



Arlington Fire District

11 Burnett Boulevard
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
www.afd.org

Business: (845) 486-6300
Fax: (845) 486-6322

For Emergencies
DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES February 28, 2022

ATTENDEES:

Comm. Ralph Chiumento, Jr. – Chairman
Comm. Peter Valdez – Vice Chairman – (absent)
Comm. Peter Longi
Comm. Richard Dore
Comm. Phil Van Itallie

Chief: William Steenbergh
Assistant Chief: Eric Philipp
Director of EMS: David Violante
District Secretary: Renee O’Neill
Treasurer: James Passikoff

Chairman Chiumento opened the Arlington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners’ meeting at 7:00 p.m., took a roll call of the attendees and everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

I. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – *No action(s) taken by the Board, unless otherwise noted*

II. **COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD** – *No action(s) taken by the Board, unless otherwise noted*

III. **ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Comm. Van Itallie to approve Abstract 22–2B. This consists of \$297,112.35 in paid bills with a total of 2 checks and \$100,956.19 in unpaid bills with a total of 43 checks for a grand total of \$398,068.54, totaling 45 checks. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. February 7, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

A motion was made by Comm. Dore to approve those minutes. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

V. **MONTHLY COMMITTEE REPORTS** – *No reports given unless otherwise noted.*

A. Service Awards – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Longi

1. Received emails dated February 4, 2022 and February 18, 2022 from GFNB regarding “Investment Update”.

2. Received from GFNB the January 2022 “Statement of Value and Activity”.

B. District Inspections – Comm. Longi & Comm. Van Itallie

C. District Officers / Chief Liaison – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Dore

D. EMS & Paramedic Liaison – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Van Itallie

E. Public Relations – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Dore

F. Equipment Maintenance – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Van Itallie

G. Buildings and Grounds – Comm. Dore & Comm. Van Itallie

H. Capital Equipment – Comm. Dore & Comm. Longi

I. Union Negotiations & Contract – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Dore

J. Career Staff Liaison – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Dore

K. Volunteer Recruitment – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Longi

L. District Safety & Health – Comm. Dore & Comm. Valdez

M. Strategic Plan – Comm. Longi & Comm. Valdez

N. Finance Committee – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Van Itallie

O. IT Operations Committee – Comm. Van Itallie & Comm. Longi

P. Croft Lease – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Longi

Q. Rochdale Lease – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Van Itallie

VI. **CORRESPONDENCE** – *None unless otherwise noted*

A. Received via email, “Fire District Affairs” – February / March 2022.

VII. **ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE BOARD** – *None unless otherwise noted*

VIII. **DONATIONS** – *None unless otherwise noted*

IX. **COMMISSIONERS ITEMS** – *No reports and/or discussions unless otherwise noted*

A. Comm. Van Itallie – read “Fire District Affairs” and we need to look into updating our Drug & Alcohol Policy regarding marijuana use. Comm. Chiumento agreed and we will work with the Chief, Union and the Attorney.

X. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

A. Chief William Steenbergh

1. New employees start this Wednesday; training all set. Academy starts later in the month.
2. Seagrave prebuild conference – requesting to send the Apparatus Committee (8 members) to Wisconsin to review the two set of specs March 27th – 29th. Cost approximately \$6K - \$7K.

Discussion.

A motion was made by Comm. Longi to approve the Apparatus Committee to be sent to Wisconsin to review specs March 27th – 29th of this year. Seconded by Comm. Dore.

- Motion Carried, 3 – 1 (Comm. Van Itallie opposed)

3. Swift Water training – requesting to send ten (10) members (names TBD) to Oriskany, NY for training in May. Would be a Dutchess County only training class consisting of AFD, LaGrange FD, Poughkeepsie FD and the DC Sheriff’s Office. Class is paid for by the State. Only AFD cost is backfill. The State will come during the summer to teach a Boat class (which is required) on the Hudson River. This will increase the number of certified members on each group, which would decrease OT on call backs.

Discussion.

A motion was made by Comm. Longi to approve the Swift Water training in Oriskany. Seconded by Comm. Dore.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

4. MOA with Union re: Sick time for one (1) member.

Comm. Van Itallie would like to discuss further in Executive Session.

5. Re: anticipated unused sick leave payments in March 2022. Treasurer recommended transferring money into the Accrued Benefit Liability Fund.

