



Arlington Fire District

11 Burnett Boulevard
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
www.afd.org

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

"Safeguarding Our Community"

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES October 19, 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
Director of EMS: David Violante
District Secretary: Renee O'Neill – (absent)
Acting Secretary: Jennifer Loucks
Treasurer: James Passikoff

Director of Personnel & Business Administration: Heather Hastie

Chairman Dore opened the Arlington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting, 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 26–10B. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 check and \$634,744.76 in unpaid bills with a total of 32 checks for a grand total of \$634,744.76, totaling 32 checks. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

4. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. **September 21, 2026 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting**

1. Correction: The motion for the Abstract approval needs to be corrected. It was Abstract 26–9B, not Abstract 26–9A, as stated.

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

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

B. **October 1, 2026 Board of Fire Commissioners' Special Meeting**

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

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

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

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

1. Received from Arrow Bank, the August 2026 LOSAP Statement.

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

Chairman Dore reported that there was a correction to be made to Abstract 26–10B.

Comm. Dore made a motion to approve Abstract 26–10B. This consists of \$595.00 in paid bills with a total of 1 check and \$634,744.76 in unpaid bills with a total of 32 checks for a grand total of \$635,339.76, totaling 33 checks. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

Chairman Dore read the following:

2027 BUDGET TAX LEVY LIMIT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners (“Board”) of the Arlington Fire District (“Fire District”), have duly and carefully considered the public safety and fire protection needs of

the residents and taxpayers of the Fire District in preparing the Fire District budget for the fiscal year 2027; and

WHEREAS, after such careful consideration, the recurring, regular and other operating costs and obligations of the Fire District require it to exceed the tax levy limit imposed on the Fire District pursuant to General Municipal Law 3-c in order to maintain the level of fire protection and emergency services to the residents and taxpayers of the Fire District which is in the best interests of such residents and taxpayers as determined by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Fire District, and

WHEREAS, under General Municipal Law 3-c subdivision 5, a Fire District may annually adopt a resolution to override the annual tax levy limit, which resolution must be approved by sixty (60) percent of the total voting power of the Board of Fire Commissioners prior to the adoption of its proposed and/or final budget.

NOW, THEREFORE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the authority of Section 3-c subdivision 5 of the General Municipal Law, after careful consideration of the recurring, regular and other operating costs and obligations of the Fire District, in order to maintain the level of fire protection and emergency services to the residents of the Arlington Fire District, and prior to the adoption of its proposed and or final budget, the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Arlington Fire District does hereby override the annual tax levy limit for the upcoming 2027 fiscal year.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve the 2027 Budget Tax Levy Limit Resolution. Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

POLL OF THE BOARD:

Comm. Dore: "Yes"

Comm. Chiumento: "Yes"

Comm. Valdez: "Yes"

Comm. Van Itallie: "Yes"

Comm. Jackson: "Yes"

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

Comm. Chiumento made a motion to approve a final 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, 5 – 0 – 0

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 the Association of Fire Districts of Dutchess County's meeting minutes from June 23, 2026.

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

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

Marilynn Cannatella – \$25.00 – Assistance received for her husband

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to accept the money and put it in the General Fund. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

9. **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 3, 2026. (**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. In the event that there are no contested elections, the Annual Meeting shall take place at 6:00 p.m.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to set the Department Election and Annual Meeting to Station 5 on December 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

B. Adopt Annual Fire District Election Resolution (Town Law §175-a [6])

Chairman Dore read the following:

ANNUAL FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Arlington Fire District (“Fire District”) hereby determine that the Annual Election of the Fire District shall be held on December 8, 2026 between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., with polling places at the Red Oaks Mill Fire House, 213 Vassar Road for Wards 1, 2, and 5, and at District Headquarters, 11 Burnett Boulevard for Wards 3, 4, and 6 for the purpose of electing one (1) Fire District Commissioner for a five (5) year term of office commencing January 1, 2027 and continuing through December 31, 2031;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each Candidate shall submit a petition setting forth their desired candidacy for the five (5) year term beginning on January 1, 2027 and ending on December 31, 2031, subscribed by twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the Arlington Fire District to the Secretary of the District, no later than November 18, 2026; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following resident Fire District Elector is appointed as the Chairperson of said District Election: Denes House.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following resident Fire District electors are hereby appointed as Election Inspectors for said election:

HEADQUARTERS

1. Sarajane Inglis
2. Karina House
3. Kimberly Rine

RED OAKS MILL

1. Paula Marcotte
2. Charlene Smart
3. Deborah Washburn

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson and Election Inspectors be compensated in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), according to Town Law §175 for their services and attendance at the annual election;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in case of any of the members appointed herein are unable to assume or perform the duties required of them, the Board of Fire Commissioners appoint the following resident Fire District electors as alternates:

1. Raymond Rodriguez
2. Eric Bennett
3. Jennifer Gonzalez

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, the Fire District Secretary is instructed to request a list of registered voters in the Arlington Fire District as of November 16, 2026 from the Dutchess County Board of Elections;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, the notice of election shall be published in the Poughkeepsie Journal, no earlier than November 4, 2026 and no later than November 11, 2026.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

10. DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS

A. Chief Adam Kangas

1. Local 2393 would like to request the use of a spare apparatus to deliver Santa to the community on December 19th and 20th. At least two members will be in the apparatus, and Santa will be safely secured to the top of the vehicle as in years prior.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

2. Fire Officer II class being held at AFD Station 3 from 11/02/26 – 11/06/26. Backfill covered by the AFG Grant.
 - A. Battalion Chief Erin Hanlon
 - B. Capt. James McGoldrick

- C. Capt. Charles Fager
- D. Capt. Donald Robison
- E. Lt. William Roser
- F. Lt. Michael Conroy
- G. Lt. Brendan Benedetto
- H. Lt. Chris Weiner
- I. Lt. Ryan Fincham

Comm. Chiumento made a motion to approve the Fire Officer II class. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp

1. Past Saturday, the District participated in the Spackenkill School PTA Trunk or Treat event. It was very well attended.
2. Has not received additional information, but requesting approval to participate in the Town of Poughkeepsie Trunk or Treat event this Sunday, October 25th and send 32-57 with volunteers at Stanley Still Park from approximately 12 noon to 5:00 p.m.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

C. Director of EMS David Violante

1. New volunteer application to be approved by the BOFC: Breanna Meertins, Co. 5, FF.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

D. Treasurer James Passikoff – No report

11. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

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

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

- A. “EMS Connections”, November 14, 2026 at DCC.
 1. Daniel Sylvester – (\$75 registration, 10.5 hours District time)
 2. Andrea Vallovera – (\$75 registration, 10.5 hours own time)
 3. Christopher Weiner – (\$75 registration, 11 hours own time)

4. Jason Caulfield – (\$75 registration, 10.5 hours own time)

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

12. **ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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 6:47 p.m.

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

Chairman Dore reported that prior to going into Executive Session, they failed to mention the reason. Chief Kangas reported that he had one 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.

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, 5 – 0 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Loucks
Acting 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: 10-19-26
