

The April 4, 2020 meeting of the Executive Board of the New Jersey Firemen's Home was called to order at 9:02 A.M. by Chairman Dutch

Secretary McDougall read the Public Notice that had been sent to the Star Ledger changing the meeting to the Executive Board via telephone conference due to the emergency with the Coronavirus.

A roll call was taken with all members present. Guests Mr. Foran, Mr. Sanders and Mr. Veras. Mr. Flood and Mr. Ward also present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read upon a motion by Mr. Horvath and second by Mr. Frato.

Treasurer Sutphen advised that the quarterly expense checks had been mailed and reminded all managers to return the vouches.

Superintendent Flood Assured the managers that the staff remains physically, mentally and spiritually ready to meet the challenges of providing the care to our guests at the home. Support has been great from fire departments throughout the state with donations of PPE. The front line staff including Donna Russo, Tom Hodierne and Prince Miller continue serve over and above the call to duty. The current problems with PPE continues to be a problem with each day bring a new innovation of creating PPE from old supplies. Testing continues to be a problem for staff and guests. Problems also exist with the hospitals when men who tested positive and sent to the hospital are being returned to the home too soon. Families of the guests send notes to the staff thanking them for care they give to the guests during these trying times.

John Veras reported that the construction project continues forward showing progress. Some problems with staff sick or not wanting to be at the home due to the virus. He had a telephone conference with the Contractor and Architect this past week. The next meeting will be on April 14th at 11 A.M.

Mr. Freeman reported that the Applications Committee did not meet. Everyone should be receiving emails from Mr. Flood with the census.

Mr. Freeman reported the Employee Committee did not meet. He asked Mr. Ward if there would be a problem with the eviction. Mr. Ward responded that there could be if the emergency goes into June.

Mr. Silvestri reported that the Finance Committee did not meet but he stays in contact with Mr. Flood

Mr. Dutch reported for the legislative committee on an Email he sent out giving guidance concerning Line of Duty Deaths from the Coronavirus.

Mr. Silvestri reported that there were over 100 golfers signed up so far. Discussion continues on the possibility of cancelling or postponing the event. Mr. Flood reported that the course has been closed, difficulty in getting sponsors, gifts and awards he suggests that we cancel the event for this year. Mr. Horvath moved that we cancel the event for this year. The motion was second by Mr. Silvestri with all in favor. Mr. Freeman stated that the sponsorships' he had sent from various organizations in Burlington County are to be considered as donations for the men at the home.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Dutch commented on an Email and letter he received yesterday from the NJSFA President Ordway. The letter asks questions about the homes budget particularly about salaries. Jim Reeves, Executive Committeeman from Cumberland County and others continues to question the homes budgets, they don't understand that they don't have anything to say about our budget only the State of New Jersey has oversight. The questions they ask are easily answered in the budget document that they have been provided. Only the State of New Jersey has oversight with our budget. In fact, the state treasurer did ask why the large increase in the salary line item. He was advised where in the budget the explanation was available and was satisfied with the documentation provided in the budget. He asked that the secretary send all managers the items from the NJSFA Abridged Minutes that reports on the home. Mr. Freeman stated that he recalled Mr. Ordway asking at our meeting the very same questions that are repeatedly asked. At that time, he was advised that it was mostly due to staffing increases for the new Memory Care Unit. Mr. Frato stated that he was talking to Jim Matthews about the Email and they both agreed that this continued issue of the money that goes to the home "is their money" needs to end. Mr. Dutch also noted that three letters we sent to the NJSFA about the State of New Jersey's Comptrollers Report remain unanswered.

Jim Foran inquired on the status of the issues with the Rockaway Valley Sewerage Authority. Mr. Ward reported a letter that was sent three weeks ago has not been responded to.

Mr. Ward reported that bids on the furniture and furnishings for the Memory Care Unit will be received on April 9th at the offices of the architect.

Mr. Freeman questioned an Email from Donna Russo concerning miss information that was put out by a fire organization. Mr. Flood advised that an Email was sent to correct the information.

Mr. Flood thanked the managers for their support to his family on the passing of his brother as well as the continued support for the staff during these difficult times.

Questions were asked about committee meetings for next month. Secretary Mc Dougall stated he will keep in touch with the chairmen of the committees and will send out notices when decisions are made.

Mr. Silvestri moved payment of bills in the amount of \$742,060.32. The motion was second by Mr. Horvath with a roll call showing all voting in favor.

New Business:

Mr. Silvestri thanked Mary Ann for her participation and all others that put the plan together for this meeting.

Mr. Foran questioned the issues with the Architect/Contractor with the construction. Mr. Veras responded that the big issue is with the "bridge" that joins the old building with the new. The item was in the plans but it needed revisions and the discussions as to the responsibility continues with this item as well as with others.

Mr. Foran questioned status with the virus and the staff. Mr. Flood responded that staff affected are self-quarantining with one recovered and returned to work. Donna is working with a lab to test employees daily as well as guests attempting to get results quicker than with the states protocol.

Good and Welfare:

Mr. Horvath reported that the Woodbridge Joint Fire Commissioners had donated \$5,000.00 to the home. He has been working through Monica our Activities Director and so far \$3,200.00 had been spent with orders through Amazon.

Mr. Foran questioned plans for next month's meeting. Mr. Dutch responded that we will wait until the end of the month to decide, wanting to see where we are in the state with the virus.

Mary Ann thanks everyone today for their help and wishes everyone good health.

Glen Wilson advised the managers of the birth of his first grandchild on March 24th.

Mr. Sanders reporting that he is feeling fine.

Mr. Frato moved for the adjournment of the meeting at 9:49 A.M.


Paul C. McDougall Secretary