



Arlington Fire District

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES May 2, 2022

ATTENDEES:

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

Chief: William Steenbergh
Assistant Chief: Eric Philipp – (absent)
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.

At this time, Chairman Chiumento turned the meeting over to Mr. Chris Lavoie, the grandson of Carl Bauer who passed away in the Line of Duty in 1974. Mr. Lavoie presented the Board with a generous monetary donation and some personal and family mementos for the Fire District to take ownership of.

Chairman Chiumento thanked him and they will display the mementos in memory of him. Comm. Dore thanked him and reminded Mr. Lavoie that we will always be here for him. Chief Steenbergh recommended to the Board to allocate the donation to create a memorial for his items.

A motion was made by Comm. Dore to approve that. (use the donation to make a memorial) Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

Chief Steenbergh stated that Carl was a career firefighter from 1951 until his Line of Duty Death in 1974.

The Board resumed their meeting at 7:39 p.m.

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*

Comm. Valdez briefly spoke about the Rochdale lease and items he’s concerned about as we are the Tenant. No action taken by the Board.

III. **ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Comm. Dore to approve Abstract 22–5A. This consists of \$2,154.70 in paid bills with a total of 5 checks and \$42,562.84 in unpaid bills with a total of 24 checks for a grand total of \$44,717.54, totaling 29 checks. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. **April 18, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioners’ Meeting**

A motion was made by Comm. Longi to approve. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

Brief discussion regarding the Croft Corners Certificate of Occupancy.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

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

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

1. E-mail dated April 15, 2022 from GFNB regarding “Investment Update”.

2. Received April 27, 2022, Engine Co. #1’s “2021 Fire Department Posting Certification Form” for their 2021 LOSAP points.

Comm. Valdez reported that we are waiting for a report from GFNB regarding a quarterly update.

Comm. Van Itallie asked about the status of an updated Investment Policy. Comm. Valdez discussed the process and will bring recommendations to the Board at the next meeting.

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
 - 1. Comm. Valdez reported that the temporary Certificate of Occupancy was received and thanked Croft and the Union for the collaboration.

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

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

- A. A. Received “Fire District Affairs: April/May 2022”.
- B. Received the March 22, 2022 Association of Fire Districts of Dutchess County meeting minutes.

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

- A. Letter dated January 29, 2022 from Anthony Dragonetti resigning as an active member of Croft Corners Fire Company.

A motion was made by Comm. Dore to accept his resignation as an active member of Croft Corners. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

Brief discussion.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

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. Brief discussion on AFD website. Working with OCIS on updating the homepage to include our call volume.

2. Battalion Chief Andy Mihans retired last week after 30 years of service. Was a tremendous asset to the Department. Thanked him for his service and wished him well in his retirement. Recommends to the Board that the payout of his benefit time be out be taken out of the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve Fund and not to exceed \$30K.

A motion was made by Comm. Valdez to approve what the Chief recommended, the expenditure not to exceed \$30K from Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve Fund. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

3. Floors at HQ were done and look spectacular. Thanked FF Andryshak, FF Morrissey and FF Rogers for taking this project upon themselves and doing a great job.
4. With the retirement of Battalion Chief Mihans, the Board needs to consider promotions and interviews.

Discussion. The entire Board will do the Battalion Chief interviews on Monday May 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at HQ and Comm. Dore and Comm. Longi will be part of the committee for Captain and Lieutenant interviews at a date to be determined with the Chief.

5. The pick up truck that was ordered in March 2021 has been delivered. Outfitting is in process.

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp – (absent)

C. Director of EMS David Violante

1. Catching up on pharmaceutical backorders. Still behind nationally, but getting back to having medication.
2. Brief discussion regarding the outbreak among the pandemic at Vassar College. 64 students; treated 25. Staffed the ambulance to help reduce the EMS calls. Worked together with Health Services at Vassar College and it went well.

D. Treasurer James Passikoff

1. No financial report; too early in the month.
2. Will not be at the next meeting.

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.

There were no school requests submitted for Commissioners notification only.

The following school requests require consideration by the Board of Fire Commissioners:

- A. William Steenbergh: “NYS Association of Fire Chiefs – Fire District Administrators Training Series”, June 16 – 17, 2022 in Syracuse, NY. (\$75 registration, \$750 travel)

A motion was made by Comm. Longi to approve. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

Brief discussion.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

- B. George Finn: “Forensic Interviewing & Evidence Collection”, July 10 – 15, 2022 in the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. (\$384 meal ticket)

Brief discussion.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

XII. **ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Chief Steenbergh – three (3) items 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.

- B. Comm. Chiumento – one (1) item as it relates to the proposed, sale or acquisition 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. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:49 p.m.

XIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

XIV. **OPEN ITEMS**

Comm. Valdez reported that the item discussed in Executive Session regarding Rochdale should have not been discussed in Executive Session. Chairman Chiumento disagreed and said he was out of order.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

No time was provided 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: 5/2/22

CHRIS LAVOIE	