



Arlington Fire District

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES April 7, 2025

ATTENDEES:

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

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

Vice Chairman Chiumento opened the Arlington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners’ meeting at 6:00 p.m., took a roll call of the attendees and everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – *No action(s) taken by the Board, unless otherwise noted.*
2. **COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD** – *No action(s) taken by the Board, unless otherwise noted.*
3. **ABSTRACT APPROVAL**
Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve Abstract 25–4A. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$607,062.14 in unpaid bills with a total of 41 checks for a grand total of \$607,062.14, totaling 41 checks. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve Abstract 25–4A–Croft Corners. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$5,803.85 in unpaid bills with a total of 1 check for a grand total of \$5,803.85, totaling 1 check. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

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

4. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. March 24, 2025 Board of Fire Commissioners’ Meeting

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve the March 24, 2025 Board of Fire Commissioners’ meeting minutes. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

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

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

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

1. Received March 21, 2025 from Arrow Bank – “Investment Update”.

B. District Inspections – Comm. Dore & Comm. Jackson

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

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

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

F. Equipment Maintenance – Comm. Dore & Comm. Valdez

G. Buildings and Grounds – Comm. Dore & Comm. Van Itallie

H. Capital Equipment – Comm. Van Itallie & 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. Van Itallie & Comm. Valdez

N. Finance Committee – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Van Itallie

O. IT Operations Committee – Comm. Dore & Comm. Jackson

P. Croft Lease – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Van Itallie

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

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

A. Received from the Association of Fire Districts of Dutchess County, the January 28, 2025 and March 25, 2025 meeting minutes.

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

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

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

10. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

A. Chief Adam Kangas

1. The District handled forty-three (43) calls from midnight Friday to midnight this morning which included two (2) structure fires and one (1) very serious MVA that required extrication. Call volume is increasing, and the guys are doing a great job handling them.
2. One (1) new probie out in the field; another one in the next two (2) weeks followed by the last two (2) in May. All are doing well.
3. Received word from Town Supervisor Rebecca Edwards that the Dutchess County Association of Mayors & Supervisors are hosting a panel discussion on BESS (Battery Energy Storage Systems) in May. We will have representation.
4. A meeting with Dutchess County Government regarding the status of supplemental EMS throughout the County is coming up. We will have representation.
5. Still in consistent contact with Phoenixville regarding the ladder truck – waiting to hear from Croft regarding renovation; this will replace 32-45; will report back with timing and status.
6. Follow-up regarding contract with a law firm out of NYC who is handling an investigation regarding turnout gear with PFAS chemicals which cause cancer. Our Attorney sees no reason not to be a party to the lawsuit. However, it's in the investigation stages, currently there is no lawsuit. Nothing precludes us from purchasing turnout gear as there is no gear out there that is PFAS free. We still need to replace gear.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve to be a party to the lawsuit. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

7. Appreciates the Board support in looking for transfers for Firefighters. Will keep recruitment open.
8. Requesting approval to send four (4) members out to Wisconsin to do a final inspection of the two (2) Seagrave engines at the end of May.

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to send up to four (4) people out to Seagrave at the end of May to check out the engines. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp

1. RE: replacing 32-45 – CCFC sent a letter of intent stating that they would take care of the costs of the ceiling modifications. Received pricing for the slope at the door and lowering the apron of \$4K. Croft does not wish to bear the entire expense since they will be paying for the ceiling renovations. Requesting AFD to pay half of up to \$2K.

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to pay up to \$2K to defray the costs. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

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

Vice-Chairman Chiumento stated that nothing is to be done until there is a contract in hand to purchase the piece of apparatus. Chief Kangas reported that the cost of the apparatus is \$250K and said that Treasurer Passikoff suggested a permissive referendum. He will coordinate this, possibly in the Fall. Phoenixville is depending on the arrival of their new apparatus.

C. Director of EMS David Violante

1. 32-52 is in service now as a NYS certified ALS emergency services vehicle and has paramedic gear on it with locked cabinets and key fobs.
2. Congratulations to Ryan Blair on being cleared as a paramedic in the District.

D. Treasurer James Passikoff

1. No financial report.
2. Received \$18 million out of the \$24 million from the Town.
3. Getting a thirty (30) day CD from M&T Bank until the transition between banks is done.

11. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

There were no school requests submitted for notification purposes only.

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

A. “Live Fire Instructor”, April 14 – 15, 2025 at Putnam County BES.

1. John Dunderdale – no cost, 18 hours District time (no backfill)
2. Jason Caulfield – no cost, 18 hours District time (no backfill)

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

- B. “Live Fire Instructor in Charge”, April 16 – 18, 2025 at Putnam County BES.
1. ~~John Dunderdale – no cost, 27 hours District time (no backfill)~~
 2. William Morrissey - no cost, 27 hours District time (no backfill)

Vice-Chairman Chiumento reported that Battalion Chief Dunderdale withdrew his request due to a schedule conflict.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve. Seconded by Comm. VanItallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

- C. John Dunderdale: “Fire Officer IV”, June 9 – 20, 2025 (virtual) through Bucks County. (\$550 registration, 42 hours District time (no backfill))

Brief discussion.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

12. **ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A. Chief Kangas

1. One (1) item for the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property.
2. One (1) item for the employment history of a particular person or matters leading to the appointment or employment of a particular person.

With no further open business to discuss, Comm. Jackson made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 6:24 p.m.

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:39 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

There were no open items for discussion and/or approval as a result of Executive Session.

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

No time given when meeting adjourned.

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: 4-7-25
