



Arlington Fire District

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For Emergencies
DIAL 911

"Safeguarding Our Community"

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES December 6, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Comm. Ralph Chiumento, Jr. – Chairman
Comm. Bruce Griffing, II
Comm. Peter Valdez – Vice Chairman
Comm. Peter Longi
Comm. Richard Dore

Chief: William Steenbergh
Assistant Chief: Eric Philipp
Director of EMS: David Violante
District Secretary: Renee O'Neill
Treasurer: James Passikoff – (absent)

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.

I. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** – *No action(s) taken by the Board, unless otherwise noted*

II. **COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD** – *No action(s) taken by the Board, unless otherwise noted*

III. **ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Comm. Longi to approve Abstract 21-12A. This consists of \$2,525,962.71 in paid bills with a total of 11 checks and \$144,884.79 in unpaid bills with a total of 32 checks for a grand total of \$2,670,847.50, totaling 43 checks. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

IV. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. November 15, 2021 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

A motion was made by Comm. Longi to accept the November 15, 2021 Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting minutes. Seconded by Comm. Griffing.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

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

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

1. Received e-mail dated November 19, 2021 regarding “Investment Update from Glens Falls National Bank”.

B. District Inspections – Comm. Longi & Comm. Griffing

C. District Officers / Chief Liaison – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Dore

D. EMS & Paramedic Liaison – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Griffing

E. Public Relations – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Dore

F. Equipment Maintenance – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Griffing

G. Buildings and Grounds – Comm. Longi & Comm. Dore

H. Capital Equipment – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Dore

I. Union Negotiations & Contract – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Griffing

J. Career Staff Liaison – Comm. Dore & Comm. Chiumento

K. Volunteer Recruitment – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Griffing

1. Comm. Valdez thanked Lisa Jackson for the work she is doing as Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator. Also stated that members expressed a concern regarding not having a budget line for the volunteers. Brief discussion. Comm. Valdez will follow up.

L. District Safety & Health – Comm. Griffing & Comm. Dore

M. Strategic Plan – Comm. Longi & Comm. Valdez

N. Finance Committee – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Griffing

O. IT Operations Committee – Comm. Griffing & Comm. Longi

P. Croft Lease – Comm. Valdez & Comm. Longi

1. Croft Lease extension – Chairman Chiumento reported that the Board has the option to extend the lease for 2024 with the rent being \$51,000, which would be a \$15,000 decrease.

A motion was made by Comm. Chiumento that we exercise our right under the lease to the year 2024. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

Q. Rochdale Lease – Comm. Chiumento & Comm. Longi

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

- A. Received November 17, 2021, Bruce A. Griffing, II's petition to be placed on the ballot for Fire Commissioner in the upcoming election.
- B. Received November 19, 2021, Philip Van Itallie's petition to be placed on the ballot for Fire Commissioner in the upcoming election.

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

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

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

X. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

- A. Chief William Steenbergh
 - 1. Governor Hochul recently signed an amendment to Chapter 481 of the Open Meetings Law, which requires that records to be discussed at the meeting be posted or made available within 24 hours of a meeting.

Brief discussion. Postings will be done by end of business day on Thursday's prior to the meeting with the exception of the January 3rd meetings. Those agendas (organizational & regular) will be posted December 23rd and the Abstract will be posted January 3rd, due to the Chief and District Secretary being out of the office.

- 2. Leary's Firefighters Foundation – Captain Rinck applied for a grant and we were awarded \$13,450 to replace our FAST equipment.

A motion was made by Comm. Dore to accept the Leary grant. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

- 3. FF Manny Villa-Ortiz has completed his probationary status. Recommends that the Board remove him from probation and made a permanent firefighter in the District.

A motion was made by Comm. Dore to remove FF Manny Villa-Ortiz from probation. Seconded by Comm. Griffing.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

- 4. Two are expected to retire in December with a possibility of a third. Recommendation from Treasurer Passikoff that their

accumulated sick time cash outs be taken out of the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve Fund not to exceed \$300,000.

A motion was made by Comm. Longi to approve the transfer of funds to pay for the costs out of the Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve Fund for the cash in of their accumulated time, not to exceed \$300,000. Seconded by Comm. Griffing.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

5. Volunteer Firefighter Cancer Insurance Policy – two options for 2022. The basic plan, which is required by NYS law, covers a limited number of cancer diagnoses for a total of \$3,622.45. The enhanced plan covers any and all diagnoses for \$4,646.

A motion was made by Comm. Dore to approve the enhanced plan. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

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

B. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp

1. Thanked the Board for approving the better cancer plan for the volunteers.

C. Director of EMS David Violante

1. Have set up COVID booster and Flu vaccine clinics in house at HQ for the members and their spouses. Thanked Walgreen's for doing this for us. Working on a night schedule for the volunteers.
2. Will not be at the next meeting; thanked the Board for a great year.
3. Thanked the Union for the work done on the offices and straightening everything out.

D. Treasurer James Passikoff – (absent)

XI. SCHOOL REQUESTS

The following member(s) have been approved by Chief Steenbergh to attend the following school request(s) in advance of the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting and are located inside or outside of Dutchess County; is either contractually required or required to maintain certification; and have a registration cost of no more than \$100. For Commissioners notification purposes only:

No school requests were submitted for notification purposes.

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

- A. “Fire Officer II”, December 6 – 10, 2021 at Westchester County Training Center. (*Costs covered by Fire Officers Training Grant*)
1. Seth Goldstein
 2. Jason Caulfield

A motion was made by Comm. Valdez to approve. Seconded by Comm. Longi.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

XII. ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. Chief Steenbergh – four (4) 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, a motion was made by Comm. Griffing to adjourn to Executive Session. Seconded by Comm. Dore.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:51 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, a motion was made by Comm. Dore to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Comm. Valdez.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0

No time 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: 12-6-21

PHIL VAN TALLIE	