

The September 14, 2023 Full Board meeting of the New Jersey Firemen's Home Board of Managers held at Urie's Dockside Restaurant in Wildwood NJ, was called to order by Chairman Greci at 1502 hours followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Wilson provided the invocation.

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

Mr. Hull also noted that we had a guest stenographer and all those speaking should identify themselves, speak clearly, one at a time so they can be properly recorded.

Roll call was taken with all members of the Board of Managers present except Mr. Silvestri who was excused. Also in attendance were several past managers, newly elected managers and members of the State Association.

After roll call Chairman Greci had the newly elected managers, who take office in October, introduce themselves to the Board. Managers-Elect Dunn, Devirgilio and Cunningham all expressed that they were looking forward to working with the Board and thanked their respective predecessors.

The minutes from the August 12, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting were approved.

Communications:

Secretary Hull read off a letter from Manager Heflich addressed to Superintendent Veras with regards to an incident that occurred at the August 12th BBQ involving the staff coming to the aid of a guest having a medical issue. Mr. Heflich's letter commended Superintendent Veras and the Staff of the Home (copy attached).

Reports of Officers:

Secretary:

Mr. Hull advised that he did not have an official report and advised the newly elected managers that the minutes are sent out by email but if they wanted hard copies mailed, to see Secretary Hull to get on the mailing list.

Treasurer:

Mr. Sutphen advised that there was not much to report as we just began new budget. He added that the finance committee is preparing for a 7-8% increase in health benefits cost.

Superintendent:

Mr. Veras reported that all is going good at the Home. There has been a change to the application and admission process which will include a pre-admission screening and interview with family and, if possible, the potential guest. This is due to behavioral issues and what can be expected when issues arise. They have had families agree to the Home's policies but when an event happens it becomes "no way/ not my dad". This will help us be crystal clear on what the procedures will be.

We also have two schools contracted with us so students becoming CNAs and RNs can do clinical work on site and this will boost and support our staff. It is also an opportunity for us to recruit staff members.

The BBQ season has been extended into October and the Guests are very happy.

Mr. Keyser commented on the Superintendent's report that the idea of the pre-screening of guests was brought to the Applications Committee who fully supports the ideal.

Legal Counsel:

Mr. Bell reported on a meeting that was held with the RVRSA (Rockaway Valley Regional Sewerage Authority) on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at the Home. The RVRSA's attorney Joe Maraziti came into the meeting and apologized for the mistake that occurred that led them to be on our property. Mr. Maraziti provided a long history of the RVRSA and Jersey City reservoir from going from septic tanks to the current authority. The RVRSA serves ten municipalities as far away as the Picatinny Arsenal. The system has 12 million gallons going through it a day. A considerable amount of Federal Funds have been received to bring the system up to standards. They currently occupy 1.6 acres of our land and have no plans to expand. A discussion was held about financial compensation for being on our property and the RVRSA is going to get an appraisal done which we will then review and possibly get our own appraisal done. Any license or permit would be based on fair market value.

Mr. Bell advised that the meeting was a testament to a good relationship, especially when an attorney comes in and apologizes, it's a good start.

Mr. Dutch commented on how he wished Mr. Mazareti came 15 years ago.

Chairman Greci thanked the committee for their work with the meeting.

Mr. Signorello thanked Mr. Wilson for "steering the ship" with regards to setting up the meeting with the RVRSA. He added that he learned a lot about tomato plants but that is a story for after the meeting. Mr. Signorello added that the committee is looking at all options of permit, license and selling a piece of the land.

Mr. Bell closed by commenting that he is finishing his first year with us and he thanked the Board for their support.

Buildings and Grounds:

Mr. Signorello provided a written report from Maintenance Director Tom Hodierene (see attached) which provided a list of updates on current projects. He added that he has spoken to Tom Hodierene about doing a better job in getting the report out early so it can go to the committee.

Mr. Keyser asked about the roof project that was in the report and if preliminary plans were available. Mr. Signorello advised he did not have them yet.

Mr. Keyser also asked about the status of the Vreeland Avenue house. Superintendent responded that the demolition permits have been signed off. They are asking if the fire department wants to use it for a drill, after which it will be torn down.

Applications:

Mr. Freeman provided a written report from the application committee meeting held on September 12, 2023 which is attached. The report indicated 67 guest in Long Term Care and 9 in Residential Care for a total of 76 guests. Since the last meeting there have been 3 new admissions, and 2 guests answered their final alarms. The committee is reviewing 6 applications: four have a pre-admission interview scheduled. The next meeting for the Applications Committee is 0900 hours on Tuesday October 10, 2023 at the Home.

Employee Committee:

Mr. Dutch reported that unless something happened since yesterday, we are in good shape.

Finance and Budget Committee:

Mr. Hull provided a written report on the September 12, 2023 meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee which is attached. Bills for the month were reported in the amount of \$451,197.22. All revenue and expense vouchers were reviewed and found to be in order.

The committee also discussed that our budget information, particularly our monthly revenue and expense report was posted on websites. This report is an internal working document that contains un-audited information. It will no longer be put with the minutes but will be available upon request. The next meeting of the finance committee will be held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 8:00 AM at the Home.

