

New Jersey Firemen's Home Full Board Meeting



July 11, 2026

Date: Saturday, July 11, 2026
Location: New Jersey Firemen's Home
Called to Order: 9:00 AM

Roll Call:

Managers present 20, (Manager Sutphen excused); Superintendent John Veras; Legal Counsel Mr. Bell.

Approval of Prior Minutes:

- June 13, 2026 Minutes — approved

Communications:

- The annual Muster will be held on September 26, 2026.
- The annual Memorial Service was scheduled immediately following the Board meeting. A letter of appreciation was received from Janet Kranis and family expressing sincere gratitude to the New Jersey Firemen's Home staff for the compassionate care provided to her father, Lester Carbone. The Board acknowledged the letter and recognized the dedication of the nursing, dietary, maintenance, recreation, activities, housekeeping, and support staff.

Chair's Report:

- Encouraged managers to attend the September 26 Muster.
- Reminded everyone of the Memorial Service following the meeting.
- Reported receiving a request from FMBA President Donnelly to meet with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Superintendent, and Long-Term Planning Committee Chairman to discuss ways the FMBA may assist the Home.
 - The Board approved moving forward with the meeting, with a report to be presented at a future Board meeting.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary:

- Advised that final information from today's meeting was needed to complete the Caucus Report for submission to the New Jersey State Firemen's Association.

Treasurer:

- No report.

Superintendent:

- Memorial Service scheduled for 11:00 AM recognizing approximately 30 deceased members and three former managers.
- Significant progress continues with CNA School.
 - Promotional flyers and recruitment letters have been distributed throughout New Jersey to career placement centers and municipalities. successfully passed the Department of Health inspection and will begin the student recruitment process.
- Residents enjoyed a successful 250th Anniversary celebration. Commemorative New Jersey Firemen's Home hats were distributed.
- All insurance policies have been successfully renewed.
- The annual golf outing was a success and reported net proceeds of \$9,753.

Legal Counsel (Mr. Bell):

- Deferred comments regarding matters of litigation until Executive Session.

Committee Reports:**Buildings & Grounds (Keyser):**

- Continued progress reducing Legionella monitoring costs.
- Awaiting Fire Safety approval for replacement of sprinkler heads damaged during winter.
- Cemetery improvements continue, including restoration of headstones and resident volunteer cleanup efforts.
- Appreciation was expressed to the Maintenance Department for preparation and cleanup of the Golf Outing.

Applications (Freeman):

- Census (as of 6/30/26): Total 69 residents (breakdown read into record).
 - Managers will now be receiving monthly application updated to improve follow-up with prospective applicants and reduce delay.

Employees (Miller):

- Work has begun on negotiating the Superintendent's employment contract.
- Committee responsibilities within the Bylaws were reviewed
 - Policy and Procedure revisions are being reviewed.

Finance & Budget (Keyser):

- Reviewed 6/1-6/30/26 operating expenses; \$389,401.95 approved in committee.

Insurance (Strube):

- Overall insurance costs increased only 1.14%.

Legislative (Miller):

- No updates.

Bi-Laws (Joas):

- Additional committee revisions are expected for October consideration.

Museum (Hull):

- No report.

Public Relations (Washer):

- Convention giveaway was finalized and the 3,500 bags were ordered; 3,300 bags will be given out at convention, and 200 bags will be brought to the home for distribution.

Ethics & Code of Conduct (Dunn):

- No report.

Pension (Miller):

- Annual pension verification paperwork will now be required each year for all recipients.
- Minor ACH issues at fiscal year-end have been resolved.

Inventory (Wilson):

- Nothing new to report.

Golf (Signorello):

- Weather and attendance were excellent, a lot of positive feedback received.

Liaison to State Association (Hul):

- The Joint Study Committee met with the one consulting firm June 17, 2026 being considered to perform an organizational efficiency study between the NJSFA and NJFH.
- Much discussion was had but awaiting an updated proposal to present to both sides with the findings.
- Manager Hull brought up as a side note to the meeting with the firm that they proposed that a capital campaign be looked into regarding possible funding for the home for any proposed future plans.

Inspection (Toole):

- To be completed after meeting.

Long-Term Planning (Mitch):

- Newsletter being put together to distribute to the managers for their counties. The newsletter will outline the committee's objectives, current planning efforts and future direction.

State Firemen's Association (Ordway):

- Finalization of caucus and convention meetings being completed.

Unfinished Business:

- None.

New Business:

- Proposal by Manager Joas to adopt the proposed By-Law revisions for the following committees: Audit & Finance, Insurance, By-Law and Ethics. Unanimous board vote to approve.
- Manager DeVirgilio advised that the September meeting location will be held at the same location as previous year as well as the dinner location. Awaiting the finalization of the spouse's trip, once received the invites will go out.
- Manager Keyser brought up the changes in food options to the board. Superintendent Veras went through the reasoning in detail.

Payment of Bills:

- \$389,401.95— Motion to approve; roll call approved.

Motions & Resolutions:

- None.

Public Participation:

- Sam Henderson provided an association name to Manager Hull that may assist his committee.
- Charlie Lind stated that he felt positive progress regarding what was reported by Manager Hull.

Good & Welfare:

- Manager Dutch was warmly welcomed back via zoom.

Executive Session (10:02am – 10:28am):

- The board agreed to continue utilizing the existing litigation team and authorization for counsel to notify opposing counsel that the settlement proposal was rejected and the the Board would proceed accordingly should litigation be initiated.

Adjournment:

- Meeting was adjourned 10:32am.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy DeVirgilio
Secretary