouting
4. Robert Hanaburgh, Jr.
5. Laura Tiebout Morehead
6. Steve Antenucci
7. Sal Fristensky
8. Marcia Fassino
9. Charlene Larson
10. Jennifer Marshall
11. Lee Arco
12. Nicole Jenkins

A motion was made by Comm. Philipp and seconded by Comm. Chiumento to drop the aforementioned members from the active roles of the Arlington Fire District.

- Motion Carried.

- C. Letter dated January 3, 2000 from Local 2393 informing the Board of Fire Commissioners the officers for Year 2000.
- D. Letter dated January 1, 2000 from James Palmatier, Engine Co. #1 regarding returning to active duties on both Firematic and EMS operations, effective January 1, 2000.
  - DC Pells stated that he has no problem with him coming back to the District, needs to do OSHA's and drills. Is not allowed to do EMS, deficient. He is aware of this.
- E. Memo re-issued on December 30, 1999 to All Personnel from DC Pells regarding E-Mail and Internet use.
- F. Memo dated December 30, 1999 to All Company Members from DC Pells regarding inventory for year 2000.

#### VIII.

#### **DONATIONS**

A motion was made by Comm. Chiumento and seconded by Comm. Philipp to turn over the total donation amount to the Four Company Fund.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
J. Heller Pension Associates	In Memory of Eileen Buckley	\$ 100. 00
Teahan & Contantino Counsellors at Law	In Memory of Eileen Buckley	\$ 25. 00
Mr. & Mrs. Gower	Assistance for their Son	\$ 20. 00
Mr. & Mrs. Komar	In Memory of Dolores Hamilton	\$ 50. 00
Amy VanPelt	Assistance Received	\$10. 00
Mr. & Mrs. Greenberg	Donation	\$ 50. 00
Gertrude Metrando	In Memory of Dolores Hamilton	\$ 25. 00
Mr. & Mrs. Fischer	In Memory of Anna Wiebke	\$ 100. 00
Ms. Carol Hess	In Memory of	\$ 25. 00

- Motion Carried.

IX. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

A motion was made by Comm. Philipp and seconded by Comm. Chiumento to accept the attendance of the following members to the schools/seminars listed:

- A. FF James Compasso: "EMT", January 20, 2000 at LaGrange.
- B. FF John Meluch: "Paramedic Refresher Challenge", January 13 - March 16, 2000 at DCC.
- C. FF Chris Quinby: "Paramedic Refresher", January 13 - March 16, 2000 at DCC South.
- D. FF Kevin Maguire: "Pediatric Advanced Life Support", February 5 - February 6, 2000 at DCC South.
- E. FF Chris Quinby: "PALS Refresher", February 6, 2000 at DCC.
- F. FF Kevin Maguire: "Advanced Cardiac Life Support", February 26 - February 27, 2000 at DCC South.

- Motion Carried.

X. **COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

- A. Comm. Philipp - No Items.
- B. Comm. Lahey - No Items.
- C. Comm. Chiumento
  - 1. Presented Board with his version on Silent Running. Wants Board to review it.
- D. Comm. Pells - No Items.
- E. Chairman Richardson
  - 1. Discussed campaign letter sent to residents from Comm. Pells. Wants a mass mailing out to the residents and a display ad in the Poughkeepsie Journal and Spackenkill Sentinel.

Comm. Lahey stated that he does not think this is an appropriate use if the

District funds. Does not object it going to the newspaper. Comm. Pells stated that she has nothing against the volunteers.

A motion was made by Comm. Richardson and seconded by Comm. Philipp to send a complete mailing out to the residents in the Croft area and a letter to the editor from the Board of Fire Commissioners. (Poughkeepsie Journal and Spackenkill Sentinel.)

Comm. Richardson - "Aye"

Comm. Philipp - "Aye"

Comm. Lahey - "Nay"

Comm. Chiumento "Aye"

Comm. Pells - "Nay"

- Motion Carried.

*This is the letter to be printed:*

To the Taxpayers of the Arlington Fire District:

Late last year, a letter from a "candidate", Karen Pells to the Fire District Commissioners and sent to the District residents had several inaccuracies which the Arlington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners wish to clarify.

