

The December 10, 2022 Executive Committee 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 provided the invocation.

Roll call was taken with all members of the Executive Board being present. Also in attendance were Mr. Freeman, Mr. Heflick, Mr. Miller, Mr. Keyser, Superintendent Veras and Mr. Bell.

Public notice of the meeting was printed in the Star Ledger Newspaper and posted on the Firemen Home's website.

The minutes from the November 12, 2022 Full Board Meeting were approved.

Communications:

Secretary Hull read a card from Manager Silvestri thanking the Board of Manager for the gift basket that was sent to him.

Reports of Officers:

Secretary:

Mr. Hull had no report.

Treasurer:

Mr. Sutphen reported that the 2024-2025 budget is in Trenton, they had a few questions that Mr. Veras answered. Mr. Sutphen asked that ONLY Managers sign the book and when you sign, please do so legibly. When signing in list what committee you are there on and sign beneath in.

Superintendent:

Mr. Veras reported that the COVID outbreak continues with approximately 30 guests who have been through the process of testing positive, quarantining, and then being cleared. We now have a number of staff out with COVID and parties have been canceled. There has been no guidance from the Department of Health since 2020 and they are trying to figure out how to not keep guests "locked up" for the holidays.

Mr. Veras advised that the facility is ready for ice and snow. He commended the maintenance and recreation departments for the holiday decorations. Mr. Wilson commended them as well for the decorations and the tree on top of the entrance way. Mr. Veras polled the managers as to who would like the pocket calendars for 2023. Only 2 Managers raised their hands. It was decided that a minimum amount would be ordered. Mr. Veras wished everyone a Happy Holidays and New Year.

Chairman Wilson statement:

Before Mr. Bell's Legal Counsel Report, Chairman Wilson asked to make a few remarks as new Chairman to the Executive Committee. Mr. Wilson stated that he does not support the Executive Committee and feels it is not right that 9 managers speak for the entire 21 managers. Mr. Wilson charged ALL Managers with bringing it to his attention if something is brought before the Executive Committee that should be before the full board. Matters should be decided by the full board.

Mr. Jeffer then spoke on the matter citing a provision in our ByLaws which state the Executive Committee can act for the full board. Mr. Jeffer stated this is one of the items he would like to see changed and that he agreed with Mr. Wilson 100%.

Mr. Greci added that in October as Chairman of the Full Board, he instructed the ByLaws committee to make changes specifically on two items. Those being the dates Manager's terms expire or take effect and the abolishment of the Executive Committee. The goal is to make changes and get them to legal counsel to review. The committee will meet to discuss eventually doing away with the Executive Committee. "Things need to be cleaned up."

Mr. Jeffer added that we should integrate remote committee attendance as everyone has been using it for court etc.

Mr. Keyser recommended the idea of alternating meeting locations with some at the Home and some at the State Office.

Mr. Signorello commented that the changes should be made and take effect in October of 2023.

The discussion ended with Managers being advised to call Mr. Jeffer with ideas for changes to ByLaws.

Legal Counsel:

Mr. Bell reported that with the cooperation of Mr. Veras and Sharon, a they are working on update of the policy manual for employees. Examples of changes/ new policies are a social media policy, vaccination policy. Mr. Bell advised that they will hopefully have a draft for review by the Board in January stating it has been years since the policies have been updated.

Mr. Sutphen asked Mr. Bell if the ethics disclosure forms were still required for the managers, and Mr. Bell advised that we should continue the practice of completing them.

Buildings and Grounds:

Mr. Signorello provided a written report which is attached. The list contained updates on multiple projects. Mr. Signorello added that the Fire Sprinkler repairs are still waiting on parts; the demolition of the old house needs to go out to bid because the estimates came in too high; the committee toured the I.T. area this morning; and the maintenance crews were using the lift to put up decorations and clean gutters.

Mr. Greci asked Mr. Bell to explain why we needed to go out for bid on the Vreeland house project. Mr. Bell replied that the estimates exceeded limits and that the home does not have a "Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA)", that it is best to go out to normal bid.

