



# Arlington Fire District

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

**\* 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 June 1, 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.

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

A. Jim Beretta emailed his public comments through [contactus@afd.org](mailto:contactus@afd.org) prior to the meeting on May 31, 2020 and June 1, 2020. Chairman Chiumento read 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. Adams to approve Abstract 20–6A. This consists of \$22,624.52 in paid bills with a total of 7 checks and \$52,468.26 in unpaid bills with a total of 31 checks for a grand total of \$75,092.78, totaling 38 checks. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

ROLL CALL:

Comm. Valdez – “Aye”  
Comm. Griffing – “Aye”  
Comm. Longi – “Aye”  
Comm. Adams – “Aye”  
Comm. Chimento – “Aye”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

IV. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A. May 18, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

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

ROLL CALL:

Comm. Valdez – “Aye”  
Comm. Griffing – “Aye”  
Comm. Longi – “Aye”  
Comm. Adams – “Aye”  
Comm. Chimento – “Aye”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

B. Chairman Chimento acknowledged receipt of the May 18, 2020 BOFC meeting transcript.

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

A. Service Awards – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Adams  
1. E-mail dated May 29, 2020 from PenFlex regarding “COVID LOSAP Legislation Passes”.

Brief discussion. Chief Steenbergh will report back with sample wording for the Resolution required by the Board to approve, if the NYS Governor signs this, to discuss at a future meeting.

B. District Inspections – Comm. Longi & Comm. Adams  
C. District Officers / Chief Liaison – Comm. Chimento & Comm. Longi  
D. EMS & Paramedic Liaison – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Chimento  
E. Public Relations – Comm. Adams & Comm. Chimento  
F. Equipment Maintenance – Comm. Longi & Comm. Griffing  
G. Buildings and Grounds – Comm. Adams & Comm. Longi  
H. Capital Equipment – Comm. Chimento & Comm. Longi  
I. Union Negotiations & Contract – Comm. Griffing & Comm. Chimento  
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. Chiumento & Comm. Griffing
- O. IT Operations Committee – Comm. Griffing & Comm. Longi
- P. Croft Lease – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Longi
- Q. Rochdale Lease – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Longi

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

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

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
The Finch’s	Assistance Received	\$100.00

A motion was made by Comm. Adams that we accept that donation and put it in the General Fund and send a letter of thanks to the Finch’s. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

**ROLL CALL:**

- Comm. Longi – “Aye”
- Comm. Valdez – “Aye”
- Comm. Griffing – “Aye”
- Comm. Adams – “Aye”
- Comm. Chiumento – “Aye”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

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

X. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

- A. Chief – William Steenbergh
  1. Stipulation of Agreement proposal between the District and the Local.  
 Chairman Chiumento would like to discuss in Executive Session.
  2. Recommends the Board to consider holding a special meeting for the purpose going into Executive Session with the Local to discuss negotiations and employment history of particular individuals. Due to NYS Governors Executive Order 202.1 and COVID, no public will be allowed in attendance, but recommends having an in person Executive Session, while still adhering to the 10 or less people and maintaining social distancing. Will still have the Zoom meeting for the public portions and then adjourn to Executive Session.

The Board agreed to conduct a special meeting on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

3. Town Supervisor would like a point of contact for the Consolidation Study and if we developed a list of questions based off the presentation we went to.

Brief discussion: The BOFC agreed to have Chief Steenbergh and Commissioner Longi be the points of contacts for the Town. The BOFC agree that this is not financially feasible at this time, but are willing to listen to meetings.

4. Update: Raymond Avenue School Project – the Town Board adopted a Resolution approving the PILOT but the Fire District is not part of it, fully taxable. Reached out to our Attorney in advance to confirm this. This is also on the June 4<sup>th</sup> Dutchess County IDA agenda. Our Attorney will confirm with them that the Fire District is exempt from the PILOT.
5. The Fire District applied for the “FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Supplemental” – which is specific to COVID 19 reimbursement for personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning products only. It’s divided into three categories - reimbursements up to date, immediate expenses and future needs for calendar year 2020 - 2021. The total budget is \$172,363.78. If approved, the Fire District would have to pay 10% which is \$15,669.00. Should know in 4 – 6 weeks.
6. Still have ability to do the “FEMA Disaster Grant” to get reimbursed for the COVID expenses, but can’t double dip. Waiting to see what we get from the other one first. This one would allow us to recover overtime costs, PPE and cleaning supplies.
7. COVID Operations update – started loosening up the restrictions. North and South Battalions can move around; hose testing have started. Practicing social distancing.
8. Personnel Administrator update – received 10 resumes. Reviewed resumes and 6 did not meet the posted requirements set forth in the job description. Next step will be to conduct phone interviews.
9. Received an email that was forwarded this afternoon from the Chairman regarding the graduation at Arlington High School and their request for the local fire departments to send a fire engine in support of their graduates. Contacted the LaGrange Fire Chief; they are holding this June 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> in two sessions on each day: 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm; we could send a reserve rig and is confident the Union would participate.
10. Capital projects for firefighter safety and equipment for Board consideration; all need replacement and all good for at least 10 year life expectancy.

