



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING TRANSCRIPT

(AS REQUIRED BY NYS GOVERNOR CUOMO'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 202.1)

FEBRUARY 1, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.

Chief William Steenbergh: (INAUDIBLE) in the waiting room and then I'll start the recording. (PAUSE) Okay, Mr. Chairman, the, the recording is on and we've, uh, admitted everybody that was in the waiting room, whenever you're ready.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay I'd like to call the meeting to order and thank everybody for attending on such a snowy evening. Umm, I'll do the roll call. Uh, Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Peter Longi: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Commissioner Chiumento? Is here. Commissioner Dore? Is he here yet?

Chief William Steenbergh: He's having problems logging in. We're working on it.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Attempting. Okay. Umm, Treasurer Passikoff?

Treasurer James Passikoff: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Uh, Secretary O'Neill?

District Secretary Renee O'Neill: Here. Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Uh, EMS Director Violante?

Director of EMS David Violante: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Assistant Chief Philipp?

Assistant Chief Philipp: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: And Chief Steenbergh.

Chief William Steenbergh: Here.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay. Umm, would you please stand for the pledge of allegiance or at least say it? I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. Thank you. Uh, public comment period. There was a comment uh, and it was in reference to some data that was put out about last year's calls in FireHouse. Uh, the NFIRS incidents year end and the total count was 5466 but you when you added up each of the companies, it was 5380 and they were questioning what the difference was. Umm, and that is the only comment that I am aware of and comments from the Board? (PAUSE) I've been told that the reason that uh, difference occurred is the difference is mutual aid calls, so we did have, and we had 86 mutual aid calls, and that is the difference, and if you add that to the five companies that comes up to the 5466. Umm, abstract approval. We've haven't completed the review of the abstract, due to the snow so, uh, we may run a short meeting later in the week, early next week just to approve the, uh, abstract. But we'll, we'll that's to be decided based on when we get 'em reviewed. Umm, do I hear? Uh, motions, umm, I'm doing motions this time around, is motions, second and any dissents. If nobody dissents, we're going to assume it's a unanimous decision. Uh, if there is a dissent, then we'll find out how many and see whether passes or not. Uh, so do I hear a motion for the minutes of the, uh, January 25, 2021 uh, Commissioners.

Commissioner Peter Longi: I'll make a motion to approve the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting minutes and transcript from January 25, 2021.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made. Is there a second?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Commissioner Griffing. I'll second that.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made and seconded. Are there any..is anyone dissenting?

Chief William Steenbergh: Mr. Chairman, just, just for your vote, uh, Commissioner Dore is now online as well. We worked out his problem.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Excellent. Welcome Commissioner Dore. Umm, I'm hearing no dissent, the motion passes. Uh, monthly committee reports. (PAUSE) Umm..

Commissioner Peter Valdez: Yeah (FEEDBACK) I've got a volunteer recruitment application ready for the Board approval for Jessica Martin, firefighter, Croft Fire Company, out of district.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made. Is there a second?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Commissioner Griffing. I'll second that.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? (PAUSE) Hearing no discussion, it, does anyone dissent? (PAUSE) Hearing no dissents, motion passes. Any other committee reports? (PAUSE) No, there is no correspondence. Umm, actions to be taken by the Board.

Uh, email dated January 26, 2021 from Jim Beretta to Board of Fire Commissioners regarding the FOIL appeal for redactions made to group assignment sheet. Umm, my suggestion is we, umm, follow the attorney's advice, which was to remove some of the redactions, am I correct in that Chief?

Chief William Steenbergh: Yes, that was, that was the attorney's, uh, recommendation.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay, so is there a motion to that effect?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: I'll make a motion to uh, follow the attorney's advice and umm, send out the revised version.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made. Is there a second?

Commissioner Peter Longi: I'll second that.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? (PAUSE) Hearing no discussion again I'll be calling only for dissent does anybody dissent to that motion? (PAUSE) Hearing no dissent, the motion passes. Okay. Commissioners items. Anybody have anything umm, from the Board at this point? No? Okay, then we'll start with district staff items. Chief you want to take it over?

Chief William Steenbergh: Sure, good evening, thank you. Uh, first item on the list is, uh, we've been contacted by uh, Senator Schumer's office and back in, I believe it was November of last year, I reported to you that we were going to apply for the second round of the federal grant program for uh, personal protective equipment related to the COVID pandemic. It was called the AFG supplemental. Uh, we've heard from Senator Schumer's office that we are being awarded a second grant for \$51,690.48 of which \$46,991.35 is the, uh, federal dollars and Arlington has to contribute \$4,699.13. Uh, this grant is specifically for, uh, personal protective equipment related to COVID and for cleaning, sterilizing (FEEDBACK) and disinfecting supplies and I would recommend to the Board that they vote to adopt and accept the grant.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Do I hear a motion to accept the grant?

Commissioner Richard Dore: I'll make a motion to accept the grant.
Commissioner Dore.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made. Is there a second?

