



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 October 28, 2024

ATTENDEES:

Comm. Richard Dore – Chairman
Comm. Ralph Chiumento, Jr. – Vice Chairman
Comm. Peter Valdez – (arrived at 7:06 p.m.)
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 7:00 p.m., took a roll call of the attendees and everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Dore asked that everyone remain standing for a moment of silence for Charles Bertolino, past volunteer of Red Oaks Mill Fire Company who passed away on October 3, 2024. He was a member from 1994 – 2001 serving as Fire Police. And for Samuel North, volunteer of Rochdale Fire Company who passed away on October 18, 2024. He was a member since 2005 and served in many positions - Fire Police, Firefighter, EMT, Assistant Chief, Service Awards Administrator, Vice President of Rochdale and Fire Commissioner in 2008.

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.*

Chairman Dore announced that the next Board of Fire Commissioners meeting scheduled for Monday, November 4th has been canceled. The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 18th.

3. **ABSTRACT APPROVAL**

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve Abstract 24–10B–Croft Corners. This consists of \$0 in paid bills with a total of 0 checks and \$5,438.65 in unpaid bills with a total of 1 check for a grand total of \$5,438.65, totaling 1 check. Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

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

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve Abstract 24–10B. This consists of \$398,304.18 in paid bills with a total of 3 checks and \$86,409.16 in unpaid bills with a total of 39 checks for a grand total of \$484,713.34, totaling 42 checks. Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

4. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

A. October 7, 2024 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to approve as written. Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

- Motion Carried, 4 – 0 – 0

B. October 17, 2024 Board of Fire Commissioners' Proposed Budget Public Hearing

Comm. Chiumento 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

1. Received from Glens Falls National Bank:

- A. “Investment Update” dated 10/04/24.
- B. “Statement of Value and Activity” – September 2024.
- C. “Investment Update” dated 10/18/24.
- D. “Investment Presentation for AFD LOSAP” as of 09/30/2024.

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 “Fire District Affairs: October – November 2024”.
- B. Received the September 24, 2024 meeting minutes from the Association of Fire Districts of Dutchess County.
- C. Letter dated October 21, 2024 from Hagan Elementary School thanking Battalion Chief Mills for providing fire safety to the children.

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. Subject to certain restrictions, make changes, alterations, and revisions to proposed budget (Town Law §181[3][b])

Comm. Valdez arrived at 7:06 p.m.

There were no changes, alterations or revisions to the proposed budget.

- B. 2025 Budget Tax Levy Limit Resolution for consideration (GML §3-c [5])

Chairman Dore read the following Resolution:

2025 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 2025; 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 BE 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 2025 fiscal year.

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to accept the Resolution as read. Seconded by Comm. Jackson.

POLL OF THE BOARD:

Comm. Van Itallie – “Aye, in favor”
Comm. Dore – “In favor”
Comm. Chiumento – “Aye”
Comm. Jackson – “Aye”
Comm. Valdez – “Aye”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

C. Adopt Fire District Annual Budget (Town Law §181[3][b])

Comm. Jackson made a motion to adopt the 2025 Fire District Annual Budget in the amount of \$26,835,000 of which \$24,900,000 is to be raised by real estate taxes. Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

POLL OF THE BOARD:

Comm. Van Itallie – “Aye”
Comm. Dore – “Aye”
Comm. Chiumento – “Aye”
Comm. Jackson – “Aye”
Comm. Valdez – “Aye”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

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

Chairman Dore read the following Resolution:

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 10, 2024 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, 2025 and continuing through December 31, 2029;

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, 2025 and ending on December 31, 2029, subscribed by twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the Arlington Fire District to the Secretary of the District, no later than November 20, 2024; 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. Eric Bennett
2. 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 18, 2024 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 6, 2024 and no later than November 13, 2024.

Comm. Van Itallie made a motion to accept Election Resolution as read. Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

POLL OF THE BOARD:

Comm. Van Itallie – “Aye”
Comm. Dore – “Aye”

Comm. Chiumento – “Aye”
Comm. Jackson – “Aye”
Comm. Valdez – “Aye”

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

10. **DISTRICT STAFF ITEMS**

A. Chief William Steenbergh

1. Notified the Board that the two (2) Seagrave engines have begun their production. Received photographs from the factory showing the assembly on the cab. More information to come as project progresses.
2. Informed the Board that a text message went out to the members regarding Spotted Dog shutting down on October 31st. AFD had nothing to do with this text message and it was found to be an unauthorized text message from the County. The County is currently pursuing alternates to replace Spotted Dog. Chief 360 is an app that is suited to the needs of AFD and will be up and running before Spotted Dog becomes unavailable. We do have contingency plans if that is the case.

Discussion regarding reports being set up in RedAlert for incidents summary for website and LOSAP.

3. Six (6) Probationary Firefighters recently completed or will be completing their probation in a week. With the next BOFC meeting being canceled and the next meeting being three (3) weeks away, requesting Board authorization to remove them from probation to start their permanent assignments within the Fire District, with a date to be determined by the Fire Chief.
 - A. PFF Torhan
 - B. PFF Burke
 - C. PFF Goldstein
 - D. PFF Nikisher
 - E. PFF DuBois
 - F. PFF Barnhardt

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

- B. Deputy Chief Adam Kangas – No report.
- C. Assistant Chief Eric Philipp – No report.

- D. Director of EMS David Violante
 - 1. Company Member Transfer Form received for Volunteer Jacob Winterman. Requesting to transfer from Company 3 to Company 5.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

- E. Treasurer James Passikoff
 - 1. Chairman Dore acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer’s September 30, 2024 Financial Report for the District.

11. **SCHOOL REQUESTS**

There were no school requests submitted for notifications purposes only.

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

- A. “GovBuy Procurement Conference”, November 21, 2024 in Albany, NY. (No cost, mileage and meals)
 - 1. Heather Hastie
 - 2. Jessica Herman

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

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

- B. Christopher Rinck: “JIS/JIC Planning for State and Local PIO’s”, November 12, 2024 at Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response. (No cost, 12 hours District time, no vehicle requested)

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

12. **ITEMS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- A. Chief Steenbergh
 - 1. 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.
 - 2. One (1) for Collective Bargaining Negotiations.

- B. Deputy Chief Kangas – 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.

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

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

13. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:17 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. Van Itallie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Comm. Chiumento.

- Motion Carried, 5 – 0 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

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: 10/28/24
