



# *Arlington Fire District*

11 Burnett Boulevard  
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**For Emergencies**  
***DIAL 911***

*"Safeguarding Our Community"*

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## **BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES October 6, 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 6:01 p.m., took a roll call of the attendees and everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

### **1. HIRING & SWEARING IN CEREMONY**

Comm. Jackson made a motion to hire the following as resignation / reinstatement for the position of Firefighter with a start date to be determined by the Chief: FF Ryan Smith, FF Gregory Bolner and FF Matthew Dennis. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

Chief Kangas requested newly hired Fire Equipment Mechanics Robert Greenlese and Eammon Sullivan and FF's Ryan Smith, Gregory Bolner and Matthew Dennis to come to the front of the room. Chief Kangas spoke about their credentials and administered the Oath of Office to the new Mechanics and Firefighters. He congratulated all and issued them with their shields and welcomed them to the Arlington Fire District.

The Board allowed time for family and friends that were in attendance to take photographs.

The Board resumed their meeting at 6:22 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**

A. Approval of Abstract 25–10A.

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve Abstract 25–10A. This consists of \$9,375.08 in paid bills with a total of 1 check and \$42,055.59 in unpaid bills with a total of 14 checks for a grand total of \$51,430.67, totaling 15 checks. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

B. Approval of Abstract 25–10A–Croft Corners.

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve Abstract 25–10A–Croft Corners. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$5,125.69 in unpaid bills with a total of 1 check for a grand total of \$5,125.69, totaling 1 check. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

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

5. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. September 22, 2025 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

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

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

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

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

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
  - 1. Comm. Jackson reported the following:
    - A. Three (3) applicants at the District level, waiting for background check.
    - B. Two (2) applicants are meeting with the Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator and having a company vote tomorrow night.
    - C. One (1) completed Orientation and is waiting on physical.
    - D. None waiting for Orientation.
    - E. Six (6) applications being waited for the Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator.
- L. District Safety & Health – Comm. Dore & Comm. Valdez
- M. Strategic Plan – Comm. Van Itallie & Comm. Valdez
  - 1. Comm. Van Itallie reported that the Strategic Plan hasn't been updated since 2009. Will send the Board proposed changes for comments and see if we can get it updated by the end of the year.
- 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

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

- A. Received the September 23, 2025 meeting minutes from the Association of Fire Districts of Dutchess County.

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

- A. Election Policy – updated to include a section on “invalid write-in ballots”.

District Secretary O'Neill reported that there have been issues in the past that the Election Inspectors brought to her attention regarding what they considered invalid write-in ballots. The Attorney reviewed the policy and made the necessary changes to make it clear for the Election Inspectors which gives the authority to the Election Chairperson to invalidate a write-in ballot if it meets the criteria.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve the new Election Policy with the update. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

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

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

- A. Set location for Department Election and Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday, December 4, 2025. (**Not open to the public, for Department members only**)

NOTE: If contested, voting between hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at location designated by the BOFC. Annual Meeting at 8:30 p.m. to announce results of the Department Election. If it is uncontested, the Annual Meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to set Red Oaks Mill as the location for the Department Election and Annual Meeting to be held Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. If contested, voting between hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and the Annual Meeting at 8:30 p.m. If it is uncontested, the Annual Meeting will take place at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

11. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

- A. Chief Adam Kangas

1. Request received from the Boy Scouts to conduct a clothing drive on November 1<sup>st</sup> from 0900 – 1400 behind Station 3. All donations will be picked up by 1330 and they will not store anything on site.

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve the Boy Scouts request. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

2. Acceptance of AFG and SAFER Grants

Chief Kangas reported that Battalion Chief Rinck is in charge of seeking out and applying for grants. Happy to report that AFD was awarded the federal AFG Grant for Technical Rescue Training in the amount of up to \$280K, which provides new certifications for new members, functional exercises and Officer training.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to accept the AFG grant. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

Chief Kangas reported that we were also awarded the federal SAFER grant, which provides manpower to organizations and assistance with monies to do so. We were awarded a SAFER grant to add eight (8) new firefighters to the roster. It is a shared grant that they provide 75% of the costs

for the first two years and 35% for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. They have questions to ask the grant administrator, but don't know how quickly they will get answers with the current status of the federal government. Need to accept the grant due to timing and when we have meetings.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to accept the SAFER grant. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp

1. Reported that he received a thank you from Kim Lasher of the Poughkeepsie Plaza thanking AFD for participating in their event. They plan on doing a Spring event. Between 150 – 200 people interacted with us, and it was a successful event.

C. Director of EMS David Violante

1. October 21<sup>st</sup> – there will be a conference hosted by the Westchester Medical Center called “Roadside to Bedside” which will be held in Kingston. He received a letter saying that they will be honoring a few of our members who were involved in the care provided to a patient involved in an accident near New Hackensack Road and Carriage Hill Road. The patient is alive and should be in attendance. They requested those first responders to attend that include himself, (but can't attend) Justin Drum, Gene DelliPaoli, Johel Dongo and Shawn Castano. Representation from Local 2393 will also be there.

D. Treasurer James Passikoff – No report.

12. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

There were no school requests submitted for Board notification purposes only.

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

- A. Edward D'Anna: “Live Fire Instructor-in-Charge”, October 31 – November 2, 2025 at Putnam County Training Center. (No cost, not requesting use of District vehicle, 16 hours own time, 24 hours District time)

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

13. **ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There are no items for Executive Session.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee O'Neill  
District Secretary



## BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING PUBLIC ATTENDANCE SHEET

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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.

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DATE OF MEETING: 10-6-25