Commissioner Peter Longi: I'll second that. Longi.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made and seconded. Is there any discussion? (PAUSE) Hearing none, umm, I again, dissents only, if anyone wishes to dissent. (PAUSE) Hearing no dissent, motion passes.

Chief William Steenbergh: Okay next item, uh, I've indicated to you, previously, that, uh, we, the District had not reviewed some of their uh, policies in, in five years or so. Uh, so I sent them to the Counsel for review and uh, we've made some mostly grammar and housekeeping changes, uh, to them. Alright, we've, we've uh, changed, uh, the responsibilities and moved some of the uh, supervise.. supervisory and oversight uh, aspects of payment and processing from the Account Clerk, uh, to the new

Personnel Administrator position since that's a supervisory position. Uh, at this time, as of tonight, the credit card policy and the expense reimbursement policy would be ready for discussion or action, uh, whatever the Board's pleasure is. Umm, I, I sent out to you earlier, the code of ethics and then I found a couple things in it that uh, that still need to be cleaned up so we'll hold on, we'll hold on that and we're still waiting on the procurement policy back from the Attorney but we could move forward with the credit card policy and the expense reimbursement policy tonight, if you wanted to do that.

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Is there a motion? (PAUSE) I'll make a motion that we approve the credit card policy and the expense reimbursement policy. Is there a second?

(FEEDBACK)

Commissioner Peter Longi: I'll second that. Longi. (FEEDBACK)

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Is there any discussion? (PAUSE) Does anybody wish to dissent from that motion? (PAUSE) Hearing no dissents, motion passes.

Chief William Steenbergh: And then the last, last thing that I have for open session tonight is uh, we need to schedule Lieutenant interviews. Uh, I would ask the, the Chairman to let me know who the committee is going to be and then see if we could get uh, a mutually agreeable date, uh, between now and the meeting on the 15th.

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Okay. (PAUSE)

Commissioner Peter Valdez. Yeah, Ralph, so I, I can do it.

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Okay. Umm, that's fine umm, so yeah, umm, I can do it as well if nobody else is volunteering. I can certainly do it. So if you want the two of us, you can...

Commissioner Richard Dore: I can do it too, if you want Ralph.

Commissioner Peter Longi: (INAUDIBLE) four of us.

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Okay.

Commissioner Peter Longi: Whatever you want to do.

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Rich do you want to do it with Pete?

Commissioner Richard Dore: Sure that works.

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Okay.

Chief William Steenbergh: Which Pete?

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Valdez. (INAUDIBLE) He, he spoke up first, so...

Chief William Steenbergh: If, if the two of you could take a look, perhaps, towards the end of next week, maybe, like the 10th or the 11th and just send me a note and then we can get things, uh, get things

scheduled. If those dates are not going to work then we'll have to, we'll have to look at other options.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Both Rich and I are on that committee, but I don't mind stepping off because I've been doing it for the last few times so somebody else wants to get in there, it's fine.

Chief William Steenbergh: And all my, uh, all the in regards to the credit card, uh, and we can follow up with the Treasurer, but, uh, I would recommend that we, uh, change the credit card that is issued to Adam Packer and change that to, uh, to Heather with the same dollar limit, uh, since that's the manage, the supervisory position in the business office.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Correct.

Chief William Steenbergh: The rest of my items are for Executive Session.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay. Doesn't sound promising. Okay, umm, Assistant Chief Philipp, do you have anything?

Assistant Chief Eric Philipp: No, I have no report.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Just a question, uh, still planning on starting training on Saturday, right?

Assistant Chief Eric Philipp: Yeah nothing has changed, uh, on that.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay.

Assistant Chief Eric Philipp: As of today.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay, Director of EMS Dave Violante, how about you?

Director of EMS David Violante: Thanks Mr. Chairman. Uh, good evening everybody. We just continue to push forward, uh, with our COVID cases. Uh, there's a little bit of a, uh, decline that we're seeing sort of out there, generally, uh, but we are still seeing a lot of COVID cases, uh, you know come across, uh, in our call volume. Uh, the latest items, uh, to become really difficult to acquire are gloves. Uh, just to give you guys an example, when we started this last year, this time gloves were about \$13, uh, per box, they are now up somewhere around \$30 per box. Umm, and uh, they're being rationed by the glove companies. Uh, so we, uh, still have a pretty good supply and uh, we're in a good place with them at the moment. And our folks are continuing to be vigilant in making sure that we have enough things, that, uh, we need to keep our guys safe. Uh, and so, aside from that, umm, there's now three strains that are out there of COVID, uh, hopefully that won't increase too much more. Uh, our, uh, Firefighter Paramedic John Cox is still doing a great job at getting people, uh, scheduled, uh, for their vaccines for their first and second doses and uh, when there are any available extras he's getting folks in when and where he can and uh, aside from that, unless there's any questions for me, I am all set.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Thank you Dave. Any other questions from anybody on the Board? (PAUSE) Hearing none, umm, Treasurer.

