

The June 10, 2023 Executive Board meeting of the New Jersey Firemen's Home Board of Managers was called to order by Chairman Wilson at 0900 hours followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Wilson also provided the invocation.

Mr. Hull advised that 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 except Mr. Giglio and Mr. Jeffer who were excused. Also in attendance were Managers Dutch, DeLaurentis, Heflich, Lugossy, Miller, and Keyser along with President Ordway, Superintendent Veras, and Mr. Bell.

The minutes from the May 13, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting were approved.

Communications:

None

Reports of Officers:

Secretary:

Mr. Hull advised that he is working on the Annual Report for the Firemen's Home and will be sending it out to each Manager so they can add items and have input. A draft of bullet points was sent to Mr. Wilson who used them for the Exempt Convention. This will be sent as well so that Managers could add to it.

Treasurer:

Mr. Sutphen reported that we are at the end of our current budget and a few line items were over and a few line items were under but overall we are fine.

Superintendent:

Mr. Veras reported that today was a big day as it was the Bergen County Association's BBQ. The Home is asking families to RSVP to events so they could have a proper head count for food. BBQs will be on Saturdays with rain dates of Sunday.

The asbestos is finished at the Vreeland House next is final testing and then we can proceed with demolition.

A few maintenance workers have left and/or been dismissed. We hired one new maintenance worker who is a 30 year old from Wanaque and he can perform the in-house tasks that previous workers had been doing.

Legal Counsel:

Mr. Bell reported that he worked with Mr. Veras on the bid specs for the asbestos removal which was awarded and will be finished by Friday.

Mr. Bell advised he is in discussion with the RVRSA (Rockaway Valley Regional Sewerage Authority) who are requesting an easement license and permit to access a small piece of our rear property to get to their sewer system. Mr. Bell advised he received a proposal from the RVRSA and has made edits to it which he will present to the Full Board to vote on.

Mr. Greci requested that Mr. Bell send the proposal out to the Managers at least a week or two in advance so they can review it ahead of full board meeting.

Mr. Bell agreed and commented that the RVRSA wanted a perpetual agreement and that is something we should not agree with.

Mr. Dutch then provided a history of the dispute going back many years with the RVSRA and how they built a pumping station that was three quarters on our property.

Mr. Signorello inquired about financial compensation.

Mr. Bell responded that is something the full board needs to discuss. Mr. Bell received their proposal, the full board needs to have their input and then we would make a counter proposal.

Mr. Veras then described the site in question as a “box” were multiple sewer lines meet. They (RVRSA) access it from a paper street. How it got onto our property in the first place is a mystery.

Mr. Wilson then asked Mr. Greci about previous talks with the RVRSA and how we “squashed it” in the past.

Mr. Greci responded that we should let legal review and make recommendations to the full board.

Mr. Dutch added that these talks have gone on so long that they went through three different heads of the sewer authority.

Mr. Heflich commented that in the past out old attorney gave us “language” and nothing more.

Buildings and Grounds:

Mr. Signorello advised that he provided a written report from Maintenance Director Tom Hodierene (see attached) which provided a list of updates on current projects. Mr. Signorello added that the Buildings and Grounds committee met this morning and had a brief discussion about a potential addition. He also did the inspection and found a few small items that were referred to Mr. Veras. Mr. Signorello added that Mr. Keyser will have an update on the solar project under old business.

Applications:

Mr. Washer reported that the committee met on June 6th and that the census as of May 31, 2023 was 75 guests. Since last meeting there were two new admissions and one guest passed away. There were no new applications presented to the committee and one current application is still in progress.

Employee Committee:

Mr. Dutch reported that some people who left, have been replaced and nothing else from the committee.

Finance and Budget Committee:

Mr. Hull provided a written report on the June 6, 2023 meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee which is attached. Bills for the month were reported in the amount of \$368,030.49. All revenue and expense vouchers were reviewed and found to be in order. The committee discussed the current budget and we are right on track. Also discussed was the cost of health care for employees which is approximately \$93,000 a month due to dramatic cost in State Health Benefits program. The committee felt it would be contrary to our goal of retaining quality employees to pass the cost onto the employee or change benefits. We recommend increasing future budgets to meet insurance costs. Additionally, payment of benefits for certain retirees was discussed and is being investigated further. Lastly, the topic of long term planning with regards to potential single guests per rooms was discussed and it is recommended that a firm should be hired to do feasibility study. This should be presented to the full board in July.

Insurance:

Mr. Strube was not present and Mr. Dutch had nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Veras added that our policies are slowly renewing and that some insurance agencies don't want to talk to nursing homes. Other proposals were between 8 and 22 thousand dollars more a year. Our current vendors are the best price.

Legislative Committee:

Mr. Lugossy reported on the following bills:

- S3090 the 20 and out bill for police and fire that has been veto-ed
- A5514 offers grant money for CAREER firefighters for mental health
- S3405 to include volunteer firefighters in cancer screening
- A3807 which extended the useful period for fire apparatus for bonding purposes
- A5570 Volunteer Fire Company Assistance program \$10 million

A report with list of bills was forwarded by our lobbyist PPAG (attached).

