



Arlington Fire District

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

“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 22, 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 prior to the meeting on June 21, 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. Valdez to approve Abstract 20–6B. This consists of \$242,549.58 in paid bills with a total of 1 check and \$500,630.14 in unpaid bills with a total of 44 checks for a grand total of \$743,179.72 totaling 45 checks. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

ROLL CALL:

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

IV. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- A. June 1, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting
- B. June 8, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners Special Meeting

A motion was made by Comm. Adams to approve both the June 1, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting and the June 8, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners Special meeting minutes. Seconded by Comm. Griffing.

ROLL CALL:

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

- C. Chairman Chimento acknowledged receipt of the June 1, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting transcript and the June 8, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners Special meeting transcript.

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

- A. Service Awards – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Adams
 - 1. Received from Glens Falls National Bank – May 2020 “Statement of Value and Activity”.
- 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*

- A. Received Commissioner Peter Longi’s Certificate of Completion dated May 16, 2020 for the required Commissioner Training.
- B. E-mail dated June 4, 2020 from Jim Beretta to the Board of Fire Commissioners regarding Executive Session for the June 8th meeting.
- C. E-mail dated June 7, 2020 – “*Fire District Affairs: June / July 2020 Edition.*”
- D. Card received from Kolten Griggs of Lorraine Boulevard regarding his birthday drive-by parade.

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

- A. E-mail dated June 1, 2020 from Brian Klug of Croft Corners Fire Company resigning as a member.

A motion was made by Comm. Griffing to accept that. 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

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

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

A motion was made by Comm. Adams to accept the donation of \$100 with thanks and move that it be placed in the General Fund. 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

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

- A. Board consideration of revised contract between the Arlington Fire District and IAFF Local 2393.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

X. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

- A. Chief – William Steenbergh

1. HQ parking lot was seal coated and striped over the weekend. Parking spaces have been widened. ROM should be done this weekend or next and this will close out the paving project from the Fall.
2. COVID update: Anticipates this being the last BOFC Zoom meeting. Tomorrow Phase 3 begins, which allows gatherings of up to 25 people from 10. Will leave it up to the BOFC, but we can now have in person meetings. Have the ability to spread people out at HQ. Career Staff training resumed last week. Around July 4th anticipates lifting restrictions of staff at the different stations. Volunteer training will resume after the July 4th holiday. Four (4) members currently in quarantine. Thanked the career staff for keeping COVID out of the stations and for the continued disinfecting and sanitizing. Will monitor situation closely.

- B. Assistant Chief – Eric Philipp

1. Volunteer training starting back up. Three volunteers attending Ulster County State Firefighter 1 program; got the green light from the State to start program; they attended Orientation through Zoom; graduation will be July 20th, then they will do AFD in house training to become interior.

- C. Director of EMS David Violante

1. COVID update: Completed the antibody testing for career staff at HQ; coordinating with AC Philipp for the volunteers to get tested. Working on acquiring PPE daily and on weekends, through County request mechanisms, suppliers and the community. Costs have increased due to supply & demand. Career staff doing a fantastic job of keeping it outside the stations.

D. Treasurer James Passikoff

1. Chairman Chimento acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's May 31, 2020 Monthly Financial Report for the District. Treasurer Passikoff reported that the Workers Comp bill came in after this statement was done and it is \$84K under budget. Will be on next statement. Can't comment yet on the overtime, pension or health insurance. It's too early and this will be a tight budget.
2. Reported that the 2019 AUD has been filed with the NYS Comptroller.

XI. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

No school requests were submitted for consideration.

XII. **ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. Chief Steenbergh

1. Three (3) items related to the employment history of individuals

Prior to the Board going into Executive Session, Chairman Chimento thanked the Commissioners, the Chief and the Local for coming together on the contract and mentioned some of the highlights.

1. Zero (0) raises for the next five (5) years
2. Reduced Officer stipends, although added another level of an Officer
3. Notice to Retire is two (2) years longer
4. Reduced legacy costs
5. Eliminate early retirement incentive
6. Reduced uniform costs
7. Reduced Paramedic overtime
8. Increased employee safety
9. Stabilized future budgets

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

XIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

XIV. OPEN ITEMS

As a result of Executive Session, a motion was made by Comm. Chiumento to approve the purchase of fifty (50) hours of comp time for EMS Director Violante. 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

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

No time given but the meeting adjourned at 7:37 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.