



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING TRANSCRIPT
(AS REQUIRED BY NYS GOVERNOR CUOMO'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 202.1)

June 22, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.

Chief Steenbergh: And, okay, so we've admitted everybody from the waiting room into the meeting and the recording is on. So, Mr. Chairman, whenever you're ready.

Commissioner Chiumento: Thank you Chief. I like to call the meeting to order. Umm, we'll start with a roll call. Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: (faintly) Here.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Here.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioner Valdez: Here.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Here.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Here.

Commissioner Chiumento: And I am present. Chief Steenbergh?

Chief Steenbergh: Here.

Commissioner Chiumento: Assistant Chief Philipp?

Assistant Chief Philipp: Here.

Commissioner Chiumento: Uh, Director of EMS Violante?

Director of EMS Violante: Here.

Commissioner Chiumento: Secretary O'Neill?

District Secretary O'Neill: Here.

Commissioner Chiumento: And Treasurer Passikoff?

Treasurer Passikoff: Here.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay. "Public Comment Period". I'll, I'll read ya the comments into the minutes. 1. "What AFD apparatus was taken to Arlington High School graduation?" 2. "Did the Local 2393 staff any of the AFD apparatus that was taken to the Arlington High School? And if not, how were they staffed?". "If the Local 2393 was involved in taking AFD apparatus to Arlington High School graduation, were they compensated in any way, such as: Salary, Comp Time, Stipend, etc.?". "Is the 2019 AUD prepared and available? The extension was to 'no later than May 1, 2019' per the State." Uh, and that is about it. Chief, Chief, I don't know if you wanted to comment on the, umm, the apparatus.

Chief Steenbergh: Uh, I can if you'd like me to, yes. The uh, uh, apparatus that went was 3245 and one of the reserve engines. I'm not sure if it was 3216 or 3218, uh, but it was an out of service engine. Uh, it was staffed by the career staff, uh, and that was, uh, 100% donated time from members of the Union. They were not compensated in, in any way.

Commissioner Chiumento: Thank you Chief. Anybody else have any comments? (PAUSE) Hearing none, we'll move on to the Abstract. Uh, approval of Abstract 20-6B. Do I hear a motion?

Commissioner Valdez: Yeah. I make a motion to approve Abstract, uh, 20-6B consisting of uh, \$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 including 45 checks, totaling 45 checks. I'm sorry.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay. Do I hear a second?

Commissioner Longi: I'll second it.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Longi seconds. Any discussion? (PAUSE) All in favor?

BOFC: (all at once - "Aye")

Commissioner Chiumento: Hold on. By roll call. Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioners Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: And I am also an Aye. Uh, "Minutes to be Approved". Umm, unless there's any questions, I can take both, umm, the June 1st and June 8th minutes together as one motion. Anybody want to make that motion?

Commissioner Adams: I move to approve both the June 1, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting minutes and the June 8, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners Special meeting minutes.

Commissioner Chiumento: Motion made. Is there a second?

Commissioner Griffing: Commissioner Griffing second.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay and any discussion? (PAUSE) Hearing none, umm, we'll go through the roll call. Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioners Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: And I am also an Aye. Uh, we have, make acknowledgement of the June 1st transcript, as well as the June 8th transcript. Uh, "Monthly Meeting Report"? Service Awards.

Commissioner Valdez: Yes. Uh, Commissioner Valdez. Received from Glens Falls National Bank, May 2020 Statement of Value and Activity.

Commissioner Chiumento: Thank you. Are there any other committee reports? (PAUSE) Okay, hearing none, we'll move on to "Correspondence". Uh, we received Commissioner Peter Longi's Certificate of Completion dated May 16, 2020 for the required Commissioner training. Umm, e-mail dated June 4th from Jim Beretta to the Board of Fire Commissioners regarding Executive Session for June 8th meeting. Uh, e-mail dated June 7th was the Fire District Affairs, June/July 20...June/July 2020 issue. And a card received from Kolton Griggs of Lorraine Boulevard regarding his birthday drive by parade. Okay, "Actions to be Taken by the Board". E-mail dated June 1, 2020 from Brian Klug of Croft Corners Fire Company resigning as a member. Do I hear a motion to accept?