The State is working through budget process still.

Discussion about the bonding process and life of fire apparatus ensued.

By-laws:

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

Museum:

Mr. Hull advised that he received a Newark FD call box, Newark FD “yearbooks” from the 80’s and 90’s, photos and some Life Magazines from the Newark riots from James Vallant a guest in the Home. They will be inventoried and put on display.

Public Relations:

Mr. Wilson reported the committee met after April’s Full Board meeting and decided on giving away can coozies again but this year they will be for tall and skinny type cans. They will be blue with white imprint.

Ethics and Code of Conduct:

Mr. Sutphen advised no report.

Pension:

Chairman Greci reported progress.

Inventory:

Mr. Wilson advised nothing new and no changes.

Golf Committee:

Chairman Greci advised that he will have a full report of July’s meeting.

Liaison to the State Association:

Mr. Lugossy reported that he has had conversations with Mr. Ordway and all is well.

Inspections:

Mr. Signorelli advised that he conducted the inspection with Mr. Sutphen this morning a three minor things were found and Mr. Veras was advised.

State Firemen’s Association:

President Ordway reported that they are getting geared up for the convention. The ballot positions for any contested positions have been selected. A copy of President Ordway’s 6/1/2023 informational report is attached.

Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Ordway for the State taking delivery of our convention items and transporting them to Wildwood again for us this year.

AD Hock Committee:

Mr. Wilson reported that the committees have a meeting on June 13th at the Home and if any manager has any input to see him after this meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Keyser provided a written report on the solar panel discussions (attached). Topics included: our non profit status in regards to tax credits; the resident's view; issues with neighbors; and maintenance of solar site.

Mr. Keyser continued on the need for a feasibility study and actuary study of our needs. We should get ball rolling on it as it will be a lengthy job involving a potential addition a new kitchen and moving stuff around. Our new budget begins July 1st and if we have money for studies, we should start planning now. This will be brought up in July.

Mr. Veras added that the order that needs to take place would be a feasibility study and then an actuary study of both organizations and what our exposures would be. We are coming up on the baby boomer generation. We need to find out what both of our needs are, with our services and the State's programs such as the death benefits etc. We cant just guess at number of rooms, we need to be scientific and get data.

Mr. Wilson commented that this will be addressed in July and we need to all think of where we need to be.

Mr. Greci added that the Budget Committee discussed the feasibility study and Mr. Veras is getting price for a proposal.

Mr. Sutphen inquired if we need both a feasibility and actuary study.

Mr. Veras responded that they go together and a certificate of need would follow.

Mr. Keyser added that this puts the solar project on hold until we see what we need and that we could potentially add solar to the project. Mr. Keyser also added in response to a question from the floor; that the project for solar would be a ground project not rooftop.

Mr. Keyser then asked if the secretary can send out a reminder for July's meeting that we plan to discuss if we wish to retain the lobbyist or not.

Mr. Greci responded that he believed it was decided that if we keep PPAG or not that we go to bid for another company.

Mr. Heflich discussed inviting solar panel company to our meeting.

New Business:

Mr. Veras reminded managers that he sent out an email in regards to the tour that was set up for our spouses while we attend our meeting in Wildwood. He advised it would be of a distillery and winery and that there is a minimum needed for the tour.

Mr. Wilson asked managers to check with their spouse or significant others (multiple comments from floor "or both") and get back to Mr. Veras.

Payment of Bills:

Mr. Hull reported the total bills in the amount of \$368,030.49. Upon motion, a roll call vote was taken and the bills payment was approved.

Mr. Ordway reminded the Board that only members of the Executive Board can make motions.

Resolutions:

None.

Public Participation:

Rich Otterbien, Essex County Executive Committeeman asked what is the Home classified as?

Mr. Veras responded that we have two licenses: one for Long Term Care, and one for Residential Care.

Executive Session:

None had.

Good and Welfare:

Chairman Wilson congratulation Mr. Miller on a wonderful Exempt Convention and wished everyone a Happy Father's Day.

Mr. Signorello reminded that only Executive Board members can make motions and vote and Executive Board meetings, stating lets make it legal.

Mr. Wilson asked the floor to remind him if it occurs at a meeting. Suggestion from floor to add a statement to be read each Executive Board meeting. Secretary will add it to agenda.

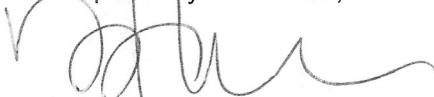
Mr. Signorello added that it was good to see Mr. Wilson and that he looked the best that he's ever seen him. Laughter and commentary about his choice of words from the floor followed.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 0942 AM

• **APPROVED AT THE FULL BOARD MEETING JULY 15, 2023**

Respectfully submitted,



Roger Hull
Secretary