



# Arlington Fire District

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**For Emergencies**  
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## BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES March 16, 2026

### ATTENDEES:

Comm. Richard Dore – Chairman  
Comm. Ralph Chiumento, Jr. – Vice Chairman – (absent)  
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

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 requested that everyone remained standing for a moment of silence for Wilfred Roehe who passed away March 5, 2026. He was a volunteer member of Rochdale Fire Company for 22 years.

At this time, Chairman Dore turned the meeting over to Chief Kangas who presided over a ceremony for the recently promoted Officers. Reverend Koenig offered a prayer to the newly promoted Officers and the members of the District. Chief Kangas gave a brief overview of each members credentials, and the Officers were called upon individually and pinned by Chief Kangas or a member of their family. Battalion Chiefs Erin Hanlon and Seth Goldstein, Captains James McGoldrick, Donald Robison and Christopher Whitney and Lieutenants William Roser, Branden Benedetto and Tyler Pettit; Chief Kangas offered friends and family members an opportunity to take photographs.

The Board meeting resumed at 6:27 p.m.

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.*
- A. Comm. Valdez would like to get an update from the Finance Committee on where we are in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.

3. **ABSTRACT APPROVAL**
- A. Approval of Abstract 26–3B.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve Abstract 26–3B. This consists of \$250,000.00 in paid bills with a total of 1 check and \$138,047.34 in unpaid bills with a total of 35 checks for a grand total of \$388,047.34, totaling 36 checks. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

- B. Approval of Abstract 26–3B–Croft.

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve Abstract 26–3B–Croft. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$6,784.71 in unpaid bills with a total of 2 checks for a grand total of \$6,784.71, totaling 2 checks. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

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

4. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

- A. February 20, 2026 Board of Fire Commissioners Special Meeting. (*was tabled from last meeting; Comm. Jackson and Comm. Van Itallie were absent*)
- B. March 2, 2026 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting. (*Comm. Dore and Comm. Van Itallie were absent*)

Chairman Dore stated that the minutes will be tabled until there is a quorum present that were at those meetings to vote.

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

- A. Service Awards – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Jackson
1. Received the 2025 LOSAP Points Certification from Croft Corners Fire Company.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

2. Received from Arrow Bank – “Investment Presentation” through 02/28/26.

- B. District Inspections – Comm. Dore & Comm. Jackson
- C. District Officers / Chief Liaison – Comm. Chimento & Comm. Dore
- D. EMS & Paramedic Liaison – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Dore
- E. Public Relations – Comm. Chimento & 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. Chimento & Comm. Dore
- J. Career Staff Liaison – Comm. Chimento & 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. Chimento & Comm. Jackson
- O. IT Operations Committee – Comm. Dore & Comm. Van Itallie
- P. Croft Lease – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Van Itallie

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

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

A. Resolution for consideration:

Chairman Dore read the following:

BE IT RESOLVED, at the March 2, 2026 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting, under item #7, “ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE BOARD”, the resignation of Career FF/EMT Cory Dubetsky is rescinded.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

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. Received lots of grants over the years. One specifically is providing a collapse series training certification which will enable 16 of our members to become certified as collapse rescue technicians. It’s an 80-hour class and will be implemented towards the end of the month. This is fully funded and backfill is covered, no cost to the District.

2. Thanks to the Union and lobbying, Rochdale received \$1 million appropriation through Congressman Ryan to address structural issues at Rochdale. Will be looking at what needs to be done, discussing with architects and doing proper planning. Will be starting soon.

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp – No report.

C. Director of EMS David Violante – No report.

D. Treasurer James Passikoff

1. No financial report.

2. Should have received \$16 million from the Town today but did not see it. Will be investing into bank CD's.

3. Submitted a sixty (60) day extension request to the NYS Comptroller's office to file the 2025 Annual Financial Report, which was approved.

#### 11. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

There were no school requests submitted for notifications purposes only.

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

- A. Charles Fager: "Tech Rescue Leadership Conference", March 28 – 29, 2026 in Oriskany, NY. (No registration cost, not requesting use of District vehicle, requesting lodging, 10 hours own time, 24 hours District time)

Comm. Jackson made a motion to table this until after Executive Session. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

#### 12. **ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Comm. Jackson – One (1) item for the purpose of the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 6:34 p.m.

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:54 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

14. **OPEN ITEMS**

As a result of the Executive Session, Comm. Jackson made a motion to table the pending school request for a future meeting. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

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 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee O'Neill  
District Secretary

NOT YET APPROVED



# 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: 3-16-26