Commissioner Griffing: Commissioner Griffing. I'll make a motion to accept that.

Commissioner Chiumento: Motion made. Is there a second?

(FEEDBACK)

Commissioner Longi: Longi, second.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Longi is a second. I'll go through the roll call. Commissioner Longi? Commissioner Longi is an Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioners Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: And Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. "Donations". We do have one donation. Uh, the Schneider's, assistance received, \$100. Do I hear a motion to accept and where do you want it put within the budget?

Commissioner Adams: Commissioner Adams. Move to accept the, uh, donation of \$100 with thanks and move that to be placed in the General fund.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams made the motion. Is there a second?

Commissioner Griffing: Commissioner Griffing, I'll second that.

Commissioner Chiumento: Do I hear a second? Oh, Commissioner Griffing seconds. Umm, discussion? (PAUSE) All in, oh. Roll call? Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioners Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: And Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. "Commissioner Items". Uh, consideration of the revision, revised contract between the Arlington Fire District and uh, IAFF Local 2393. Is there motion either to approve it, or motion to determine to go into Executive Session for questions?

Commissioner Valdez: I'd like to make a motion to approve it.

Commissioner Chiumento: Motion made by Commissioner Valdez to approve. Is there a second?

Commissioner Longi: Longi will second.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez approves, Commissioner Longi seconds. Are there any discussion? (PAUSE) Hearing none, I'll go through the roll call. Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioners Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. Okay. (PAUSE) I think we're up to our "District Staff Items". So, Chief. You want to go ahead?

Chief Steenbergh: Good evening. Thank you. Umm, kind of a short list tonight just to, uh, bring you up to date on some open projects. Umm, if you have not been to Headquarters over the weekend, obviously, since we're doing this virtually, you may not have seen that the sealing and the striping, uh, was done at Headquarters. So that was an open project from, uh, our paving project last Fall. Uh, we were able to make some minor adjustments in, uh, the size of the individual parking spots so it's, it's not quite as tight as it was before. Uh, we utilize the space, uh, a little bit, a little bit better than, than, what had been done uh, previously. So, uh, we're looking at this point, uh, perhaps next weekend or the weekend after they will be completing the, the sealing and striping at, uh, Red Oaks Mills and then that will finally close out, uh, close out that project totally. Uh, in terms of, uh, COVID restrictions and as we're moving forward here, uh, I anticipate that this is hopefully our last, uh, Zoom meeting. Uh, as we enter into Phase 3, uh, tomorrow. The, the acceptable meeting size goes from 10 to 25 people and, uh, you know, subject to the wishes of the Board, uh, certainly I think it's, it's reasonable, uh, that we go back to having meetings in person. Uh, we have the facilities at Headquarters to spread out sufficiently and, uh, I can't remember the last time that 25 people would be an issue in terms of, of attendees for a meeting. So I'll leave that up to, to the Board as to what your pleasure is going forward. Uh, but my understanding of the restrictions is at least it would now be an option to go back to in person meetings anytime after tomorrow. Umm, career staff training, uh, resumed last week. Uh, at the, at the present time, we have not totally lifted the station restrictions in terms of the career staff and, uh, how people move around. Uh, we took an intermediary step of, of going to essentially splitting the District, uh, into North and South, and, uh, we went to restricting people into either the northern Battalion, or the southern Battalion, uh, as we were locked into individual stations. So, uh, the first step was to allow some movement between two stations in one end of the District or the other and so long as the numbers continue progressing the way they are, I would, uh, anticipate before the Fourth

