



# Arlington Fire District

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**For Emergencies**  
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*“Safeguarding Our Community”*

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**\* Please note that this Board of Fire Commissioners meeting was broadcasted live via videoconferencing using the platform Zoom and by telephone call in. The Board of Fire Commissioners could not meet publically due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This is as per the NYS Governor’s Executive Order 202.1. In addition to these meeting minutes, a full transcript will be made available once approved by the Board of Fire Commissioners.\***

## **BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES April 20, 2020**

### ATTENDEES:

Comm. Ralph Chiumento, Jr. – Chairman  
Comm. Jon Adams  
Comm. Bruce Griffing, II  
Comm. Peter Valdez – Vice Chairman  
Comm. Peter Longi

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. and took a roll call of the attendees.

Chairman Chiumento offered a moment of silence for past Assistant Chief Frank Carlon, who passed away April 13, 2020. He was a volunteer member for over 18 years and held numerous Company firematic and civil offices.

### **I. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

A. Jim Beretta emailed his public comments through [contactus@afd.org](mailto:contactus@afd.org) prior to the meeting on April 19, 2020. Chairman Chiumento read his e-mail and commented on his questions. No action taken by the Board.

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

III. **ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Comm. Griffing to approve Abstract 20-4B. This consists of 0 checks (paid bills) and 24 unpaid bills with a value of \$267,880.71 for a total of 24 checks for \$267,880.71. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

**ROLL CALL:**

Comm. Chiumento – “Aye”

Comm. Longi – “Aye”

Comm. Valdez – “Aye”

Comm. Griffing – “Aye”

Comm. Adams – “Aye”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. April 6, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

A motion was made by Comm. Adams to approve minutes the April 6, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners’ meeting. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

Brief discussion regarding the need for approval or acknowledgement of the transcript which is required by the NYS Governor’s Executive Order 202.1.

**ROLL CALL:**

Comm. Chiumento – “Aye”

Comm. Longi – “Aye”

Comm. Valdez – “Aye”

Comm. Griffing – “Aye”

Comm. Adams – “Yes”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

Brief discussion held again on the transcript approval or acknowledgment. Chief Steenbergh recommended that it be at the discretion of the Board if voted on or posted as is. Chairman Chiumento acknowledged receipt of the full transcript. No other objection by the Board members.

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

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

B. District Inspections – Comm. Longi & Comm. Adams

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

D. EMS & Paramedic Liaison – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Chiumento

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

F. Equipment Maintenance – Comm. Longi & Comm. Griffing

G. Buildings and Grounds – Comm. Adams & Comm. Longi

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

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

- J. Career Staff Liaison – Comm. Griffing & Comm. Chimento
- K. Volunteer Recruitment – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Griffing
- L. District Safety & Health – Comm. Griffing & Comm. Adams
- M. Strategic Plan – Comm. Adams & Comm. Valdez
- N. Finance Committee – Comm. Chimento & Comm. Griffing
- O. IT Operations Committee – Comm. Griffing & Comm. Longi
- P. Croft Lease – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Longi
- Q. Rochdale Lease – Comm. Chimento & Comm. Longi

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

- A. E-mail dated April 5, 2020 from Jim Beretta to the Board of Fire Commissioners regarding the Open Meetings Law and the meeting minutes from March 16, 2020.
- B. E-mail dated April 7, 2020 – “Fire District Affairs: April/May 2020”.

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*

X. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

- A. Chief – William Steenbergh
  - 1. Publically thanked and acknowledged donations received of masks and gloves from Sprout Creek Farms and Premier Medical Group. Vassar College also made a substantial donation of masks, gloves and Tyvek suits. Still having difficulty in getting PPE supplies with the National stockpile or through State means. We continue to look to purchase when we can, so these donations will go a long way in filling in those gaps.
  - 2. COVID Update – 15 career members have been impacted. 4 have become physically ill with symptoms; 11 required quarantine after being exposed to patients who were positive. Federal government came out with new requirements and retro back to beginning of the year, we are required to indicate on every run report where COVID was a factor. YTD, 121 calls have been COVID suspected or confirmed (out of 1,677 calls YTD). March alone, 15% of our EMS responses have been COVID related; April is at about 25% and not done yet. It’s continuing to rise. Manpower, we have lost 640 hours of time due to COVID, either by being ill or in quarantine; half of that is overtime and the other half is no overtime due to our staffing levels. Registered with FEMA to be in the reimbursement process for the disaster relief; no process or timeline announced yet; looks like 75% will be reimbursable, continuing to track expenditures, man hours and add the value of

the volunteers time and donations received to offset the remaining 25%. Continue to sanitize the rigs, search for supplies, etc.

B. Assistant Chief – Eric Philipp

1. Last week, we had two fires in the same day. One was a garage fire which no house was involved and the other was a BBQ grill with some house damage.

C. Director of EMS David Violante

1. Lots of moving parts and complexity with what’s going on with COVID. Each day is a different challenge. All working together to overcome it. The situation is fluid. The State and Region sends out new policies, sometimes weekly, and the staff is maneuvering through that and working together. Chief and himself continue to keep the staff updated.

D. Treasurer James Passikoff

1. Chairman Chiumento acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer’s March 2020 monthly Financial Report for the District. Treasurer Passikoff reported that we are good on the income side since we get 100% from real estate taxes; too early to tell on the expense side.

XI. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

No school requests were submitted for consideration.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Comm. Chiumento – “Aye”

Comm. Longi – “Aye”

Comm. Valdez – “Aye”

Comm. Griffing – “Aye”

Comm. Adams – “Aye”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

No time given but the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee O’Neill  
District Secretary

NOTE: There is no public sign in sheet available due to this meeting being audio/video conferenced. There were a total of 13 participants which included the attendees noted at the beginning of the meeting and 3 others who logged into Zoom to watch or listen to the meeting.