



# Arlington Fire District

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

Business: (845) 486-6300  
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**For Emergencies**  
***DIAL 911***

*“Safeguarding Our Community”*

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## BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES September 23, 2024

### ATTENDEES:

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

Chief: William Steenbergh  
Deputy 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 7:01 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. **ABSTRACTS APPROVAL**

Comm. Chiumento made a motion to approve Abstract 24–9B. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$467,005.42 in unpaid bills with a total of 35 checks for a grand total of \$467,005.42, totaling 35 checks. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

Comm. Chiumento made a motion to approve Abstract 24–9B–Sean Jackson. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$100.00 in unpaid bills with a total of 1 check for a grand total of \$100.00, totaling 1 check. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

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

4. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. August 19, 2024 Board of Fire Commissioners’ Meeting

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve the August 19, 2024 Board of Fire Commissioners’ meeting minutes. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

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

B. September 9, 2024 Board of Fire Commissioners’ Meeting

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve the September 9, 2024 Board of Fire Commissioners’ meeting minutes. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 3 – 0 – 2 (Comm. Jackson and Comm. Chiumento abstained)

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

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

1. Received from Glens Falls National Bank:

A. “Statement of Value and Activity” – August 2024.

B. “Investment Presentation for AFD LOSAP” – August 2024.

C. “Investment Update” – September 20, 2024.

2. BOFC to consider approval of the letter drafted by Firefly dated October 1, 2024 to send to LOSAP recipients receiving payments to confirm their individual information.

Comm. Jackson made a motion to approve the letter drafted by Firefly. Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

3. BOFC to consider the LOSAP contribution for 2024.

Comm. Valdez made a motion to approve \$87,556 for the LOSAP contribution for 2024. Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

Discussion.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

- B. District Inspections – Comm. Jackson & Comm. Van Itallie
- C. District Officers / Chief Liaison – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Dore
- D. EMS & Paramedic Liaison – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Van Itallie
- E. Public Relations – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Dore
- F. Equipment Maintenance – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Van Itallie
- G. Buildings and Grounds – Comm. Dore & Comm. Van Itallie
- H. Capital Equipment – Comm. Dore & 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. Jackson & Comm. Valdez
- N. Finance Committee – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Van Itallie
- O. IT Operations Committee – Comm. Van Itallie & Comm. Jackson
- P. Croft Lease – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Van Itallie
- Q. Rochdale Lease – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Van Itallie

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

- A. Received Comm. Sean Jackson’s certificate of completion dated September 16, 2024 for the required Commissioner Training Course.
- B. Received the June 25, 2024 meeting minutes from the Association of Fire Districts of Dutchess County.

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

- A. E-mail dated September 19, 2024 from President Sean Jackson of Croft Corners Fire Company requesting approval for the following events:
  - 1. Annual Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Requesting use of apparatus to be left in service. Also requesting participation from the career crew to drive 32-15 in the parade, in service, if available. Officer in Charge will be Mike Renza or Eric Philipp.

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

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

- 2. Texas Roadhouse Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Requesting use of apparatus to be in service during the event. Officer in Charge will be Carlos Gonzales or Mike Renza. Fully staffed by volunteers.

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

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

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

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

A. On or before September 24<sup>th</sup>, adopt the proposed budget for 2025, including fund balance estimate for 2024. (Town Law §181[2])

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to adopt the 2025 Proposed Operating Budget for the fiscal year 2025 in the amount of \$26,835,000 of which \$24,900,000 is to be raised by real estate taxes. This is a 5.92% increase. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

Discussion. Comm. Chiumento went over some of the proposed large increases/decreases.

ROLL CALL:

Comm. Dore – “Yes”

Comm. Chiumento – “Yes”

Comm. Valdez – “Yes”

Comm. Van Itallie – “Yes”

Comm. Jackson – “Yes”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

B. Chairman Dore reminded everyone that the 2025 Proposed Budget Public Hearing is October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Red Oaks Mill.

10. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

A. Chief William Steenbergh – No report.

B. Deputy Chief Adam Kangas

1. Battalion Chief Rinck reported to him that the Arlington Street Fair went well and was a success; a more formal report will be forthcoming.

2. FYI - Eastdale will be having a “Salute to Hero’s” night – will be requesting our participation; more information to come.

C. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp

1. Request received from Spackenkill Elementary PTA for a firetruck on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for their annual Trunk or Treat event at Hagan Elementary. Croft will bring a rig left in-service and will be manned by volunteers, if approved. He will be the Officer in charge.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

- D. Director of EMS David Violante
  - 1. Attended the EMS Memorial in Albany to honor those lost in the Line of Duty in EMS; it was well attended and thanked the Board for allowing him to attend.
  
- E. Treasurer James Passikoff
  - 1. Chairman Dore acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's August 31, 2024 Financial Report 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.

For Commissioners notification purposes only:

- A. "Principles of Instruction", September 23 – 24, 2024 at AFD HQ. (No cost)
  - 1. Branden Benedetto
  - 2. Nicholas Burrow
  - 3. Shawn Castano
  - 4. James Moore
  - 5. Steven Rancourt
  - 6. Manuel Villa-Ortiz
  - 7. Howard Whitney

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

There were no school requests submitted for Board of Fire Commissioners consideration.

12. **ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Chief Steenberg – 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. Comm. Dore – (1) item for collective negotiations pursuant to article fourteen of the civil service law.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:29 p.m.

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

14. **OPEN ITEMS**

Chairman Dore stated that there is nothing to report from Executive Session. For notification purposes, there will be a change in location for the next Board of Fire Commissioners meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at Red Oaks Mill firehouse. Promotions and Transfers will be at that meeting.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Renee O’Neill  
District Secretary