Discussion.

A motion was made by Comm. Longi to use, the unused sick leave payments anticipated in March, to be paid out of the Accrued Benefit Liability Reserve Fund. Seconded by Comm. Dore.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

6. Rose & Kiernan, (now NFP) notified him Thursday regarding our insurance renewal. It automatically renews March 1st and there will be a 35% increase with our current carrier, ESIP, from \$76K to \$103K for the year. NFP recommends going with VFIS – 23% increase with the same coverage for \$94K. VFIS is also brokered by Marshall & Sterling (our local broker) and he recommends switching brokers and going with VFIS. There will be no lapse in coverage if notified by noon tomorrow.

Discussion.

A motion was made by Comm. Chiumento to switch our insurance carrier with Marshall & Sterling for the VFIS policy contingent upon no lapse in coverage. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

7. Will not be available for the March 7th BOFC Meeting.

Brief discussion.

A motion was made by Comm. Chiumento to cancel the March 7th Board of Fire Commissioners meeting. Seconded by Comm. Dore.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp – No report.

C. Director of EMS David Violante

1. Bureau of EMS extended certifications. Updating our spreadsheets.
2. COVID is easing down; still following healthcare guidelines; continued delays in shipping, price increases of items.

D. Treasurer James Passikoff

1. Working on finishing the year end report.
2. Received the Town of Poughkeepsie first advance of \$2,000,000.
3. Filed for the AUD extension today.

XI. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

The Board of Fire Commissioners authorized the Chief to approve in advance, school requests that are located inside or outside of Dutchess County and is either contractually required or required to maintain a certification or does not exceed \$100.00.

For Commissioners notification purposes only:

- A. Joseph Tarquinio: “ISO Instructor Authorization”, February 16 – 17, 2022 at Orange County Training Center. (No cost)
- B. “Live Fire 1403”, February 18, 2022 at AFD. (No registration cost; *95% covered by Officer Training Grant*)
 - 1. Charles Fager
 - 2. Dan Sylvester
- C. Charles Fager: “Incident Safety Officer”, February 21, 2022 at AFD. (No registration cost; *95% covered by Officer Training Grant*)
- D. “PALS”, March 4, 2022 at AFD. (No cost)
 - 1. Luke Lyons
 - 2. Richard McCaffrey
 - 3. Richard Muellerleile
 - 4. Jason Caulfield
 - 5. Johel Dongo
- E. Thomas Andryshak: “ISO Authorization”, March 7 – 8, 2022 at Westchester Fire Training Center. (No cost)
- F. “ACLS – EP”, March 11, 2022 at AFD. (No cost)
 - 1. Richard Muellerleile
 - 2. Richard McCaffrey
 - 3. Justin Drum
 - 4. Eric Henschel
 - 5. Johel Dongo
- G. “Tactical Medic”, March 15 – 17, 2022 at Rockland County Police and Public Safety Academy. (No cost)
 - 1. Luke Lyons
 - 2. Christopher Lewis
 - 3. Seth Goldstein
 - 4. Ryan Fincham
- H. Christopher Knight: “Basic Exterior Fire Operations”, March 28, 2022 – June 16, 2022 at New Hackensack FD. (No cost)

The following school request requires consideration by the Board of Fire Commissioners:

- A. William Morrissey: “LUF Optimizing Human Performance at Fires”, March 24, 2022 – May 19, 2022, online. (\$800 registration)

Discussion.

A motion was made by Comm. Dore to approve it with the intention he brings back information to the Training Bureau to train others. Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

XII. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Chief Steenbergh

1. Three (3) items (includes the one item Comm. Van Itallie wants to discuss further) for the purpose of the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.
2. One (1) proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property.

With no further open business to discuss, a motion was made by Comm. Dore to adjourn to Executive Session. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:31 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

As a result of Executive Session, a motion was made by Comm. Dore to approve the MOA regarding sick time as previously listed under Chief Steenbergh’s items. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

With no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Comm. Dore to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

No time was given when the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee O’Neill
District Secretary



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING PUBLIC ATTENDANCE SHEET

NOTE: This sheet will be attached to the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting minutes as part of the official record. If you agree to have your name as part of the official record and published on our website, please legibly print your name below. Thank you.

DATE OF MEETING: 2-28-22

JOHN RICHAROSON	