



Arlington Fire District

11 Burnett Boulevard
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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES November 2, 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 – (absent)

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.

At this time, Chairman Chiumento turned the meeting over to Chief Steenbergh who held a small graduation ceremony for Probationary Firefighter Howard Whitney. PFF Whitney was not afforded the recognition at Utica Fire Academy due to COVID. His brother FF Christopher Whitney pinned him with his firefighter badge and the graduation ceremony ended at 7:08 p.m. Chairman Chiumento resumed the meeting.

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. Adams to approve Abstract 20-11A. This consists of \$34,497.09 in paid bills with a total of 12 checks and \$40,320.90 in unpaid bills with a total of 34 checks for a grand total of \$74,817.99, totaling 46 checks. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. October 19, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

A motion was made by Comm. Longi to approve the October 19, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting minutes. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

B. October 20, 2020 Proposed Budget Public Hearing & Transcript

A motion was made by Comm. Adams to approve the October 20, 2020 Proposed Budget Hearing & Transcript as stated. 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. E-mail dated October 23, 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

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 October 29, 2020, Eric Philipp's resume & letter of intent to run for Assistant Chief for 2021.

B. Received "Fire District Affairs: October 2020 – November 2020".

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

A. E-mail dated October 22, 2020 from the Boy Scouts requesting to use the Red Oaks Mill meeting room on Wednesday's for the remainder of the year from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (*originally approved through 11/11/20*)

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

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

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

1. Subject to certain restrictions, make changes, alterations and revisions to proposed 2021 budget - Town Law §181 [3][b]

The Board did not make any changes or alterations to the proposed 2021 budget.

2. Resolution for Consideration

Chairman Chiumento read the following Resolution.

**ARLINGTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION
2021 - TAX LEVY LIMIT**

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners (“Board”) of the Arlington Fire District (“Fire District”), have duly and carefully considered the public safety and fire protection needs of the residents and taxpayers of the Fire District in preparing the Fire District budget for the fiscal year 2021; and

WHEREAS, after such careful consideration, the recurring, regular and other operating costs and obligations of the Fire District require it to exceed the tax levy limit imposed on the Fire District pursuant to General Municipal Law 3-c in order to maintain the level of fire protection and emergency services to the residents and taxpayers of the Fire District which is in the best interests of such residents and taxpayers as determined by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Fire District, and

WHEREAS, under General Municipal Law 3-c subdivision 5, a fire district may annually adopt a resolution to override the annual tax levy limit, which resolution must be approved by 60 percent of the total voting power of the Board of Fire Commissioners prior to the adoption of its proposed and or final budget.

NOW, THEREFORE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the authority of Section 3-c subdivision 5 of the General Municipal Law, after careful consideration of the recurring, regular and other operating costs and obligations of the Fire District, in order to maintain the level of fire protection and emergency services to the residents of the Arlington Fire District, and prior to the adoption of its proposed and or final budget, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Arlington Fire District does hereby override the annual tax levy limit for the coming 2021 fiscal year.

A motion was made by Comm. Griffing to approve 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

3. Adopt Fire District Annual 2021 Budget – Town Law §181 [3][b] or set a special Board of Fire Commissioners meeting on or before November 4, 2020.

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

X. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

A. Chief – William Steenbergh

1. Update to the Annual Election process – added an amendment for for “Uncontested Elections” in Rules and Regulations #10.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

B. Assistant Chief – Eric Philipp – (No report)

C. Director of EMS David Violante

1. Flu vaccinations being done at HQ – next Monday is the last day.
2. Maintaining PPE has been good on calls.
3. Department of Health accepted the recertification – new documents should follow.

- D. Treasurer James Passikoff – (absent)
 - 1. Chairman Chimento acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer’s September 30, 2020 Financial Report for the District.

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 certification; and have a registration cost of no more than \$100. For Commissioners notification purposes only:

- A. “ACLS” October 23, 2020 at AFD Station 3.
 - 1. James McGoldrick – No cost
 - 2. Chris Rinck – No cost
 - 3. Dan Sylvester – No cost
 - 4. Alan Ferguson – No cost

- B. “PALS”, October 27, 2020 at AFD Station 3.
 - 1. James McGoldrick – No cost
 - 2. Doug Parrish – No cost
 - 3. Dan Sylvester – No cost
 - 4. Alan Ferguson – No cost
 - 5. Christopher Weiner – No cost
 - 6. Carl Cacace – No cost
 - 7. Justin Drum – No cost
 - 8. Erin Hanlon – No cost

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

There were no school requests submitted for Board consideration.

XII. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Chief Steenbergh
 - 1. Employment history related to four (4) individuals.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

XIV. OPEN ITEMS

Chairman Chiumento stated that it was brought to his attention that the September 28, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting minutes need to be amended. The amount to be raised by real estate taxes is \$18,994,950, not \$18,944,950.

Motion to approve the amendment by Comm. Longi. Seconded by Comm. Griffing.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

As a result of Executive Session, a motion was made by Comm. Chiumento to appoint to the office of Fire Lieutenant, in seniority, for Seth Goldstein, followed by Jason Caulfield, followed by Chuck Fager, followed by Dan Sylvester at a date to be determined by the Chief. Seconded by Comm. Griffing.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

No time was given when the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee O’Neill
District Secretary

