



# Arlington Fire District

11 Burnett Boulevard  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603  
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**For Emergencies**  
***DIAL 911***

*"Safeguarding Our Community"*

## BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES September 21, 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.

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. Jackson made a motion to approve Abstract 26–9A. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$593,967.97 in unpaid bills with a total of 44 checks for a grand total of \$593,967.97, totaling 44 checks. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

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

4. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. August 31, 2026 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

5. **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
- L. District Safety & Health – Comm. Dore & Comm. Valdez
- M. Strategic Plan – Comm. Van Itallie & Comm. Valdez
- N. Finance Committee – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Valdez
- O. IT Operations Committee – Comm. Dore & Comm. Van Itallie
- P. Croft Lease – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Van Itallie

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

A. Received Commissioner Richard Dore's certificate of completion for the required "Commissioner Training Course", dated September 8, 2026.

B. Received "Fire District Affairs": August – September 2026.

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

A. E-mail dated September 9, 2026 from Lisa Jackson stating that Croft Corners dropped the following members for lack of participation.

- 1. Greg Brevetti
- 2. Romain Eugene
- 3. Jacob Winterman
- 4. Joseph Novohradsky
- 5. David Imm – resigned from the District.

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to drop them from the roles. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

B. E-mail dated September 1, 2026 from Shawn Gale of Croft Corners Fire Company stating he moved out of the area.

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to drop him from the roles. 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.*

A. Board to set date, time, and place for the 2027 Proposed Budget Hearing. It can be any day during the third week of October, as amended in Town Law 181[3][a]);

Chairman Dore recommended having the proposed budget meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and then have our regular meeting immediately after.

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to put the budget meeting to October 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at Red Oaks Mill followed by the regular Board meeting. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

B. On or before September 29<sup>th</sup> adopt the proposed budget for 2027, including fund balance estimate for 2026. (Town Law §181[2])

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve a proposed budget of \$29,178,600 of which \$27,673,600 is to be raised by taxes, a 5.4449% increase. The rate per thousand decreases from 6.4750 to 6.4370, which is a minus .03% decrease. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

Comm. Jackson made a motion to move \$1 million of the 2024 and 2025 fund balance to the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund; move \$500,000 of the 2024 and 2025 fund balance to the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund; and \$500,000 of the 2024 and 2025 fund balance to the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Fund. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

C. For Commissioner Election Inspector canvas letters to be mailed, BOFC to determine Annual Commissioner Election time and fix compensation. (*Inspectors need to be approved by second meeting in October*)

1. Commissioner Election is Tuesday, December 8, 2026.
2. Minimum hours are 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. as per TL§175.
3. Compensation for the three (3) hours is \$70 and any consecutive hours prior to 6:00 p.m., the compensation is \$100, as per TL§175.

Chairman Dore recommended changing the hours 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. as we have done in the past to give more time for people to vote.

NOTE: Maximum of four inspectors at HQ and four inspectors at ROM; one Chairperson and a few individuals to be on standby in the event someone can't perform duties.

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to have a 5:00 p.m. start to a 9:00 p.m. finish on December 8<sup>th</sup> for the Election and the compensation will be rates stated \$70 for the three hours and \$100 for the extra. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

10. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

A. Chief Adam Kangas

1. Request to transfer a total of up to \$224,000 out of the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Fund for the following:

A. Doug Parrish – up to \$25,000 for contractual retirement incentive (sick time buy out)

B. Erin Hanlon – up to \$27,000 for contractual retirement incentive (sick time buy out)

C. Carl Cacace – up to \$42,000 for contractual retirement incentive (sick time buy out)

D. William Tompkins – up to \$37,000 for contractual retirement incentive (sick time buy out)

E. Christopher Mills – up to \$93,000 for accrued benefit time; contractual retirement

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

2. AFD was awarded the 2026 Dutchess County Municipal Investment Grant (MIG) in the amount of \$25K to upgrade the boiler at Rochdale Firehouse. This is a matching grant. Requesting the Board to accept.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

3. Acceptance of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fiscal Year 2026 Economic Development Initiative – Community Project Funding grant in the amount of \$1 million to be used for Station 4 functional upgrades.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

4. Request for a permissive referendum in the amount not to exceed \$60,000 out of the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund for the replacement of the heating system at Rochdale.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

5. Request for a permissive referendum in the amount not to exceed \$52,000 out of the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund for turnout gear.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

6. Fire Prevention Detail – requesting 128 hours of overtime at the schools and daycares for Fire Prevention month. Same as last year.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp

1. Request for AFD volunteers to participate in the Spackenkill PTA “Trunk or Treat” at Hagan School on October 17<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of the 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Bring 32-45 and 32-57, if available and both in service.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

2. Request for AFD volunteers to participate in the Texas Roadhouse “Trunk or Treat” on South Road on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (set up at 3:00 p.m.). Bring 32-57.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

C. Director of EMS David Violante

1. Two volunteer applications to be considered by the Board: Philip Giorgio and Brian Dorsey; both Company 5, Firefighters and contingent upon the return of their arson checks. They already completed Orientation.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve pending the arson checks. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

D. Treasurer James Passikoff

1. Chairman Dore acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's May, June and July 2026 Financial Reports for the District.

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.

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

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

- A. Tyler Pettit: "NFPA 1403 Live Fire", October 30, 2026 at DC 911. (No cost, 6 hours District time)

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

- 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.
- B. Chief Kangas – One (1) item for the proposed, pending or current litigation regarding a parcel within the Arlington Fire District.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 6:25 p.m.

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

There were no open items for discussion and/or approval as a result of Executive Session.

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee O'Neill  
District Secretary