

The December 9, 2023 Executive Board meeting of the New Jersey Firemen's Home Board of Managers was called to order by Chairman Giglio at 0902 hours and was followed by the pledge of allegiance. An invocation was provided by Manager Dutch.

Mr. Hull advised public notice was provided in the official newspaper, the Star Ledger, and on the home's website.

Roll call was taken with all members of the Executive Committee present, Also in attendance were Managers Dutch, Cunningham, Heflich, Lugossy, Keyser, DeVirgilio, Wilson, President Ordway, Superintendent Veras and Mr. Bell.

The minutes from the November 11 , 2023 Full Board Meeting were all approved.

Communications:

Secretary Hull read a "Save the Date" Fire Muster flier that was in all managers' mailboxes. Copy attached.

Reports of Officers:

Secretary:

Mr. Hull advised that he no report.

Treasurer:

Mr. Sutphen reported that our 2024-2025 budget has been approved by the Governor. There are no major unexpected expenses currently and our budget is right on course.

Superintendent:

Mr. Veras advised that annual Ethics Disclosure Statements have been placed in each manager's box. Please complete and return to Mr. Sutphen. Christmas parties at the Home are moving along with a few complete and several more planned.

We are all good currently with COVID and are preparing for the winter months.

Mr. Veras advised that he has By-law update information that will be discussed later by Mr. Apgar, and asked all managers present to take and sign for a copy as the rest will be mailed out.

Mr. Veras wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Legal Counsel:

Mr. Bell reported that he will have items for Full Board approval next month. Those being the revised Employee manual and formal agreement with the Rockaway Valley Regional Sewer Authority (RVRSA). The agreement with the RVRSA finalized details included the monies, insurances, and restoration of the site. Copies should be available early next week for review.

Mr. Bell added that the bid specifications for the roof replacement and elevator project are being completed. Mr. Bell advised he is also working on some personnel issues with Superintendent Veras.

Buildings and Grounds:

Mr. Keyser reported that he received a written report of project updates from Maintenance Director Hodierne which is attached.

Mr. Keyser reported that they are preparing for the elevator project and are ready for the winter and snow plowing.

Applications:

Mr. Freeman provided a written report from the application committee meeting held on December 5, 2023 which is attached. The report indicated 71 guest in Long Term Care and 8 in Residential Care for a total of 79 guests. Since the last meeting there have been 4 new admissions. Two guests answered their final alarms- one from Bergen County and one from Essex County. The committee is reviewing 4 applications and 3 need to complete pre-admission interviews. The next meeting for the Applications Committee is 0900 hours on Tuesday January 9, 2024 at the Home.

Mr. Freeman added that the committee discussed the criteria for admission into the Home (currently 1 year of fire service). The committee is pretty sure that 84 months of service, in the Association or not, will be the new criteria. Mr. Freeman will have more for the full board next month.

Employee Committee:

Mr. Dutch reported that everything was "quiet".

Finance and Budget Committee:

Mr. Hull provided a written report on the December 5, 2023 meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee which is attached. Bills for the month were reported in the amount of \$329,569.00. All revenue and expense vouchers were reviewed and found to be in order. The 2025-25 Budget has been approved by the Governor. The committee discussed the renewal of our contract with our attorney Mr. Bell under the same terms with the contract being renewed in October with all other professional services going forward. The Home is anticipating a large invoice for the previously approved bed replacement project which is underway. The committee also discussed looking into pet/ veterinarian insurance for the Home's dog Wells as possible cost savings instead of paying as we go for vet bills. Mr. Hull elaborated that Wells was recently sick and needed care.

The next meeting for the finance committee will be at 0800 hours on Tuesday January 9, 2024 at the Home

Insurance:

Mr. Strube was not present and there was no report.

Legislative Committee:

Mr. Luggosy discussed that two bills were vetoed by the Governor. The first S861 which allowed for Christmas trees to be burned by municipalities was "absolutely vetoed". The second A5179 which was the fire damper safety act was "conditionally vetoed" and the Senate may try to override the veto.

Mr. Luggosy reported on new legislation: S4185 that exempts volunteer first responders from unemployment compensation laws and A5758 which mandates all New Jersey Firefighters to be trained in marine firefighting. Mr. Luggosy discussed that this arose from the death of two Newark Firefighters and the investigation that followed. There is currently debate if this should be addressed through legislation or handled by the Port Authority for training.

