



Arlington Fire District

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

“Safeguarding Our Community”

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES September 18, 2023

ATTENDEES:

Comm. Richard Dore – Chairman – (absent)
Comm. Peter Longi
Comm. Ralph Chiumento, Jr. – Vice Chairman
Comm. Phil Van Itallie
Comm. Peter Valdez

Chief: William Steenbergh
Assistant Chief: Eric Philipp
Director of EMS: David Violante
District Secretary: Renee O’Neill
Treasurer: James Passikoff

Vice Chairman Chiumento opened the Arlington Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners’ meeting at 7:00 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. Van Itallie made a motion to approve Abstract 23–9A. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$461,784.84 in unpaid bills with a total of 31 checks for a grand total of \$461,784.84, totaling 31 checks. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

4. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**
A. September 5, 2023 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting
Comm. Longi made a motion to approve. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0
5. **MONTHLY COMMITTEE REPORTS** – *No reports given unless otherwise noted.*
A. Service Awards – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Longi
1. Received September 8, 2023 from Glens Falls National Bank – “Investment Update”.
2. Received from Glens Falls National Bank – “Statement of Value and Activity” – August 2023.

B. District Inspections – Comm. Longi & 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. Longi
I. Union Negotiations & Contract – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Dore
J. Career Staff Liaison – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Dore
K. Volunteer Recruitment – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Longi
L. District Safety & Health – Comm. Dore & Comm. Valdez
M. Strategic Plan – Comm. Longi & Comm. Valdez
N. Finance Committee – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Van Itallie
O. IT Operations Committee – Comm. Van Itallie & Comm. Longi
P. Croft Lease – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Longi
Q. Rochdale Lease – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Van Itallie
6. **CORRESPONDENCE** – *None unless otherwise noted*
7. **ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE BOARD** – *None unless otherwise noted*
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 2024 Proposed Budget Hearing. Must be during the third week of October (*as amended in Town Law §181[3][a]*). NOTE: Can be any date between October 16th – 20th.

Comm. Longi made a motion to make October 16th the public hearing on the proposed budget and the time is at 6:00 p.m. at Red Oaks Mill. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

- B. Consider rescheduling the October 16th meeting to the following Monday, October 23rd in order to fulfill obligations in the Budget and Commissioner Election timeline process.

Comm. Longi made a motion to move our regular October 16th meeting to October 23rd.
Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

10. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

A. Chief William Steenbergh

- 1. RE: Mine rescue in Dover; had the inability to drill into granite. Discussion was held back and forth with Peckham Industries. They are donating to the Fire District, a 2016 tow behind compressor. Tommy looked at it and said it is in excellent condition. Would be able to drill concrete as well; will be stored at Red Oaks Mill. Recommend accepting donated equipment. Accessories to be purchased out of the MIG Grant.

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to accept the gift of the compressor. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

- 2. Community Event Requests for Fire Prevention Activities

- A. Eastdale Village – “2nd Friday” in October during Fire Prevention Week; requesting in addition to sending on duty crew from Rochdale, is use of the Fire Prevention Trailer – 10 hours overtime.

Comm. Longi made a motion to approve use of the Fire Prevention trailer. Seconded by Comm. Chimento.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

- B. Emergency One Urgent Care – Saturday, October 28th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Having a health and fire safety fair. With use of the Fire Prevention trailer, 12 hours overtime or Battalion Chief Finn on

his own to man a table – 6 hours overtime; both would be 18 hours overtime.

No action taken but the Board requested to see if volunteers could man it, otherwise denied due to overtime.

2. RE: Central Hudson billing – continue to have billing issues. There have been duplicate invoices for the same time period; one with over \$7K due and one with a credit balance. According to Central Hudson, they are actual meter reads. Bringing it to the Board’s attention because NYS Comptroller released an audit on BOCES about this. Recommends not paying invoices until they are more believable and reaching out to Senator Rolison for assistance.

Discussion.

Comm. Chiumento made a motion that we reach out to Senator Rolison for help with our Central Hudson billing and we suspend paying until October and waiting for help from the Senator. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

Chief Steenbergh stated if they see a bill in the Abstract then it has been straightened out.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

3. HQ Sewer Project – final stages of the specifications. Met with a few contractors. Will be under the bidding threshold and as per the Procurement Policy we do not have to go out to formal bid. Just need to receive three written quotes.

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp

1. Reported that there was a 10-75 last week on VanWagner Road; great job by all especially with the treacherous conditions.

C. Director of EMS David Violante – No Report

D. Treasurer James Passikoff

1. Vice Chairman Chiumento acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer’s August 31, 2023 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.

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

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

- A. William Steenbergh: “NYS Fire & EMS Services Leadership & Management Conference”, November 3 – 5, 2023 in Montour Falls. (\$250 registration)

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

12. **ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Chief Steenbergh – two (2) items 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. Longi made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:27 p.m.

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. and returned to Open Session.

14. **OPEN ITEMS**

- As a result of the Executive Session, Comm. Longi made a motion to hire Steven Haldeman to the position of ~~*Fire Service Mechanic~~ Fire Equipment Mechanic with a date to be determined by the Chief. Seconded by Comm. Van Itallie.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

(*Corrected at the October 2, 2023 meeting).

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

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0

No time was given when the meeting adjourned.

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: 9/18/23