of July, uh, that, that will be lifting the, the rest of the assignment restrictions on the career staff and getting back to a more normal, uh, District, not a distribution of manpower. But as far as, uh, moving people from station to station. Getting back to more involved training with more than one or two companies involved, uh, and allowing people to work overtime in different stations. So that'll be, the that'll be, the last part of the staffing, uh, restrictions. Uh, Volunteer training is, uh, scheduled to resume right after the Fourth of July holiday and, umm, at the present time, uh, we have four members, uh, in quarantine. Those are the first that we've had, uh, in quarantine in a very long time and I want to continue to, to give the staff credit for, uh, working hard to uh, keep the, keep the COVID virus out of the fire stations and to, uh, keep themselves and, and, uh, uh, their families healthy and safe. So, uh, they they've done a lot of work, a lot of extra things going on in the firehouse in terms of disinfecting, uh, and sanitizing and cleaning and all of those things and, uh, uh, they've, they've uh, really worked hard to make that happen. And uh, I think the payoff for that and the proof of the hard work that they've done is how really little problem, we've had with people uh, being exposed and, and with members getting sick. Uh, for the amount of virus that was in our community, uh, to have a small number of people contract the virus and, and, uh, I think a very small number of people compared to other departments have to go through quarantine. Uh, I don't think that happened by accident. And as hopefully things are kind of winding down here and we're going to try to get back to a more normal type of daily routine, umm, you know, we're going to monitor the situation in terms of people's exposure and we're going to maintain the cleaning schedule in the stations and we'll make adjustments as, as necessary going forward. Uh, and that's all I have at this time, Mr. Chairman.

District Secretary O'Neill: Chief, can you just clarify, you said, uh four members were in quarantine? You had cut out. I couldn't get that.

Chief Steenbergh: Yes, four, four, members are in quarantine.

District Secretary O'Neill: All right. Thank you.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay, thank you Chief Steenbergh. Assistant Chief Philipp.

Assistant Chief Philipp: So the Chief mentioned about the volunteer training is going to start back up, umm, and we have uh, three volunteers that are in, uh, the Ulster County daytime firefighter one program. That did this past week get the green light from the State to run. So that is a go. The, the, guys did an orientation on Zoom last weekend, umm, in preparation to be able to get this going. And, uh, that, that's a good thing because it's a all day class so they should be graduating July 20th if all goes well. So there'll be three more volunteers that will, uh, have all the training to be interior and then they'll just have to go through the in house Arlington stuff to get them interior so, so moving along good. And then that's all I have.

Commissioner Chiumento: Thank you, Eric. Umm, Director of EMS Violante.

Director of EMS Violante: Good evening everyone. Uh, we uh, just completed the antibody testing for our career stuff, uh, this last week, uh, that went well over at Headquarters through the folks at PulseMD and uh, we're going to be coordinating, uh, with Eric for our volunteers. Uh,

we have some mechanisms in place that we're working on with PulseMD, uh, to get our volunteer folks tested as well. So those will be coming out, uh, in the next week or so. Uh, for a second item, we have been working on acquiring PPE. Uh, it's taking a lot of work by a lot of people. We have folks, uh, searching several times a day throughout the week every day and the weekends. Uh, we've done a number of things to that end, as well. We're utilizing some of the County, uh, PPE request mechanisms. Some of those, uh, work well. Some of those do not work well. Uh, the suppliers end up sending resources to FEMA, that sends them to the State, that sends them to the Counties that then sends them out to whoever needs them. EMS is third on that list of people, uh, that do receive some of those items from the County, uh, but we are getting some supplies from there. Otherwise we have, uh, joined the purchasing consortium SourceWell uh, that has, umm, agreements and contracts with other agencies, so we're looking through those things as well as through, uh, Amazon business COVID supplies, uh, which we had to apply for both of those different distinctions with Amazon to be able to get some supplies through them. Uh, we've done other things like canvassing the community, umm, looking at suppliers, those kinds of things. We run into a bunch of problems here and there were suppliers either withhold some of the resources, cancel our orders, propose ship dates that are several months out, uh, things like that, but we're working on it. Uh, we do have supplies available. Uh, and we continue to use them appropriately and efficiently as possible and, uh, much thanks to our career staff for doing that as well. Uh, you know, and uh, using them when they need, uh, to keep themselves safe. So we continue to do that and just as an example, N95 masks. Uh, we're now paying uh, roughly seven to eight times as much per mask as we used to, uh, just because of uh, supply and demand issues and we anticipate some of that potentially worsening as the rest of the Country starts to fall into where we used to be, uh, so we're uh, continuing to, to, keep our efforts up and getting supplies and stockpiling..

(SILENCE)

District Secretary O'Neill: David, you're back on mute.