- A. The Croft Corners Fire Company does not sit empty. They have two volunteer engines, an ambulance and a ladder truck stationed at their fire station on Spackenkill Road as well as a dedicated, well trained cadre of firefighters and EMT's. It was stated in this letter that they receive "\$41,494.32 rent and sits empty most days".
- B. The Fire District operates the ambulance for the Croft Corners area during the daytime hours Monday thru Friday, 7:00 - 5:00 p.m. from Red Oaks Mill on Vassar Road, not from Burnett Boulevard as stated in Karen Ann Pells' letter. The volunteers operate the ambulance the rest of time and the Fire District has paid medics responding from Red Oaks Mill or Headquarters on Burnett Boulevard alone with the ambulance to provide Advanced Life Support.
- C. The Fire District pays the Croft Corners Fire Company as it does the Rochdale Fire Company rent for the rental of their fire station. This rent does not include the cost to man this station, as stated in Commissioner Pells' letter. Croft is one hundred percent volunteer and last year responded to 675 fire calls and 617 EMS calls. The rent received by Croft Corners is for turnkey operation, of the fire house which includes lights, heats, which is very expensive as every time the bay doors open the fire house must be reheated, etc.

- D. Mrs. Pells' comment that the District should look in at closing down Croft Corners Fire station and build a substation manned by fully paid department is cost prohibitive and not an option. This would require hiring thirty-two to forty additional staff at a cost of over two million dollars. Currently, the Croft Corners Fire Company, as does the Rochdale Fire Company man this equipment at minimal cost other than the rent for the building. The District is looking into building or renting a location on the south end of the Fire District and provide twenty-four, seven medic coverage. This will be accomplished at minimal capital cost and/or minimal additional hires.
- E. The letter stated Croft Corners turns out only two to three persons per call. This is not the case as records show a substantially turnout for calls. Residents should be advised the Arlington Fire District does have over fifty paid firefighters and medics. These people respond from our Burnett Boulevard Headquarters station twenty-four, seven and from the Red Oaks Mill Fire Station on Vassar Road, days, Monday thru Friday, when volunteer manning is at its lowest. We currently have two medics on at most times and are constantly looking at training current EMT's to become Paramedics to increase these numbers.
- F. Mrs. Pells states that the Board does not want paid staff at Croft Corners. This is also not true. A vote on this issue has never been taken.
- G. Mrs. Pells states that the Route 9 corridor is one of the busiest corridors with no immediate coverage. This is not true. The south end is manned by four paid firefighters and medics, from the Red Oaks Mill Fire Stations Monday thru Friday days as well as the volunteers from both Croft Corners and Red Oaks Mill.
- H. Mrs. Pells states that the taxes have increased 70% with a decrease in service. This is also not true, as many additional paid staff and equipment have been added to better protect the residents.

In conclusion, the Board of Fire Commissioners, have always strived to give the residents of the District the best in emergency service. This has been done by adding paid personnel as needed as well as trying to recruit new volunteers. We strive to have the best in equipment as seen by the addition new defibrillators and night vision cameras over the past year. As the Fire District grows taxes will go up to better protect the residents. Fire and EMS emergency care are the most important deliverable and the current need for twenty-four, seven medic service on the south end is an immediate need in the Croft and Red Oaks Mill area. This is a pressing issue and be assure that the Board has plans to implement this as soon as possible hopefully within a couple of months.

Sincerely,

Arlington Fire District

XI. **CHIEFS ITEMS/COMMENTS**

- A. Chief John Hellmann
  - 1. Sport Utility Vehicles are now on State Bid and available for us.
  - 2. One (1) Personnel Item for Executive Session.
- B. Deputy Chief Pells
  - 1. Presented Board with 32-74 usage stats.
  - 2. Two (2) Personnel Items for Executive Session.