Insurance:

Mr. Strube reported that all of our policies have been renewed successfully.
Mr. Greci thanked Mr. Strube for his committee work.

Legislative Committee:

Mr. Lugossy, from Central Jersey, reported the the acting Governor signed A5275/ S3671 into law which allows for fire department Chaplains to hold rank and receive salary. Salary would be up to each municipality.

Mr. Lugossy also reported on the following bills:

Bill A427 which provides for periodic cancer screening for professional firefighters who are not covered by State Health Benefits Program.

SJR23 Establishes October as First Responder Month.

S 3090 allows members of PFRS pension to retire after 20 years of service regardless of age.

By-laws:

Mr. Jeffer reported that the By-laws committee was struggling with the 100 year old by-laws. There are a lot of changes to make and he wishes to have the original by-laws and the recommended changes both typed out so they could be compared side by side to show proposed changes and why. Mr. Jeffer added that he can't type and requested that we budget for a typist to do the work. He suggested \$750.00

Mr. Sutphen motioned to table the typist proposal until October and the motion passed.

Museum:

Mr. Hull advised he had no report.

Public Relations:

Mr. Wilson reported that the table is set up in the convention center and thanked Managers Giglio, DeLaurentis, Keyser, Washer and Superintendent Veras for their helping setting everything up. The items we plan to give away are at the table and hopefully we can give everything away as quick as we did last year, and have Saturday off. Mr. Wilson invited the newly elected managers to assist if they wanted to.

Mr. Wilson advised that he was also happy that the gift items for the 125th Anniversary of the Home arrived and were distributed today.

Mr. Wilson reminded everyone to see Mr. Sutphen at the table to sign in each day.

Ethics and Code of Conduct:

Mr. Sutphen advised no report.

Pension:

Chairman Greci advised no report.

Inventory:

Mr. Wilson reported that the inventory was a work in progress and continues to be a work in progress. He thanked Superintendent Veras for doing a great job of adding new items to the inventory as they come in.

Golf Committee:

Chairman Greci advised he had no report.

Liaison to the State Association:

Mr. Lugossy advised that he did not have an official report however at the Mercer County Caucus he did sit and eat with President Ordway and they discussed a number of items. Mr. Ordway advised that this "was not a liaison meeting". Mr. Lugossy added that "he survived the dinner and I survived the conversation".

Inspections:

Mr. Giglio reported that we are all in Wildwood, so he inspected Uries and everything is in order.

State Firemen's Association:

President Ordway advised he had no report.

AD Hock Committee:

Mr. Wilson reported that the committee is moving forward with ideas and plans along with their counterparts from the State Association. They have a meeting scheduled for October 24, 2023 as long as the new chairman keeps the committee established.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Keyser advised that a year ago the by-laws committee was asked to work on three topics: getting rid of the executive board; the 1 year eligibility requirement; and defining the start date of a manager's term. He inquired with Mr. Jeffer if the committee was working on these or were they trying to re-do the entire book.

Mr. Jeffer responded they wish to re-do the entire book. Mr. Jeffer elaborated that doing away with the executive committee we need to address the prompt payment of our bills and have a process. They are working on getting it written up.

Mr. Keyser then reported on the Solar Farm proposal advising that the 1st presentation was for a large farm. It was scaled down in a second proposal and sent to the managers for suggestions. No one provided any input to Mr. Keyser. Mr. Keyser advised that after October's meeting he wishes to bring representatives from the solar company in to make a presentation to the entire Board.

New Business:

No new business.

Payment of Bills:

Mr. Hull reported the total bills in the amount of \$451,197.22. Upon motion, a roll call vote was taken and the bills payment was approved.

Motions and Resolutions:

None.

Public Participation:

Former Manager Foran commented that he's glad to see nothing has changed in the last 2 years.

Executive Session:

None had.

Good and Welfare:

Proclamations for retiring Managers Silvestri, Greci and Matthews were read into the record and present to Matthews and Greci. (Mr. Silvestri was excused)

Mr. Greci addressed the Board discussing his service and thanked everyone he worked with over the years.

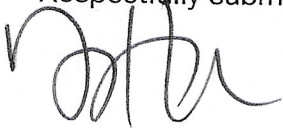
Mr. Matthews addressed the Board advising it was a privilege to serve Cape May County for the past 12 years. Mr. Matthews then addressed that we are an autonomous organization adding how over the years only the State President would attend our meetings. Now a number of State Association members attend as well and he feels the State is trying to overtake the Board of Managers. He addressed Mr. Otterbein in regards to his requests to see our budget stating he would see it when it is passed, not before. Mr. Matthews then read a number of emails and texts that he received before and after the elections at his caucus. He advised that if anyone had anything to say they should say it to his face, not hide behind a message from a fake phone number. Mr. Matthews then accused State Association Vice President Hankins of saying disparaging things about him at the Burlington County Caucus. Mr. Hankins responded to Mr. Matthews that he did not speak about him at all.

Mr. Matthews then advised the Board that they needed to do some soul searching when dealing with the State.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 1553 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger Hull
Secretary