Director of EMS Violante: Sorry. If anybody has any questions about that, please feel free to reach out and if anybody has any ideas or information about possible sources, please reach out with that as well. Uh, we're happy to look into them uh, and pursue any of uh, those places you may have. Uh, I would like to also echo our Chief statements about our career staff doing a fantastic job and, uh, it's tough being out there and trying uh, to figure out what to do and when and where and why and how, and, uh, keep this outside of the stations and away from ourselves and our families. Uh, and uh, kudos to them for continuing their efforts. It's tough to do on a regular day this just amplifies it. And that's all I have. Unless there's any questions for me.

Commissioner Chimento: Any questions for, uh, Director Violante? (PAUSE) No? How about Treasurer Passikoff.

Treasurer Passikoff: Umm, thanks Ralph. Umm, I sent out the statement for May 31st. Umm, and after this statement got, uh, sent out to you, uh, the bill for the, uh, workers comp came in and we're at \$84,000 under budget for workers comp. Uh, that doesn't show on the statement. That's a June transaction which, which is good. Uh, but that's the only thing that I have at this point that I know is good. Everything else, I just don't, I, I, just can't make a guess on as where it's going to show up for the year

from uh, overtime to pension, uh, to health insurance. So, uh, we're still in, uh, it, it's going to be an awful tight budget, uh, this year. Umm,...

Commissioner Chiumento: By under budget you mean it came in at 84,000 lower and we budgeted?

Treasurer Passikoff: That's correct, we budgeted five and a quarter. It came in at 440,800.

Commissioner Chiumento: Thank you.

Treasurer Passikoff: The AUD has been filed and I'll get Renee a copy of it tomorrow, probably. And that's it.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay, any questions for Treasurer?

District Secretary O'Neill: I will post the AUD once it's received. Umm, I'm out of the office tomorrow, but I will get it up there soon as possible on the website.

Commissioner Chiumento: Thank you, Renee. Okay, there are no school requests. Umm, any Commissioner items that we need to go to Executive Session for? (PAUSE) Any staff items?

Chief Steenbergh: Mr. Chairman, I have, uh, three items related to the employment history of individuals.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay. And then that sounds like the only items we'll continue for..one more thing I just wanted to mention, umm, a thanks to the Commissioners, the Chief and definitely the, the Local for coming together on the contract. Contracts are never easy. Umm, then they take a lot of time and effort to put together. Uh, some of the highlights are there'll be zero raises for five years, uh, reduced Officer stipend, although we do put in another level of Officer. Umm, notice to retire is uh, two years longer and also has some (INAUDIBLE) in it, reduced legacy costs and eliminate early retirement incentive, reduce uniform costs, reduce paramedic overtime, increase employee safety, stabilize future budgets, umm, by paying out some of the legacy costs over time. So all of this, is, is definitely something that will help us in the future. Try and keep our budgets, umm, in line. So I just wanted to thank everybody for that. And, and, do I hear a motion to go into Executive Session?

Commissioner Longi: I'll make a motion (INAUDIBLE)

Commissioner Adams: Move to...you got it? I move that we go into Executive Session. Commissioner Adams.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay, is there a second?

Commissioner Valdez: Second.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay, Commissioner Valdez seconds. All in favor?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Aye.

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Not going to do (INAUDIBLE) on this one. Will just move (INAUDIBLE). Okay, so we're in Executive Session.

Chief Steenberg: Okay, everybody has been readmitted to the meeting Mr. Chairman and the recording is on once again.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay, everybody's back in. We have one motion from Executive Session. And that would be to, and I'll make the motion to approve the, uh, purchase of 50 hours of comp time from EMS Director Violante. Is there a second?

Commissioner Adams: Second.

Commissioner Chiumento: Motion made and seconded. That is Commissioner Adams. Umm, I'll do a roll call. Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioners Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: And Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye. And since that was the only thing we had out of Executive Session, do I hear a motion to, uh, adjourn?

Commissioner Longi: Motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Griffing: (INAUDIBLE) Griffing.

Commissioner Chiumento: Okay, I think that was a motion by Commissioner Longi and a second by Commissioner Griffing. I'll do a roll call. Commissioner Longi?

Commissioner Longi: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Valdez?

Commissioners Valdez: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Griffing?

Commissioner Griffing: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Adams?

Commissioner Adams: Aye.

Commissioner Chiumento: Commissioner Chiumento is an Aye and I thank you all very much and have a great night.

Transcribed and respectfully submitted by,

Renee O'Neill
District Secretary