XII. **ITEMS / COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

- A. Treasurer Jim Passikoff
  - 1 . Presented Board with Financial Report for November 1999.
- B. EMS Director John Kloepfer
  - 1. Working out a plan with LaGrange Fire District, EMS Director Adams, to offer membership of both departments to make EMS drill requirements available at both departments.
- C. Carl Davidson - Station 5, wants to know why rent was correct in letter but other comments were wrong. This is a sad start.
  - Comm. Pells stated she had the rent correct because she filed for Freedom of Information.
- D. Ray Tietrault - Station 5, has been a volunteer for 10 years. Got involved in EMS because of the ambulance in Croft . District requires 10% of EMS calls to be considered active. He has done 25%, while commuting 100 miles a day in Rockland County. Believes this is a slap in the face to the volunteers.
- E. Stacey Sacco, Station 5 , wanted to know what Comm. Pells is going to do as the Volunteer Liaison to work with the volunteers, hasn't introduced herself to the members, hasn't made herself available.
  - Comm. Pells stated that she hasn't been invited. Also was just made Volunteer Liaison twenty minutes ago, does not know yet. Does not discredit volunteers in any way shape or form. If the letter was taken that way, she is sorry. She is upset with the present Board of Fire Commissioners, not the volunteers.
- F. Eric Philipp, Station 5, stated that in the letter something needed to be done, but never said what was going to be done.
  - Comm. Pells stated that she knows that different things are being looked at. Can't state was going to be done, until she



knew what was being looked into. Does have a suggestion to present to the Board at another time. Wants something done to help the people and the volunteers. Understands that it is hard for the volunteers, not only what the State requires, but what the District requires.

- G. Brian Mallet, District President, wanted to know about the Volunteer Membership Drive, if they were waiting for the County to come up with it.
  - Comm. Richardson stated that the County is planning on running a drive, instead of spending money with the drive we have, he wanted to appoint a representative to represent us for each meeting to see if their drive is sufficient to help us on what our needs are going to be. From there, decide if we need to put in more money.
- H. Marlene Gallo - Councilwoman from the Town, wanted to know why Red Oaks Mill was boarded up.
  - Comm. Richardson stated that renovations were being done.
- I. Luella Oscarlese - Town Resident, believes that everyone needs to know what is going in the fire department. Sees fire department vehicles going to the grocery store on company time.
  - DC Pells stated that they don't have down time. They work the entire time of 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., Night shift 5 p.m. - 7 a.m.

A motion was made by Comm. Richardson and seconded by Comm. Philipp that we adjourn to Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

- Motion Carried.

### XIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:47 p.m and returned to Open Session.

### XIV. **ABSTRACT 12B**

A motion was made by Comm. Lahey and seconded by Comm. Philipp to approve Abstract 12B in the amount of \$158,353.06, consisting of 208 transactions charged to 52 accounts, with the exception of a bill to Dutchess Overhead Doors which was a duplicate in the amount of \$105.

- Motion Carried.

### XV. **MEMBERSHIP**

A motion was made by Comm. Philipp and seconded by Comm. Chiumento to approve the membership of Charles Clark, Station 4, EMS only.

- Motion Carried.

XVI. **STATUS CHANGES**

Comm. Richardson stated to add EMS to Chris Sample in addition to firefighter and transfer Cory Madison from Engine Company #1 to Station 5.

A motion was made by Comm. Philipp and seconded by Comm. Pells to add EMS to Chris Sample.

- Motion Carried.

XVII. **E-ONE BID**

Lengthy discussion regarding E-One bids.

XVIII. **AMBULANCE COVERAGE**

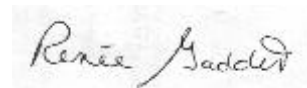
Discussion regarding manning.

A motion was made by Comm. Chiumento and seconded by Comm. Pells to bring our minimum staffing back according to contract and staffing at Red Oaks Mill being five persons, one being firefighter/medic, Monday thru Friday, starting Monday for a temporary trial basis.

- Motion Carried.

With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Comm. Philipp and seconded by Comm. Lahey that we adjourn at 10:30 p.m.

- Motion Carried.



Respectfully Submitted, Resp

Renee Gaddis  
District Secretary