

New Jersey Firemen's Home Full Board Meeting



August 8, 2026

Date: Saturday, August 8, 2026
Location: New Jersey Firemen's Home
Called to Order: 9:00 AM

Roll Call:

Managers present 17, (Managers Dutch, Berckes and Keyser excused); Superintendent John Veras; Legal Counsel Mr. Bell.

Approval of Prior Minutes:

- July 11, 2026 Minutes — approved

Communications:

- A letter from the Carbone family accompanied by a donation made in memory of Lester Carbone, expressing appreciation for the care and compassion provided by the staff of the New Jersey Firemen's Home.
- A letter from Cindy Badger, Atlantic County, regarding the May 21, 2025, report of the Long-Term Planning Committee. The matter had previously been discussed by the Board. The annual Muster will be held on September 26, 2026.

Chair's Report:

- Encouraged managers to participate in the September 26 Muster.
- A meeting with the FMBA has been scheduled for September 5, 2026.
- To avoid late charges on bills, the Audit and Finance Committee was asked to review and approve routine bills on Tuesday, September 8, prior to the Wildwood meeting.
 - Motion by Manager Washer and Second by Manager Miller To authorize the Audit and Finance Committee to approve routine bills on September 8, 2026, while retaining extraordinary expenditures for consideration at the Wildwood meeting. Roll call vote unanimously approved.
- The Chairman clarified the procedure for correspondence from committees. Committee's correspondence intended for the Board of Managers should be forwarded to the Executive Team. The correspondence will then be distributed to the managers through the secretary.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary:

- The Secretary reported that managers would be contacted regarding the Wildwood dinner and anticipated guests.

Treasurer:

- The Treasurer reported that, as the new fiscal year had just begun, there was nothing significant to report.

Superintendent:

- Thank you to all the attended the Memorial Service last month.
- The guests have a choir and there will be another concert come December, all encouraged to attend.
- Recognition of Towaco Firemen who has become a constant on the Saturday activities calendar at the home and known for "Uno with Joe" as he volunteers his time and there are about 15 guys who participate each week.

- The CNA school is gaining traction.
- scheduled for 11:00 AM recognizing approximately 30 deceased members and three former managers.
- Nursing staff has now started a monthly newsletter.
- The cemetery beautification continues.
- Superintendent reported on the monthly "Coffee with the Superintendent" meetings, which provide residents with an opportunity to discuss suggestions and concerns.
- There will be a 9/11 memorial in much greater detail this year including the recognition of each time of the attacks 25 years ago.

Legal Counsel (Mr. Bell):

- No filings have been received regarding the discussion from the previous months executive session.
- Federal law changes affecting individuals of Haitian descent whose visas are expiring or approaching expiration and advised that coordination had occurred with the appropriate personnel.

Committee Reports:

Buildings & Grounds (Signorello):

- The boilers are reaching the end of their useful life sooner than anticipated. The Home will begin researching replacement options with the goal of addressing the issue before the next heating season.
- The previously discussed lift project may be deferred to the 2027–2028 budget cycle.
- The Home met with VC3 regarding Microsoft licensing and monitoring. Certain email-only accounts will be moved from full management to nonprofit licensing, which is expected to result in approximately \$2,000 per month in savings.

Applications (Freeman):

- Census (as of 07/31/26): Total 69 residents (breakdown read into record).
 - Managers will now be receiving monthly application updates monthly on their applications.

Employees (Miller):

- Completion of updates to the Superintendent's employment contract being finalized and contract will be forwarded to Legal Counsel for review. A draft will then be distributed to the Board of Managers for approval before being presented to the Superintendent.
- It was also reported that employee performance reviews had been completed and reviewed by the appropriate managers and superintendent.

Finance & Budget (Miller):

- Reviewed 7/1 – 8/3/2026 operating expenses; \$702,904.47 approved by committee.

Insurance (Strube):

- No updates.

Legislative (Miller):

- There are currently 47 bills on the Governor's desk, none of which directly concern fire service, the Firemen's Home, or pensions.

Bi-Laws (Joas):

- The committee continues to work with Legal Counsel and expects to distribute the next group of proposed by-law revisions to the Board for review.

Museum (Hull):

- The Museum Committee received several fire department patches, which will be added to the museum display boards.

Public Relations (Miller):

- Preparations for the Wildwood convention are complete. The committee has secured a table and prepared giveaway bags for distribution at the convention. Managers were advised that additional boxes of giveaway materials are available for county use. The Chairman will transport the materials to Wildwood on Thursday morning. Volunteers were requested to assist with unloading and bringing the materials into the convention hall.
 - The committee will focus distribution on delegates and association members for the convention as 3,300 bags will be given out at convention

Ethics & Code of Conduct (Dunn):

- No report.

Pension (Apgar):

- The Chairman reported meeting with Treasurer regarding the pension program and audit. The program remains in good standing, with the audit requirements satisfied and the pension program continuing to earn investment income.

Inventory (Wilson):

- Superintendent reported on the chairs which is the only inventory update at this time.

Golf (Signorello):

- Planning is already underway for the 2027 Golf Outing.

Liaison to State Association (Hul):

- The Joint Study Committee has decided on a firm to examine the efficiency and use of existing fundings; the cost will be approximately \$30-35k with the parties agreeing to budget up to \$40k, divided equally between the two organizations. A retainer of \$15k split between the two organizations is needed to begin.
 - NJSFA already approved the cost including the upfront cost.
 - A motion to approve the funding by NJFH was made by Manager Hull and approved in a roll call vote unanimously.
 - Chairmen Apgar requested a formal report be presented and after that it will be presented to legal counsel and to the full board.
 - The final approval of the proposal will need to be signed by the president of the NJSFA and the Chairmen of the NJFH.

Inspection (Apgar):

- To be completed after meeting once manager Keyser is back from vacation.

Long-Term Planning (Sutphen):

- The committee reported that a written report concerning the Long-Term Planning Committee had been distributed to all managers during the month at the request of the Chairman.

State Firemen's Association (Ordway):

- The State Firemen's Association reported that six caucuses have been completed without issues. Fifteen caucuses remain, scheduled over approximately 11 evenings.

Unfinished Business:

- None.

New Business:

- None.

Payment of Bills:

- \$702,904.47— Motion to approve; roll call approved.

Motions & Resolutions:

- None.

Public Participation:

- Mr. Otterbein expressed his appreciation for the Board's cooperation and stated that the goal is to move the project forward promptly.
- Mr. Handlin expressed support for the efficiency study and emphasized the importance of allowing the joint committee to complete its work without outside interference.
- Manager Wilson recognized President Ordway for his service, participation, and assistance to the New Jersey Firemen's Home during his tenure as State Association President.

Good & Welfare:

- Manager Dutch was reported to be recovering from a recent medical procedure. The board was advised that he was doing well and was expected to continue recovering.
- Manager Hull brought to the manager's attention an incident from the prior meeting involving conduct by a guest toward a manager during the presentation of a committee report.
 - The Board agreed that appropriate conduct must be maintained during meetings.
 - Manager De Young suggested that a security camera be installed in the Board meeting room for documentation and safety purposes, particularly because Board meetings may involve financial matters and outside guests.

Executive Session:

- None.

Adjournment:

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy DeVirgilio
Secretary