Applications:

Mr. Freeman provided a written report from the application committee meeting held on December 6, 2022 which is attached. The report indicated 63 guest in Long Term Care and 6 in Residential Care for a total of 69 guests. Since the last meeting there have been 2 new admissions and **1guest** answered their final alarm. The next meeting for the Applications Committee is 0900 hours on January 10, 2023 at the Home.

Mr. Wilson asked the applications committee about the qualifications to enter the Home being one year and if that is a policy, statue, or by-law adding that it needed to be changed. Discussion ensued about ideas for eligibility such as a state line number, or a firefighter ID number. It was recommended to give your ideas to the ByLaw committee. Mr. Heflick asked when did it change to 1 year, as he recalled this was not always the case. More discussion

followed about if we ever had someone with no one number and just one year of service come into the home. Mr. Washer advised that his last guest had 1 year and 8 days.

Employee Committee:

No report.

Finance and Budget Committee:

Mr. Hull provided a written report on the November 8, 2022 meeting of the Adult and Finance Committee which is attached. Mr Hull reported bills for the month in the amount of \$386,185.00. All revenue and expense vouchers were reviewed and found to be in order. The committee discussed that 2023-2024 budget had been sent to the Governor. The Governor's office had a few questions that few answered by Mr. Veras via email. The questions involved the Community Nursing Program, the use of reserve funds and the suspension of monthly guest fees. The next meeting for the finance committee will be at 0800 hours on Tuesday January 10, 2023 at the Home.

Insurance:

No report.

Legislative Committee:

No report.

By-laws:

Mr. Jeffer stated that we covered most of it earlier and that we have a lot of work to do.

Museum:

Mr. Hull advised no report.

Public Relations:

Mr. Wilson advised no report.

Ethics and Code of Conduct:

Mr. Sutphen advised no report at this time.

Pension:

Mr. Greci reported that we meet once a year and everything is "status quo".

Inventory:

Mr. Wilson reported no changes, no report.

Golf Committee:

Mr. Greci reported his disappointment in last years event. Mr. Greci asked that we make a big push to get more golfers and sponsors.

Liaison to the State Association:

Mr. Hull provided a written report which is attached. The report details the State Association Executive Committee Meeting which Managers Hull and Keyser attended on November 19, 2022. Topics discussed were:

- States plan to make a scale for benefits eligibility based on qualifying years
- Members disabled in line of duty would be fully qualified if not so already.
- Records of local associations must stay in the State of NJ
- Volunteer duty nights discuss- no action

- Part time/ per diem firefighters deemed career or not discussed- no action
- Old color reports (pink, blue, yellow) are no more. All forms on line as PDF files
- Convention date set September 15 and 16th
- Discussion on adding Sex Offenses and Poor Moral Turpitude as reasons for removal from State Association- Tabled at this time
- Members who are not qualified and have 0% for five consecutive years will be dropped automatically.

Mr. Hull added that the report had been previously emailed to all managers and Mr Ordway can answer any questions that arose.

Mr. Heflich asked if removal for sex offense included Executive Committeemen. Mr. Ordway responded "all members".

Inspections:

Mr. Miller advised no report.

State Firemen's Association:

President Ordway advised that Mr. Hull covered everything in his Liaison report.

Mr. Freeman thanked Mr. Hull for his detailed report.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

Mr. Keyser asked about some additional policy/ training as he addressed "our world is changing". He suggested looking at the use of medical marijuana and training on LGBTQ+.

Mr. Bell advised they are working on the medical marijuana policy.

Mr. Veras responded that everyone is trained in inclusion and diversity.

Payment of Bills:

Mr. Hull reported the total bills in the amount of \$386,185.00. Upon motions, a roll call vote was taken and the bills payment was approved.

Public Participation:

There was no members of the public present.

Executive Session:

None had.

Good and Welfare:

Mr. Grenci advised that Tom Pelia had an operation and that a gift basket was sent to him by the Board of Managers.

Mr. Veras advised that there were gifts for each manager in his office with their names on it.

Mr. Grenci wished everyone a Happy Holiday and New Year. All managers concurred and wished each other Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 945 AM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Hull', is written over the typed name.

Roger Hull
Secretary

APPROVED JANUARY 14, 2023