



Arlington Fire District

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES November 16, 2020

ATTENDEES:

Comm. Ralph Chiumento, Jr. – Chairman
Comm. Jon Adams
Comm. Bruce Griffing, II – (absent)
Comm. Peter Valdez – Vice Chairman
Comm. Peter Longi

Chief: William Steenbergh
Assistant Chief: Eric Philipp – (absent)
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. Adams to approve Abstract 20–11B, consisting of no amount in paid bills and no checks and \$2,312,285.05 in unpaid bills with a total of 33 checks for a grand total of the same amount and same amount of checks. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. November 2, 2020 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

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

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

1. Received the 2019 GASB 73 Statement from PenFlex.
2. E-mail dated November 6, 2020 from Glens Falls National Bank regarding “Investment Update”.
3. Resolution for consideration regarding LOSAP and COVID.

A motion was made by Comm. Valdez to approve the “Resolution Arlington Fire District Amendment of LOSAP Point System Pursuant to Chapter 113 of the Laws of 2020”. Seconded by Comm. Adams.

Comm. Adams asked for a summary of the intent of the Resolution for the record.

Chairman Chiumento stated that due to limiting participation as volunteers during COVID for three months and volunteers not being able to go to the stations, do work details, go to company meetings or drills, active volunteers would be awarded up to fifteen (15) points for the duration of the three (3) months, five (5) points per month. All active volunteers would still need to earn fifty (50) points to qualify for your Service Awards.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

RESOLUTION

ARLINGTON FIRE DISTRICT AMENDMENT OF LOSAP POINT SYSTEM
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 113 OF THE LAWS OF 2020

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Arlington Fire District has by appropriate resolution and referendum previously established a Length of Service Awards Program hereinafter referred to as “LOSAP” for the active volunteer firefighters of the Arlington Fire District in accordance with Article 11-A of the General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners has established a Point System for the LOSAP in accordance with General Municipal Law §217 in order to determine which active volunteer firefighter program participants qualify each year to be awarded a year of service credit under the LOSAP; and

WHEREAS, General Municipal Law §217 was amended by Chapter 113 of the Laws of 2020 as follows;

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to the determination of points for service award programs for volunteer firefighters during a state disaster emergency and authorizing service award program sponsors to adjust certain point systems when such sponsor adopts written emergency response protocols;

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows: Section 1. Section 217 of the general municipal law is amended by adding as new subdivisions (p) to read as follows:

(p) For purposes of determining total points earned for a calendar year in which a state disaster emergency, as defined in section twenty of the executive law, has been declared pursuant to executive order number two hundred two of two thousand twenty, as amended, to address the outbreak of novel coronavirus, COVID-19, an active volunteer firefighter service award program may provide for the crediting of up to five additional points per month, prorated for periods of less than one month, to each active volunteer firefighter for each month that special emergency response rules were in place restricting firefighter responses to emergency responses and/or restricting the holding of activities for which points could be earned due to guidelines related to the state disaster emergency. A political subdivision electing to provide the additional points authorized under this subdivision shall adopt a resolution by April thirtieth, two thousand twenty-one determining the number of additional points to be credited per month, provided that any additional points credited pursuant to this subdivision shall be in addition to any other points earned pursuant to this section during the state disaster emergency.

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners has determined to award five points per month prorated for periods of less than one month, under the Point System for each month or part thereof that the COVID-19 State of Emergency was in place and active volunteer firefighter program participants performed their duties under special restrictive emergency response rules created by the Board in consultation with the Chief related to restricted emergency responses and/or restricting the holding of activities for which points could be earned due to guidelines related to the State Disaster Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners has determined that active volunteer firefighter program participants performed their duties under special emergency response rules related to emergency responses and/or restricting the holding of activities for which points could be earned due to guidelines related to the State Disaster Emergency during the period of April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 and that regular emergency response guidelines and activities were put back in place as of July 1, 2020;

IT IS RESOLVED, that in accordance with the above-referenced statutory authority the Arlington Fire District LOSAP Points System is hereby amended to afford active volunteer firefighter program participants credit for an additional five points per month, prorated for periods of less than one month, for the period of April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 and LOSAP coordinators who maintain Point System records are directed to adjust the point totals for each active volunteer firefighter program participant for the time during such period that he or she was listed as an active volunteer firefighter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that volunteer firefighters that were not on the active rolls during all or part of the aforesaid period due to a leave of absence, suspension or other

reason shall not be eligible for these special COVID-19 points during any period that they were not active firefighters participating in the accumulation of points under the LOSAP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Fire Commissioners reserves the authority under this resolution to grant special COVID-19 points during later periods in 2020 and 2021 if the State of Emergency remains in effect and the Board is required to go back to emergency response and point generating activity restrictions if future developments with regard to the pandemic require that a new set of restriction be put in place for additional periods of time.

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- 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
 - 1. Volunteer applications ready for BOFC approval:
 - A. Matt McDonald, Co. 3 – FF
 - B. Pete Valdez, Co. 3 – EMS

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

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 1 (Comm. Valdez abstained)

- 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*

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

- A. E-mail dated November 7, 2020 from Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator Lisa Jackson recommending that Conor Banta (Red Oaks Mill) be dropped from the District roles.

A motion was made by Comm. Adams to drop Conor Banta from the District roles. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

- B. Letter received November 11, 2020 from Rev. Clarice Murphy requesting to use Red Oaks Mill firehouse on December 1, 2020 for the Toys for Tots Program. (Roadside pick up only, no one but the volunteers assisting would be in the firehouse)

A motion was made by Comm. Longi to approve the use of the firehouse for the Toys for Tots Program. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Lucille Micik	Assistance Received	\$100.00

A motion was made by Comm. Adams to accept the donation with thanks and the money be placed in the General Fund. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

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

- A. Board to determine the date and time of the 2021 Organizational Meeting – must be determined by the second week in December and must be within the first 15 days of January.

A motion was made by Comm. Adams for the Board to conduct its 2021 Organizational meeting on January 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. here at the District Headquarters, followed immediately by its regular meeting. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

X. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

- A. Chief – William Steenbergh
 1. Applied for a FEMA Grant for additional COVID PPE purchases in the amount of \$51,690. Will keep the Board informed.
 2. Recently had a fire in vacant house on South Road next to Holiday Inn and a motorist drove over the hose. Thanked the Town PD for pursuing it and issued the motorist with a number of tickets. The Shop was able to fix the hose at no expense and we will not pursue action against the motorist’s insurance.
 3. COVID pandemic update: We have restricted access again to the fire stations as a result of two members testing positive and after testing of the career staff at PulseMD, we now have a total of six members quarantining at home. Four were asymptomatic. Will continue to follow CDC guidelines. Thanked EMS Director

Violante for his work involved with this. 75% will be reimbursable through FEMA for backfill and fringe benefit costs; doesn't have a timeline on that.

- B. Assistant Chief – Eric Philipp – (absent)
- C. Director of EMS David Violante
 - 1. Thanked Bill for the work regarding COVID & the Board for their support. Will continue widespread testing to ensure the safety of everybody.

Chairman Chiumento asked about PPE supplies. Director of EMS Violante reported that we have a good amount to carry us for some time. Thanked Shannon and Adam for finding items.

- D. Treasurer James Passikoff – No report

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. Eric Philipp: “Fire Officer 1 – National Cert Test”, December 17, 2020 in Ulster County. (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**

None.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee O’Neill
District Secretary

