



Arlington Fire District

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES February 26, 2024

ATTENDEES:

Comm. Richard Dore – Chairman
Comm. Ralph Chiumento, Jr. – Vice Chairman – (absent)
Comm. Phil Van Itallie
Comm. Peter Valdez
Comm. Sean Jackson

Chief: William Steenbergh
Assistant Chief: Eric Philipp
Director of EMS: David Violante
District Secretary: Renee O’Neill
Treasurer: James Passikoff

Chairman Dore 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.

Chairman Dore requested everyone remain standing and offered a moment of silence for the 5-year-old from yesterday’s call that Arlington went to, who tragically passed.

1. SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Chairman Dore requested the six new firefighters: Andrea Vallovera, Nizar Ahchouch, Edward Torhan, Daniel Burke, Colin Goldstein, and John Nikisher to come up to the front of the room. Chief Steenbergh administered the Oath of Office to the new firefighters and congratulated them.

The ceremony ended at 7:04 p.m.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting temporarily so family and friends could take photographs. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

The Board returned to the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – *No action(s) taken by the Board, unless otherwise noted.*

3. **COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD** – *No action(s) taken by the Board, unless otherwise noted.*

4. **ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Comm. Valdez made a motion to approve Abstract 24–2B. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$610,950.06 in unpaid bills with a total of 61 checks for a grand total of \$610,950.06, totaling 61 checks. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

Comm. Valdez made a motion to approve Abstract 24–2B-VRRC. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$240.00 in unpaid bills with a total of 1 check for a grand total of \$240.00, totaling 1 check. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

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

5. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. **February 5, 2024 Board of Fire Commissioners’ Meeting**

Comm. Valdez made a motion to approve the February 5, 2024 Board of Fire Commissioners’ meeting minutes. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

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

B. **February 16, 2024 Board of Fire Commissioners’ Special Meeting**

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve the February 16, 2024 Board of Fire Commissioners’ special meeting minutes. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

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

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

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

1. Received from Glens Falls National Bank:

A. “Investment Update” dated 02/02/24.

B. “Statement of Value and Activity” – January 2024.

C. “Investment Presentation for AFD LOSAP”.

D. “Investment Update” dated 02/16/24.

B. District Inspections – Comm. Jackson & 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. Jackson
- I. Union Negotiations & Contract – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Dore
- J. Career Staff Liaison – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Dore
- K. Volunteer Recruitment – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Jackson
- L. District Safety & Health – Comm. Dore & Comm. Valdez
- M. Strategic Plan – Comm. Jackson & Comm. Valdez
- N. Finance Committee – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Van Itallie
- O. IT Operations Committee – Comm. Van Itallie & Comm. Jackson
- P. Croft Lease – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Van Itallie
- Q. Rochdale Lease – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Van Itallie

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

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

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

10. **COMMISSIONERS ITEMS** – *No reports and/or discussions unless otherwise noted.*

- A. Comm. Jackson – One (1) item for Executive Session under Volunteer Recruitment.

Chief Steenbergh reported that he will include that in his items.

11. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

- A. Chief William Steenbergh
 - 1. Thanked Local 2393 and the Board for all they did for the swearing-in ceremony this evening.
 - 2. FLSTP update – many thanks to Battalion Chief Kangas for getting the two new Lieutenants into the program together. Lt. West and Lt. DelliPaoli will attend the program in NYC for four (4) weeks.
 - 3. 2024 Volunteer training calendar – Training Department met with the Officers at Croft Corners and developed a training calendar which will be distributed next month.
 - 4. 2024 Volunteer Tax Assessment Reduction Program – fulfilled our requirement and provided the Town Assessor with the 2024 volunteer roster of who would be eligible.
 - 5. Authorize check signers – possibility of adding one more signer. Attorney maintains not having Comm. Jackson sign checks with

obvious conflicts (i.e. Croft rent) but can sign others and Comm. Chiumento since he starts the reconciliation process.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve Comm. Valdez as an additional check signer. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

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

6. Mechanic Steve Haldeman completed the CDL program. Working on his Vehicle Safety Inspectors certification.

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp – No report.

C. Director of EMS David Violante

1. Wanted to recognize our members for their professionalism and cooperation with the other agencies and providers.
2. Congratulated the new members and thanked the Local and the Board for the ceremony.
3. Approval for volunteer membership application for Chris Knight, Co. 5, FF – out of District. Met with the Chief and he approved.

Comm. Valdez made a motion to approve Chris Knight. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

D. Treasurer James Passikoff

1. No financial report.
2. New collateral agreement with M & T Bank; will adjust next month. Will get new signature card for Comm. Valdez.
3. The Town Comptroller provided an advance on our taxes in the amount of \$2 million.

12. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

No school requests were submitted for Board of Fire Commissioners notifications purposes only.

The following school request requires consideration by the Board of Fire Commissioners:

- A. Michael Garofalo: “Firefighter 2”, March 4 – April 9, 2024 at Ulster Landing Road. (requesting use of District vehicle)

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

13. **ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Chief Steenbergh – Four (4) items 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, Comm. Valdez made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:57 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

15. **OPEN ITEMS**

As a result of the Executive Session, Comm. Jackson made a motion to promote John Dunderdale to probationary Battalion Chief with a start date to be determined by the Chief. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

As a result of the Executive Session, Comm. Jackson made a motion to promote Dan Sylvester to probationary Captain with a start date to be determined by the Chief. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

As a result of Executive Session, Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve the contract for Chief Steenbergh for the years 2024 and 2025. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

As a result of Executive Session, Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Union and the District regarding Battalion Chief Finn. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

As a result of Executive Session, Comm. Dore made a motion and read the following Resolution:

Authorizing the Contract for Emergency Ambulance Transportation Services

BE IT RESOLVED, the Arlington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners hereby approves the District to enter into agreement with ambulance provider, Empress Ambulance Service, LLC to provide emergency ambulance and transportation services beginning March 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chairman of the Board or the Fire Chief is authorized to execute the contract between the District and Empress subject to Attorney review.

DATED: February 26, 2024

Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

With no further business to conduct, Comm. Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 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: 2-26-24
