



Arlington Fire District

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES January 29, 2026

ATTENDEES:

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

Chief: Adam Kangas
Assistant Chief: Eric Philipp – (absent)
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’ emergency meeting at 1:00 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. Chiumento made a motion to approve Abstract 26–1B. This consists of \$9,685.03 in paid bills with a total of 1 check and \$1,183,559.66 in unpaid bills with a total of 69 checks for a grand total of \$1,193,244.69, totaling 70 checks. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 0

4. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

- A. January 5, 2026 Board of Fire Commissioners' Organizational Meeting
- B. January 5, 2026 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

Chairman Dore reported that this will have to be tabled to be approved until there is a quorum due to him being absent at those meetings.

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

- A. Service Awards –
 - 1. Received the 2025 GASB 73 report from Firefly.
 - 2. Received the “Investment Presentation” ending December 31, 2025 from Arrow Bank.
 - 3. Received Engine Co. #1 and Rochdale Fire Company's 2025 LOSAP Points Certification.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve the LOSAP Points Certification from Engine Co. #1 and Rochdale. Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 0

- 4. Received the December 2025 LOSAP statement from Arrow Bank.

- B. District Inspections –
- C. District Officers / Chief Liaison –
- D. EMS & Paramedic Liaison –
- E. Public Relations –
- F. Equipment Maintenance –
- G. Buildings and Grounds –
- H. Capital Equipment –
- I. Union Negotiations & Contract –
- J. Career Staff Liaison –
- K. Volunteer Recruitment –
- L. District Safety & Health –
- M. Strategic Plan –
- N. Finance Committee –
- O. IT Operations Committee –
- P. Croft Lease –

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

- A. Received the November 25, 2025 meeting minutes from the Association of Fire Districts of Dutchess County.

7. **ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE BOARD** – *None unless otherwise noted.*
A. Request from Poughkeepsie Plaza for AFD participation in their Spring Event scheduled for March 29th from 12pm – 2pm. Requesting volunteers to hand out fire prevention material at the event.

Chairman Dore asked about apparatus being used. Comm. Jackson reported that any apparatus we typically have will be in service.

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

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 0

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

9. **COMMISSIONERS ITEMS** – *No reports and/or discussions unless otherwise noted.*
A. From last meeting, the incorrect rent amounts for Croft Corners was reported for 2026 and 2027. The correct amounts are \$4,335 per month for 2026 and \$4,421.70 per month for 2027.

10. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

- A. Chief Adam Kangas
1. Request for the following transfers out of the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Fund:
A. George Finn – up to \$37K (accrued benefit time upon retirement)
B. Gene DelliPaoli – up to \$51K (accrued benefit time upon retirement)

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

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 0

2. The Town of Poughkeepsie has organized an Extreme Weather Task Force for cooling centers. The Community Room located next to the Town PD and the Senior Center in the Station 5 area are going to be used. They desire to utilize the Red Oaks Mill meeting room to also be used.

Comm. Chiumento made a motion to allow the use of Station 3’s meeting room for a cooling center as long as they provide an on-site person to oversee the operation. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 0

3. Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office law enforcement officers have a Force Field program to address large protests. They are requesting

Tactical EMS be involved. We would send two members to a school in Alabama and come back to train the others. No cost to the District except backfill. It would be part of shared services and no reimbursement.

Lengthy discussion. Comm. Chiumento is not interested in spending taxpayer money to cover events outside AFD. Comm. Jackson stated that we will get sent anyway and having the extra skills would be needed to deal with that situation. Comm. Dore agrees with both Comm. Chiumento and Comm. Jackson, but leans more towards what Comm. Jackson stated, if we get sent, we might as well have our guys trained for it. Comm. Chiumento will not vote for it unless we get reimbursed.

No action taken, more discussion to be had when there is a full Board.

4. Phoenixville Ladder Truck update – were scheduled to pick it up but due to the snowstorm, should be getting it next week.
5. Hiring of Firefighter candidates
 1. Steven Haldeman
 2. William Lacovara
 3. David McPartland
 4. Zachary Jones
 5. Owen Murray
 6. Alex Silverio

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve those hires with a start date to be determined by the Chief. Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 0

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp – (absent)

1. Request for AFD to participate in the Dutchess County St Patrick's Day parade in the Village of Wappingers on March 7th line up at Noon, step off at 1:00 p.m., use of 32-45 and/or 32-57.

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

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 0

C. Director of EMS David Violante – (absent)

D. Treasurer James Passikoff – No report.

11. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

The Board of Fire Commissioners authorized the Chief to approve in advance, school requests that are located inside or outside of Dutchess County and is either contractually required or required to maintain a certification or does not exceed \$100.00.

For Commissioners notification purposes only:

- A. “Battery Energy Storage Systems”, February 10, 2026 at DCDER. (No cost)
 - 1. Christopher Mills – 3 hours District time
 - 2. John Dunderdale – 3 hours District time

- B. Eric Philipp: “Battery Energy Storage Systems”, February 19, 2026 at DCDER. (No cost)

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

- A. Cory Dubetsky: “Fire and Emergency Services Instructor”, February 2 – 6, 2026 in Albany, NY. (No cost, not requesting use of District vehicle, 24 hours District time, 40 hours personal time)

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

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 0

- B. Ryan Van Ness: “Difficult Airway Course”, April 14 – 15, 2026 at NY Medical College. (No cost, 12 hours District time, 8 hours own time, not requesting use of District vehicle)

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

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 0

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There were no items for Executive Session.

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

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 1:27 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: 1/29/26
