

The July 10, 2021 meeting of the Board of Managers was called to order by Chairman Frato at 9:30 A.M. with the Flag Salute followed by a moment of silence

A roll Call showed all managers present with the exception of Mr. Oser, Mr. Signorello, Mr. Strube. Mr. Veras and Solicitor Ward were also present.

Minutes of the June 12, 2021 Meeting were approved as distributed upon a motion by Mr. Sutphen and second by Mr. Foran. All in favor with the expectation of Mr. Hull who stated he only approves verbatim minutes.

Secretary McDougall reported that our transcriber's computer had crashed and at this time we are trying to recover the June meeting from the hard drive.

Treasurer Sutphen reminded members that no expenses for the convention would be available from the home this year. As of July 1st we were beginning our new budget year.

Committee Reports: Mr. Veras reported for Mr. Signorello. Work continues of the infrastructure for internet connection. ns. A new Mini Van has been ordered under state contract. The 20-year-old Kubota Tractor was replaced under state contract. Front lobby security improvements continue noting managers can access the building via a card or 4-digit security code. Guests will register in the new lobby area.

Applications: Mr. Horvath reported on the July 6, 2021 meeting Nine new applications were approved for admittance. Current occupancy 48. Full report is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Veras provided a PowerPoint as to the new application for admissions. He reported that the Physical Therapist and Occupational Therapist are working out well. Along with Julie Tropicana our Psychiatrist who has been very helpful in providing examinations for new applicants. We now have someone from our Doctors office present at the home 4 days a week. BBQ's are working out well with some of the career departments providing them mid-week. Mr. Greci inquired about cooking hamburgers ahead of time and then reheating. It was reported that cooking during these events is real time, no precooking.

Employees: Mr. Freeman reported on meetings held concerning the Superintendent's contract. He noted that he had requested comments from managers concerning the proposed contract and had received none. He noted and an independent salary study had been performed by Leading Age. The proposed salary is the lowest for this region.

Legislative. Mr. Lugossy reported that the Governor had signed the Age Bill which changes membership to age 58.

By-Laws: Mr. Lugossy had nothing to report at this time.

Museum: Mr. Wilson thanked the Golf Committee for providing funds for Air Conditioning in the Museum. MR. Hull reported that it appears that there is insufficient room for the Creeksill engine in the museum. He will so notify them.

Public Relations: Mr. Wilson had nothing to report at this time.

Inventory: Mr. Wilson reported that Mr. Veras is working on this with a company being explored to provide a complete new report.

Golf: Mr. Greci reported the committee working on next year's event. He stated that a response from the Residents Council was received and they requested new chairs in the smoking room.

Inspections: Mr. Foran reported that everything seems to be OK but did notice some debris have been dumped in the Cemetery. Mr. Veras reports that it is being addressed as seems to be coming from outside.

State Association: Mr. Ordway reports progress.

Unfinished Business: Mr. Wilson stated we should revisit having the September meeting in Wildwood and that there is no need for a dinner or expenses. Discussion by many followed. Mr. McDougall motioned to leave in place the September 25 meeting at the home. Second by Mr. Matthews. A roll call showed 12 yes 4 no 3 abstain

A discussion was had by many as to the previous request for a By-Law change as to the Executive Committee and full board meetings and actions.

There was a discussion on the report of negotiations by the home for rooms in nursing homes in Atlantic and Cumberland Counties. Mr. Dutch responded that there are no negotiations, just exploring the possibility made in response to questions from a member of the state legislature. Mr. Hull inquired on the name of the legislature. Mr. Dutch responded that it was John Amato who also happens to be a fireman.

Mr. Greci thanked everyone for the expressions of sympathy on the passing of his wife.

Discussion was held on the naming of the new unit. Mr. Wilson made several suggestions. The secretary was requested to send an EMAIL to the managers requesting a response via email.

New Business:

Mr. Frato appointed the following to a committee to explore the possibility of providing rooms in nursing home for fire fighters in the southern part of the state. Managers Dutch, DeLaurentis, Deny, Strube, Freeman, Sanders and Matthews.

Mr. Frato appointed Mr. Greci and McDougall to a committee to come up with a suitable memorial plaque to recognize managers, past or present who have passed away.

Mr. Frato reported he had been asked to attend a meeting with legislators from the 24th district.

Mr. Frato explained the need for a marketing company. Discussion followed. A motion by Mr. Dutch, second by Mr. McDougall to authorize Mr. Veras to send out an RFP for same. The Motion was approved by a voice.

Mr. Silvestri moved payment of bills in the amount of \$513, 230.27, A roll call vote with all in favor except for Mr. Hull who abstained

Mr. Frato moved Resolution 5-2021 Appointing John Veras as Superintendent of the New Jersey Firemen's Home and Approving Contract. Second by Mr. Sutphen.

Mr. Wilson moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the same. Mr. Ward responded that Mr. Veras had not been given a Rice Notice so we could not go into closed session. Mr. Wilson moved to table the Resolution second by Mr. Hull. A roll call was taken and the motion to table was defeated by a vote of 11 no 6 yes 2 abstain. Mr. Wilson stated that the amount of the increase was too much. Mr. Freeman responded that when Mr. Veras was given the position last year we requested that he take a lesser salary so that he could be properly evaluated. The committee felt that Mr. Veras has done a good job since taking over as Superintendent and again noted the salary survey. Further discussion by many. A roll call vote was taken and the resolution was approved by a vote of 13 yes 5 no 1 abstain.

Public Session: Rich Otterbein inquired if any political assistance was requested in getting final certification form the state Board of Health for occupancy in the new unit. Mr. Vras responded not at this time. Tom Hoerdine is following up with the state, noting that too much inquiry could delay the matter further.

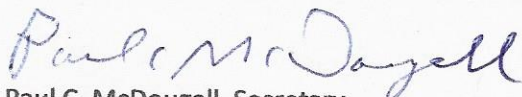
Bob Sanders reported that during his term as manager 3 people had been admitted to the home and there had been 7 inquiries. He stated that older people cannot make the drive from southern counties to visit their loved one.

Mr. McDougall reported one of the families he has been working with reported that they also were exploring private facilities. A social worker from one of the facilities told that family that there is excellent care at the Firemen's Home. So it is good to hear that comment from a private facility.

Mr. Wilson commented that Mr. Frato did a good job of railroading the Veras Resolution through.

Mr. Hull commented on a newspaper article about the requirement for single room occupancies at Long Term Care Facilities. He noted that this was not a law just a response to criticism on policy of the States response to the pandemic at these facilities.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.


Paul C. McDougall, Secretary