

The February 11, 2023 Executive Committee meeting of the New Jersey Firemen's Home Board of Managers was called to order by Vice- Chairman Jeffer at 0900 hours followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr Dutch provided the invocation. Secretary Hull was excused and Mr. Washer filled in as acting-secretary for the meeting.

Mr. Bell advised that public notice is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll call was taken with all members of the Executive Board present except Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hull who were both excused.. Also in attendance were Mr. Dutch, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Heflick, Mr. Miller, Mr. Keyser, Mr. Silvestri, President Ordway, Superintendent Veras and Mr. Bell.

The minutes from the January 14, 2023 Full Board Meeting were approved.

**Communications:**

None

**Reports of Officers:**

**Secretary:**

Mr. Hull was excused and had no report.

**Treasurer:**

Mr. Sutphen reported that Managers need to provide him with updated toll expenses. Mr. Ordway had questions about the allocated reserves not being shown on the budget paperwork.

**Superintendent:**

Mr. Veras reported that there is no COVID except for Secretary Hull and the flu has been quiet. There have been many activities for guests. Mr. Veras added that buildings and grounds will have report on projects.

**Legal Counsel:**

Mr. Bell reported that he had draft of asbestos removal documents for Vreeland Avenue house. They are still working on the update policy manual. A question of permitting guns on premise was discussed with recent carry laws. Mr. Bell discussed working on a contract with Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. Mr. Signorello discussed having lock boxes for firearms. Mr. Heflich disused having a policy on the use of marijuana. Mr. Veras elaborated on the recreation vs. prescription marijuana use. Mr. Bell then discussed a recent tax court case involving the NJ State Firemen's Association versus the Division of Taxation. The case dealt with the preservation of the 2 percent fee for the State Association. The case appears to be going to a higher court due to constitutional challenges.

**Buildings and Grounds:**

Mr. Signorello provided a written report from Maintenance Director Hodierne which is attached. The list contained updates on multiple projects including: Ongoing I.T. work installing new wiring for computers; Upgrading WiFi throughout building; New PT room has passed inspections above ceiling and final inspections for February 14, 2023. PT room equipment is in and starting to be put together; Repairs made to brick face by loading dock; and working with architect for Dorm D & E roofing projects. Mr. Signorello also reported that replacement of one of the three back flow preventers is complete.

**Applications:**

Mr. Freeman provided a written report from the application committee meeting held on February 7, 2023 which is attached. The report indicated 61 guest in Long Term Care and 8 in Residential Care for a total of 69 guests. Since the last meeting there have been 4 new admissions and 2 guests answered their final alarm. The next meeting for the Applications Committee is 0900 hours on March 7, 2023 at the Home. Mr. Freeman reported that there are 5 applications in the works that should bring us over 70 guests.

Mr. Ordway commented at this time that only members of the Executive Committee should be making motions and seconds.

**Employee Committee:**

Mr. Dutch reported progress.

**Finance and Budget Committee:**

Mr. Freeman provided a written report on the February 7, 2023 meeting of the Adult and Finance Committee which is attached. Bills for the month were reported in the amount of \$367,635.26. All revenue and expense vouchers were reviewed and found to be in order. The committee discussed the status of the current budget and everything is on track. The next meeting for the finance committee will be at 0800 hours on Tuesday March 7, 2023 at the Home.

**Insurance:**

Mr. Strube not in attendance, no report.

**Legislative Committee:**

Mr. Lugossy was excused but provided a brief report to Secretary Hull that was read by Mr. Washer. Mr. Lugossy advised that there are several bills that are being tracked. One bill that moved on from Assembly after passing second reading and moving along bill #A377. This bill exempts experienced from certain requirements.

The Governor's budget will be presented February 28th to the Legislature and that will take some time in both houses with hearings and so.

Mr. Hull added to the report that the funding portion of Senator Gopal's cancer screening bill for volunteer firefighters (S3405) will be changed. As currently written it makes changes to the 2% funding and could effect Home. A copy of the revised bill has not been received from Legislative Services.

Mr. Signorello had a question about the 2 percent in Gopal's bill which Mr. Ordway addressed.

**By-laws:**

Mr. Jeffer reported progress and that the committee has a meeting in a few weeks. There was a lot of input so far that was illuminating.

**Museum:**

Mr. Hull provided a written report which was read and attached. The museum committee received a hose cart from the North Valle Fire Department. Mr. Hull thanked Mr. Heflich for making arrangements for accepting the delivery of the cart which is upstairs in the museum. The termite damage to the windows still needs to be repaired and the downstairs is in need of

general cleanup of leaves that came in the overhead door. Mr. Veras addressed the leaves and the window.

**Public Relations:**

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hull excused; no report.

**Ethics and Code of Conduct:**

Mr. Sutphen advised no report at this time. The ethics forms were printed and will be in your mailbox. There will also be a form explaining duties of manager and what you get paid for.

**Pension:**

Mr. Grenci had no report.

**Inventory:**

Mr. Wilson was excused and had no report.

**Golf Committee:**

Mr. Grenci reported that foursomes are coming in for the event. We need managers to step up and get sponsors.

**Liaison to the State Association:**

No report.

**Inspections:**

Mr. Keyser reported that the inspection was done yesterday and there was nothing major to report. Few minor items which will be taken care of.

**State Firemen's Association:**

President Ordway advised that reports are being done online and are easier to do than multiple paper copies.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Keyser asked about our insurance policies being up for renewal and the status. Mr. Veras responded that Mr. Strube is working on bids.

**New Business:**

**AD Hock Committee reported under new business:**

Mr. Apgar reported that the meeting with the State Association on January 24th and it was very productive and reported progress. The committee meets again March 14th at 10 Am at the Home.

**Payment of Bills:**

Mr. Freeman reported the total bills in the amount of \$367,635.26. Upon motion, a roll call vote was taken and the bills payment was approved.

**Resolutions:**

None.

**Executive Session:**

None had.

**Public Participation:**

None.

**Good and Welfare:**

Mr. Ordway congratulated Mr. Silvestri on 70 years of service with the Hawthorne Fire Department and him being recognized on television.


Mr. Freeman asked about making reports two side to save paper.

Mr. Jeffer thanked everyone for making his first meeting as chair easy.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 940 AM

Respectfully submitted,

  
Thomas Washer  
Acting-Secretary

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED MARCH 11, 2023**