



Arlington Fire District

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

"Safeguarding Our Community"

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES September 8, 2025

ATTENDEES:

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

Chief: Adam Kangas
Assistant Chief: Eric Philipp
Director of EMS: David Violante – (absent)
District Secretary: Renee O'Neill
Treasurer: James Passikoff

Chairman Dore 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.

Chairman Dore asked that everyone remain standing for a moment of silence to remember those lost on September 11, 2001. Never forget.

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 APPROVALS**
Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve Abstract 25–9A. This consists of \$83,246.85 in paid bills with a total of 2 checks and \$65,656.15 in unpaid bills with a total of 34 checks for a grand total of \$148,903.00, totaling 36 checks. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve Abstract 25–9A–Croft Corners. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$5,166.53 in unpaid bills with a total of 1 check for a grand total of \$5,166.53, totaling 1 check. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

4. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. August 4, 2025 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

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

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

B. August 18, 2025 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

Comm. Chiumento made a motion to approve. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

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

C. August 29, 2025 Board of Fire Commissioners' Special Meeting

Comm. Chiumento made a motion to approve. 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 from Arrow Bank: 11/01/19 – 07/31/25 LOSAP Investment Presentation.

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 “*Fire District Affairs: August 2025 – September 2025*”.
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. Two (2) Seagraves have been delivered at Station 3. Rotating into service shortly. Training Battalion and the Shop has a plan to get them into service.
2. FF Matt Nielson has retired. Need to transfer an amount not to exceed \$135K from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Fund for his retirement payout.

Comm. Chiumento made a motion to transfer an amount not to exceed \$135K from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Fund. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

3. Lengthy discussion on Paramedics – has done robust recruiting with trying to get transfers and only received one and he is currently at the Academy. The FF/Medic list with Dutchess County Civil Service list has been exhausted. Had discussions with the Director of EMS and the Union regarding solutions. Proposing to send current Firefighters to Paramedic school next Fall. It gives us time to get staffing levels back up with retirements in the beginning of the year, promotions set in place and would save us on overtime. Governor Hochul has established a scholarship/grant program which the tuition would be free for attendees (approx. \$15K per person). There is currently about 3 or 4 retiring in the beginning of the year. Wants to be ahead of it to soften backfills and overtime.

Comm. Dore supports transfers, having proper staffing and promotions prior to medic school and will save on the Academy with transfers. Comm. Chiumento is ok with a few transfers but is not sold on going to Paramedic school unless there is a commitment and if there is negative consequences should they not become medics. Chief reported that he has had these discussions with the Union and also met with Civil service to discuss the qualifications for Paramedics for the next test. The Board is ok with the Chief vetting transfers.

4. Discussion on Fire Prevention – Battalion Chief Mills will be retiring next year, and Chief would like to start succession planning by detailing one (1) Officer for the month of October to learn the functions of the Fire Prevention office and the Fire Prevention details themselves. We have Officers to replace, (not an addition to), when Firefighters attend Fire Prevention details. One will be an Officer and the other from the Training Bureau, so only two (2) Firefighters to attend details for the month of October, instead of four (4).

Comm. Chiumento brought up the proposed budget and it needs further review. Received the NYS Retirement ERS and PFRS estimates and the PFRS is \$230K more from what they anticipated. Will need to review the proposed budget again before it can be approved. Will meet one more time. Brief discussion. Treasurer Passikoff believes we should be ok with the health insurance.

5. Thanked Battalion Chief Dunderdale for spearheading the Seagrave closing. He did a tremendous amount of work and all went well.

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp

1. Spackenkill PTA is having their Halloween event at Hagan Elementary and is requesting AFD participation on October 18th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Would be staffed by volunteers using 32-57 & 32-45, both in service. He would be the Officer in Charge.

Comm. Chiumento made a motion to approve. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

2. Texas Roadhouse is requesting AFD participation for their event on October 29th from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Would be staffed by volunteers using 32-57 or 32-45. He would be the Officer in Charge for coordinating the event but can't attend. Will have someone else be the Officer in Charge for that day.

Comm. Chiumento made a motion to approve. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

C. Director of EMS David Violante – (absent)

D. Treasurer James Passikoff – No report

11. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

There were no school requests submitted.

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There were no items for Executive Session.

13. **ADJOURN MEETING**

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 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: 9/8/25