Mr. Veras then added that there is legislation that may effect the Home which is the Healthcare Hero Act which makes it a crime to assault a health care worker in any way. We may have a possible situation at the Home.

By-laws:

Mr. Apgar asked all managers present to get a copy of the by-law revisions from Mr. Veras and sign for them. The revisions were a lot of house keeping items as far as verbiage etc. The committee suggests doing away with the executive committee; changing the start time of all meetings to 9AM; and suggesting Managers are required to attend 8 of the 12 meetings. Mr. Apgar asked that everyone reviews and forward him and questions so they can go over them with Mr. Bell. In January we will voting to get the changes approved. Mr. Apgar also provided a written memo from the committee that he read: (copy attached, and below)

Please review the revised By_laws. These will be voted/ approved at the January meeting. Please note that the By-laws (current and proposed) state that they can be revised at a Full Board Meeting, provided a thirty (30) day notification has been made to the Board.

Section 10 the By-laws of the NJ Firemen's Home may be ammended at a full board meeting of the Board of Manager by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Managers present and voting, provided that written notice of such proposed By-Law amendment has been mailed to each Manager thirty (30) days prior to the Board meeting.

*Copy of proposed changes distributed to the Managers is also attached.

Museum:

Mr. Hull advised that he spoke with Mr. Veras after the December 5th Budget Committee meeting and asked if after the holidays the maintenance staff can help construct shelves on a wall in the lower lever to hold the handmade models Mr. Dutch had donated. Mr. Hull reported that Mr. Heflich is working on the tire issue.

Mr. Dutch commented that he now has the plaques for each of the model trucks that the owner had on display with them.

Public Relations:

Mr. Wilson advised that he would like to have a committee meeting after the full board in January. He read off the committee members names. He asked if anyone had any suggestions to call him or email him.

Ethics and Code of Conduct:

Mr. Sutphen reported the annual disclosure reports were distributed. Please complete and return to him.

Pension:

Mr. Washer reported that he will be having a meeting with Mr. Veras and Mr. Klien and will have a report in February. If anyone has any pension questions, see Mr. Washer.

Inventory:

Mr. Wilson reported that Mr. Veras and the employees are doing a good job of keeping abreast with anything new and adding it to them inventory. Mr. Veras commented that the new beds are covered with our insurance.

Golf Committee:

Mr. Signorello advised that Committee had a couple of ideas with regards to keeping the golf event or trying a large raffle. The committee will have a report for the Full Board in January but they are leaning towards doing away with the event.

Mr. Veras inquired of the room if anyone was a member of a country club. Mr. Otterbein, Essex County Committeeman advised he has and Mr. Veras asked to meet with him after the meeting about ideas.

Mr. Freeman commented that if the committee wants to do a raffle they should start the paperwork as it takes time to get done with the State.

Liaison to the State Association:

Mr. Hull reported that members of the Committee attended the State Association's meeting on November 18, 2023 in Wall Township. A written report on that meeting was distributed to all Managers on November 20th. (copy attached). Mr. Hull gave a summary of the written report.

Long Range Planning:

Mr. Sutphen advised that the committee had their first meeting this morning. They discussed a number of items including an addition and that they will be putting together a comprehensive report that includes the life expectancy of large equipment like our generators. They are also working on getting prices for an actuary. They are off to a good start as a committee.

Inspections:

Mr. Dutch reported that there were a few minor problems and stated the building looks great for the Holidays. The pool table in the solarium has damaged to the veneer that needs to be glued back in place.

State Firemen's Association:

President Ordway advised that Mr. Hull's report covered most items. The State is holding off until last minute of adding new members. The officer reports are available online.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

Payment of Bills:

Mr. Hull reported the total bills in the amount of \$329,569.00. Upon motion, a roll call vote was taken and the bills payment was approved.

Motions and Resolutions:

None.

Public Participation:

No one from the public in attendance wished to speak.

Executive Session:

None had.

Good and Welfare:

Mr. Veras thanked Mr. Apgar who his ability to obtain donations from his County and company for the Home. This year's Manager gifts were provided by his company which are job shirts and knit caps.

Mr. Washer wished Mr. Jeffer well who fell from his tree stand while hunting a suffered several serious injuries.

Mr. Gigilio wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 0932 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Roger Hull', written over the text 'Respectfully submitted,'.

Roger Hull
Secretary

APPROVED BY FULL BOARD January 13, 2024