- A. Bail out systems; approximately \$87K - \$88K based on committee research and demonstrations. Bid process will need to occur.
- B. Washing Machine at HQ; recommending a heavy duty one for HQ and move this one to ROM. Approximately \$10K – 12K range.
- C. Nomex Hoods; need something different; three firefighters became sic with neck and throat cancers. Current ones are not proper level of protection; looking at issuing one and do an exchange after every call, would be laundered so everyone has a clean hood. Approximately \$10K.
- D. Turnout Gear; 3 – 5 sets; to keep in line with the plan past Chief Gallante developed of replacing gear so its not a big financial impact.

Total of \$125K range to come out of a permissive referendum or from the Fund Balance. Will discuss further at a future time.

- B. Assistant Chief – Eric Philipp
  - 1. School requests on the agenda tonight for three volunteers; hopes the Board supports it.
- C. Director of EMS David Violante
  - 1. Thanked those during National EMS Week; extended appreciation to Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Mid Hudson Regional Hospital and Rudy’s Bagels for providing refreshments.
  - 2. Started COVID antibody testing at HQ in conjunction with Pulse MD Urgent Care, through a blood draw. No results will be given to HQ; its for a piece of mind for those that want to know. Working on career staff and will open it up to the volunteers and Commissioners when they get through the career staff.
  - 3. State items coming up - Lab license renewal came through; “Certificate of Need” recertification’s for our Ambulance Agency and/or ALS First Response Agency due at end of the year.
  - 4. Zoll maintenance contract bill is now an annual bill. They do maintenance to our defibrillators, provides discounts. Helps with budgeting purposes.
  - 5. COVID calls have decreased; acuity has increased.
  - 6. CME’s have been put online; certifications have been extended out by 90-120 days; everyone in good shape.

- D. Treasurer James Passikoff
  - 1. No financial report.
  - 2. Anticipates having the AUD done by end of this week; will provide copy to the Board. Hasn't heard back from Albany on the extension, but doesn't see a problem with it.

XI. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

The following member(s) have been approved by Chief Steenbergh to attend the following school request(s) in advance of the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting and are located inside or outside of Dutchess County; is either contractually required or required to maintain a certification; and have a registration cost of no more than \$100. For Commissioners notification purposes only:

*No school requests were submitted for notification purposes.*

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

- A. "NYS Firefighter I", June 6 – July 20, 2020 in Highland, NY.
  - 1. Gavin Kerr – (No costs, not requesting use of District vehicle)
  - 2. Derek Ryone – (No costs, not requesting use of District vehicle)
  - 3. Michael Garofalo – (No costs, not requesting use of District vehicle)

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Comm. Longi – "Aye"  
Comm. Valdez – "Aye"  
Comm. Griffing – "Aye"  
Comm. Adams – "Aye"  
Comm. Chimento – "Aye"

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

XII. **ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Chief Steenbergh
  - 1. Nine (9) items related to employment history of individuals
  - 2. One (1) item that would imperial the public safety

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

**ROLL CALL:**

Comm. Longi – "Aye"  
Comm. Valdez – "Aye"  
Comm. Griffing – "Aye"

Comm. Adams – “Aye”  
Comm. Chiumento – “Aye”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:51 p.m.

### XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:27 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

### XIV. OPEN ITEMS

As a result of Executive Session, a motion was made by Comm. Adams to approve the Stipulation of Agreement for Firefighter Merritt. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

#### ROLL CALL:

Comm. Longi – “Aye”  
Comm. Valdez – “Aye”  
Comm. Griffing – “Aye”  
Comm. Adams – “Aye”  
Comm. Chiumento – “Aye”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

As a result of Executive Session, a motion was made by Comm. Longi to make a temporary promotional appointment of Matt Neilson to FF/Mechanic with a date to be set by the Chief. Seconded by Comm. Griffing.

#### ROLL CALL:

Comm. Longi – “Aye”  
Comm. Valdez – “Aye”  
Comm. Griffing – “Aye”  
Comm. Adams – “Aye”  
Comm. Chiumento – “Aye”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

As a result of Executive Session, a motion was made by Comm. Longi to authorize the Chairman to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Town regarding our participation in the SWAT operations. Seconded by Comm. Adams.

#### ROLL CALL:

Comm. Longi – “Aye”  
Comm. Valdez – “Aye”

Comm. Griffing – “Aye”  
Comm. Adams – “Aye”  
Comm. Chimento – “Aye”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

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

ROLL CALL:

Comm. Longi – “Aye”  
Comm. Valdez – “Aye”  
Comm. Griffing – “Aye”  
Comm. Adams – “Aye”  
Comm. Chimento – “Aye”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

No time given but the meeting adjourned at 8:30 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 15 participants which included the attendees noted at the beginning of the meeting and 5 others who logged into Zoom to watch or listen to the meeting.