



# Arlington Fire District

11 Burnett Boulevard  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603  
www.afd.org

Business: (845) 486-6300  
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**For Emergencies**  
***DIAL 911***

*“Safeguarding Our Community”*

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## **BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES September 28, 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., took a roll call of the attendees and reminded everyone to silence their cell phones. 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. Griffing to approve Abstract 20–9B. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$274,087.02 in unpaid bills with a total of 37 checks for a grand total of \$274,087.02. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. September 14, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

A motion was made by Comm. Adams to approve the September 14, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting minutes. Seconded by Comm. Griffing.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

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

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

1. Received from Glens Falls National Bank – “Statement of Value & Activity” August 2020.

2. E-mail dated September 11, 2020 from Glens Falls National Bank regarding Investment Update.

B. District Inspections – Comm. Longi & Comm. Adams

C. District Officers / Chief Liaison – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Longi

D. EMS & Paramedic Liaison – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Chiumento

E. Public Relations – Comm. Adams & Comm. Chiumento

F. Equipment Maintenance – Comm. Longi & Comm. Griffing

G. Buildings and Grounds – Comm. Adams & Comm. Longi

H. Capital Equipment – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Longi

I. Union Negotiations & Contract – Comm. Griffing & Comm. Chiumento

J. Career Staff Liaison – Comm. Griffing & Comm. Chiumento

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

1. Comm. Chiumento reported with regards to the 2021 Budget that numbers were received late Friday; will be looking at it again.

2. Comm. Chiumento reported that the Finance Committee recommends the following for the \$1.9 million in the fund balance.

A. \$200K to cover the rest of the Croft Lease

B. \$500K to Equipment Reserve Fund

C. \$350K to Accrued Liability Fund

D. \$350K to for anticipated retirements

E. \$500K to leave as a fund balance

Treasurer Passikoff recommends holding off until December to see what happens with the remainder of 2020. Comm. Chiumento recommended taking action by the first meeting in December.

O. IT Operations Committee – Comm. Griffing & Comm. Longi

- P. Croft Lease – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Longi
  - 1. Comm. Chimento reported that there is a clerical error in the lease which will be rectified as soon as possible.
- Q. Rochdale Lease – Comm. Chimento & Comm. Longi

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

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

- A. E-mail dated September 17, 2020 from Jim Beretta to the Board of Fire Commissioners regarding a FOIL appeal for redactions made to a letter of interest and resume.
- B. E-mail dated September 22, 2020 from Jim Beretta to the Board of Fire Commissioners regarding a FOIL appeal for redactions made to LOSAP records.

A motion was made by Comm. Chimento that we follow Counsel's advice on the two appeals to the Board regarding the FOIL's from Jim Beretta. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

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

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

- A. Board to set time and place for Budget hearing scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

Brief discussion.

A motion was made by Comm. Chimento to run our Budget Hearing on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Seconded by Comm. Griffing.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

- B. Adopt proposed budget for 2021, including fund balance estimate for 2020 on or before September 29<sup>th</sup> as per Town Law §181[2].

Lengthy discussion.

\*A motion was made by Comm. Adams to approve the proposed budget for 2021 in the amount of \$19,796,550 of which ~~\$18,944,950~~ \$18,994,950 is to be raised by real estate taxes. Seconded by Comm. Chimento.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

\*Amended at the 11/02/20 BOFC Meeting. (error in final number)

X. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

A. Chief – William Steenbergh

1. Apologized to the Board and members of the community for having the rescheduled Board meeting tonight on a Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur.
2. Local 2393 is requesting to wear Breast Cancer Awareness shirts during the month of October. In the past, the Board voted to allow to wear a different uniform shirt subject to approval by the Chief.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

B. Assistant Chief – Eric Philipp

1. CCFC Captain Carlos Gonzalez and himself met with Training Bureau Captain Kangas to go over training.

C. Director of EMS David Violante

1. COVID – 19 update: continue to work with local partners with managing COVID; working well with responses and Vassar College.
2. Agency recertification’s halfway done; will be complete by end of year.
3. Moving from a critical phase to a contingency phase with PPE; purchased an ultraviolet sterilizer for N-95 masks due to the shortage in obtaining them; extends their use. Can be used for pens, phones, glasses, tablets, radios, etc. for sanitizing.
4. Recommends that everyone gets their flu shots.

D. Treasurer James Passikoff

1. Chairman Chiumento acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer’s August 30, 2020 Financial Report for the District.

XI. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

No school requests were submitted for notification purposes or Board consideration.

**XII. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**A. Chief Steenbergh**

1. Employment history of three (3) individuals.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:38 p.m.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to Open Session. (No time given)

**XIV. OPEN ITEMS**

As a result of Executive Session, a motion was made by Comm. Chiumento to approve the Stipulation of Agreement with the Arlington Professional Firefighters Association Local 2393. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

Meeting adjourned. (No time given)

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee O’Neill  
District Secretary