Treasurer James Passikoff: Uh, hi. There's, there's no report. It's way too early in the month, uh, number one. Number two, uh, I'm going back to your minutes, uh, uh, you approved the, uh, I don't have a copy of the abstract, so I don't know what's there. Umm, you approved the, umm, the tape of the meeting, do you still have to approve the minutes of the meeting?

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: We approved the minutes, we acknowledge the tape.

Treasurer Passikoff: Okay.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: (INAUDIBLE) I think, correct me if I'm wrong Renee.

District Secretary Renee O'Neill: No, uh, I think it was Pete that did it. They approved the transcript and the both, excuse me, the minutes and the transcript.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay, we got more formal.

Treasurer James Passikoff: Okay, uh, then, the, Bill talked about the, uh, credit cards earlier. Umm, he and I talked and I was thinking, uh, that we would keep the limit at the 35 that we had. Umm, we will change Adam's amount to a, a, a much smaller amount and then, umm, make up the difference to his with what's in the, uh, charge card that I have. My card was always the emergency card in case somebody else's got compromised and they could still, they still had a card to buy on. Uh, I, I think Bill might want to still think about the, uh, how much to, uh, to give Adam on the card.

Chief William Steenbergh: Well, I think we should change it to Heather first off, because she is the, she's the mana...

Treasurer James Passikoff: You want her to have the whole thing?

Chief William Steenbergh: I don't, I don't think there's a need to have more than one in the business office, unless you feel...

Treasurer James Passikoff: Okay, fine. Uh, then we should do a resolution, uh, to authorize the credit card usage of, uh, 35,000 with uh, Heather substituting for, umm, Adam.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: You know you can set individual limits too. They don't all have to be the full amount.

Treasurer James Passikoff: No, I understand. Umm, like, uh, Adam had nine, uh, Bill has, what, what do you have Bill?.

Chief William Steenbergh: I would have to go back and look at the last resolution. There's four cards and all four have different credit lines on them.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay.

Chief William Steenbergh: But if, uh, we can have a resolution for the next meeting, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Sounds like a plan, okay.

Treasurer James Passikoff: Okay. And that was it.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Thank you. Uh, School requests. Umm, there's nothing to be acted on. There is just one, Heather Hastie, New York State Controllers Training, Jan..oh, sorry, March 9th through 11th of 2021 and April 13th and 14th 2021. It's online and \$170 registration for Heather. (INAUDIBLE) Umm, items for Executive Session.

Chief William Steenbergh: Mr. Chairman, I have four, four items related to, I'm sorry, three items related to the employment history of individuals and one collective bargaining.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Okay. And anyone else have anything for Executive? (PAUSE) Okay, hearing none, do I hear a motion to go into Executive Session?

Commissioner Richard Dore: I'll make a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Dore.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made. Is there a second?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: I'll second it. Commissioner Griffing.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made and seconded. Are there any dissents? (PAUSE) Hearing none, we'll move into Executive Session.

(EXECUTIVE SESSION)

Chief William Steenbergh: Okay, everyone is back in and we have restarted the recording.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Thank you we're back in open session and the first item is uh, I'd like a motion or will someone like to make a motion to approve the MOA uh, with the uh, with the Union?

Commissioner Peter Longi: I'll make that motion to approve the memorandum of agreement.

Commissioner Richard Dore: I'll second that.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion? (PAUSE) Hearing none, umm, does anyone dissent? (PAUSE) Seeing no dissents, motion passes. The second is to umm, promote Lieutenant Caulfield to the rank of Captain uh, at that a date to be deter..determined by the Chief.

Commissioner Peter Longi: I make a motion to approve (FEEDBACK, INAUDIBLE) Lieutenant Caulfield.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Is there a second?

Commissioner Richard Dore: I'll second.

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: Commissioner Griffing, I'll second that.

Chairman Ralph Chiumento: Motion made and seconded. Any discussion?

Chief William Steenbergh: Mr. Chairman, just to note that, that's uh, for the provisional rank of Captain.

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Duly noted. Uh, are there any dissents? (PAUSE) Hearing none, motion approved. Next, is to promote Lieutenant Goldstein to the rank of Captain, provisional, correct?

Chief William Steenbergh: Correct.

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Okay, do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Richard Dore: I'll make a motion.

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Is there a second?

Commissioner Peter Longi: I'll second that.

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Motion made and seconded? Any discussion?

Chief William Steenbergh: With a start date to be determined by the Chief I assume?

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Correct that with a start date to be determined by the Chief. Is that OK for the two motions and second (INAUDIBLE) motion and second. So, motion and seconded, umm, are there any dissents? (PAUSE) Hearing none motion approved. And last but not least, is there a motion to adjourn?

Commissioner Richard Dore: I'll make a motion to adjourn.

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Motion made. Is there a second?

Commissioner Bruce Griffing: I'll second that.

Chairman Ralph Chimento: Motion was made and seconded. Any dissents? (PAUSE) I didn't think so. Have a good night and be careful.

Transcribed and respectfully submitted by,

Renee O'Neill
District Secretary