



Arlington Fire District

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES September 19, 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
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.

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*

III. **ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Comm. Van Itallie to approve Abstract 22–9B. This consists of \$1,829.31 in paid bills with a total of 1 check and \$54,957.68 in unpaid bills with a total of 27 checks for a grand total of \$56,786.99, totaling 28 checks. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. August 15, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting. (*Van Itallie absent*)

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 1 (Comm. Van Itallie abstained)

B. August 29, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioners Special Meeting. (*Valdez absent*)

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 1 (Comm. Valdez abstained)

C. September 12, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting. (*Chiumento and Dore absent*)

A motion was made by Comm. Van Itallie to approve. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 2 (Comm. Chiumento and Comm. Dore abstained)

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

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

1. E-mail dated September 9, 2022 from GFNB regarding “Investment Update”.
2. Received from GFNB the August 2022 “Statement of Value & Activity”.

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

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

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

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*

A. Board to set date, time, and place for the 2023 Proposed Budget Hearing. Must be during the third week of October (*as amended to Town Law §181[3][a]*).

Discussion.

A motion was made by Comm. Chiumento to have our proposed budget hearing for 2023 budget at Red Oaks Mill firehouse on October 17th at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

A motion was made by Comm. Van Itallie to change the regular meeting from October 17th to October 19th at 7:00 p.m. at Headquarters. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

B. Adopt the proposed budget for 2023, including fund balance estimate for 2022 on or before September 27th. (Town Law §181[2]) or set a special meeting prior to September 27th.

Discussion. Moved to later in the meeting.

C. For Commissioner Election Inspector canvass letters to be mailed, BOFC to determine Annual Commissioner Election time and fix compensation. (Inspectors need to be approved by second meeting in October)

1. Commissioner Election is December 13, 2022.
2. Minimum hours are 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. as per TL§175.
3. Compensation for the three (3) hours is \$70 and any consecutive hours prior to 6:00 p.m., the compensation is \$100, as per TL§175.

(Maximum of four inspectors at HQ and four inspectors at ROM, plus one Chairman)

Discussion.

A motion was made by Comm. Dore to make the hours 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

- D. Board to determine if additional individuals will be required to implement COVID-19 protocols and if so, set number of individuals for each location and compensation.

Discussion.

A motion was made by Comm. Chiumento to hire four (4) inspectors at Headquarters; four (4) inspectors at Red Oaks Mill, plus one (1) Chairperson, plus two (2) standbys for each location should COVID dictate the necessity for disinfecting each location. Seconded by Comm. Dore.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

X. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

A. Chief William Steenbergh

- 1. Fire Prevention Safety Program in schools - 2019 was the last program done due to COVID; approximately 100 hours of overtime; eleven (11) schools with approximately 4,000 – 5,000 children ranging from nursery school to elementary school level.

Discussion. OK'd by the Board, with the understanding to keep an eye on the overtime hours and to use the extra staff, if available, to reduce the overtime as best as they can.

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp – No report.

C. Director of EMS David Violante

- 1. LUCAS device was used for the first time on a 39 y/o male with success. Allowed the crew to focus on other treatment at the same time and it calmed the scene down better.

Discussion.

D. Treasurer James Passikoff

- 1. Working on the August 31st financial report.
- 2. Would like to start purchasing treasury bills; need to set up with a brokerage company and cost is \$3,000 annually.

Discussion. Comm. Valdez will work with the Treasurer to come back to the Board with a company that does not charge an annual fee.

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.

For Commissioners notification purposes only:

- A. Gary Lewis: “In-Service (NYTF2)”, September 21, 2022 in Guilderland, NY. (No cost)

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

There were no school requests submitted for consideration by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

XII. **2023 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Lengthy discussion. Some budget numbers were adjusted. Treasurer Passikoff reported that the fund balance from 2022 is \$13,000. The Board will discuss in Executive Session further as it relates to 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.

XIII. **ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Chief Steenbergh – one (1) item 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. Dore – one (1) item 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.
- C. Comm. Valdez – one (1) item 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.

With no further open business to discuss, a motion was made by Comm. Longi to adjourn to Executive Session for three (3) items as it relates to 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. Seconded by Comm. Dore.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

XV. OPEN ITEMS

A motion was made by Comm. Valdez to approve the proposed budget for 2023 in the amount of \$21,986,750 of which \$20,728,750 is to be raised by real estate taxes.

Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

Comm. Chiumento reported that we still don't know the health care numbers, so after the public hearing, we may have to adjust according to what we receive.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

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: 9/19/22
