



Arlington Fire District

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES February 9, 2026

ATTENDEES:

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

Chief: Adam Kangas
Assistant Chief: Eric Philipp – (absent)
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 6:00 p.m., took a roll call of the attendees and everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

1. SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Chaplin Jeff Koenig offered a prayer to the newly hired Firefighters and to the members of the District. Chief Kangas then administered the Oath of Office to the new Probationary Firefighters, Steven Haldeman, William Lacovara, Zachary Jones, David McPartland, Owen Murray, and Alex Silverio. He congratulated all and issued them with their badges 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 6:24 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. **ABSTRACTS APPROVAL**

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve Abstract 26–1B–Croft. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$15,847.19 in unpaid bills with a total of 1 check for a grand total of \$15,847.19, totaling 1 check. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 1 (Comm. Jackson abstained)

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve Abstract 26–2A. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$33,891.85 in unpaid bills with a total of 23 checks for a grand total of \$33,891.85, totaling 23 checks. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

5. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. January 5, 2026 Board of Fire Commissioners’ Organizational Meeting

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 1 (Comm. Dore abstained)

B. January 5, 2026 Board of Fire Commissioners’ Meeting

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 1 (Comm. Dore abstained)

C. January 29, 2026 Board of Fire Commissioners’ Emergency Meeting

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

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 2 (Comm. Valdez and Comm. Van Itallie abstained)

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

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

1. Received Red Oaks Mill’s 2025 LOSAP certification.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

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. Volunteer membership applications ready for Board approval:
 - A. Shawn Gale, Company 5, Firefighter
 - B. Deepak Vashisht, Company 5, Firefighter

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

- L. District Safety & Health – Comm. Dore & Comm. Valdez
- M. Strategic Plan – Comm. Van Itallie & Comm. Valdez
- N. Finance Committee – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Jackson
- O. IT Operations Committee – Comm. Dore & Comm. Van Itallie
- P. Croft Lease – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Van Itallie

- 7. **CORRESPONDENCE** – *None unless otherwise noted.*
 - A. Received the 2023 Independent Financial Audit from PFK O’Connor Davies.

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

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REASON</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
George Savvides	In Memory of Anne Fidanza	\$30.00

Comm. Chiumento made a motion to accept the donation and put it in the General Fund.
Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

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

- 11. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

- A. Chief Adam Kangas
 - 1. Request to transfer up to \$239,000 from the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Fund for the following:
 - A. Richard Muellerleile – up to \$90K for accrued benefit time, contractual retirement
 - B. Joseph Moore – up to \$60K for accrued benefit time, contractual retirement

- C. Justin Carlon – up to \$89K for accrued benefit time, contractual retirement.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

2. Memorandum of Agreement regarding Steven Haldeman's movement from Fire Equipment Mechanic to Probationary Firefighter.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

3. Memorandum of Agreement regarding changes to Article #41 – Fire Equipment Mechanic pay steps upon completion of educational and training obligations.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

4. Force Field Extrication Class discussion from last meeting; requesting to send two TEMS members to Alabama, no cost with the exception of potential backfill.

Lengthy discussion.

Comm. Chiumento made a motion to approve the training with restrictions that they are not deployed outside the Arlington Fire District. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Failed, 2 – 3 – 0 (Comm. Jackson, Comm. Dore and Comm. Van Itallie voted no)

Comm. Jackson made a motion to send two members for that training. Seconded by Comm. Dore.

- Motion Failed, 2 – 3 – 0 (Comm. Valdez, Comm. Chiumento and Comm. Van Itallie voted no)

5. FEMA Plans Class – March 3 – 6, 2026 hosted by NYS; requesting to send one member to Oriskany area, free class, backfill and lodging required to be paid for.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

6. Approval of the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the resolution approved by the Board at the meeting held on January 29, 2026, item #5 under Chief Kangas regarding of the hiring of the following Firefighter candidates, is hereby modified as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Fire Chief, the following Firefighters are appointed in the order, with their start date, denoted below:

Steven Halderman – February 18, 2026
William Lacovara – February 18, 2026
Zachary Jones – February 19, 2026
David McPartland – March 11, 2026
Owen Murray – March 11, 2026
Alex Silverio – March 11, 2026

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp – (absent)

C. Director of EMS David Violante

1. Westchester Medical Center presented a plaque to AFD for a job well done at the auto/pedestrian accident on New Hackensack Road on May 13, 2025.

D. Treasurer James Passikoff – No report.

12. **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. Luke Lyons: “2025 Incident Reporting NERI”, February 9, 2026 at DC Training Center. (No costs, not requesting use of District vehicle, 4 hours own time)

B. “Basic Exterior Firefighting Operations”, February 26 – May 28, 2026 at New Hackensack FD. (No cost)

1. Sarah Nicolaescu
2. Deonte Frazer
3. Noah Ryley

The following school requests require consideration by the Board of Fire Commissioners:
There were no school requests submitted to be considered by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

13. **ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Chief Kangas – (2) items as it relates to a contractual grievance and the Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator agreement.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

15. **OPEN ITEMS**

As a result of the Executive Session, Comm. Dore made a motion to approve Lisa Jackson’s contract with the Arlington Fire District, increase her pay to \$20 an hour, not to exceed \$1,000 per year for the recruitment and retention of volunteers. (Same maximum as last year) Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 1 (Comm. Jackson abstained)

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 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: 2/9/26
