

The regular meeting of the Board of Managers of the New Jersey Firemen's Home was held on July 11, 2020.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Frato at 9:30 A.M. with the Flag Salute.

Mr. Dutch gave the invocation.

Secretary McDougall provide the Public Meeting Notice noting that the meeting information had been advertised in the Annual Notice of Meetings, published in the Star Ledger and posted on the home WEB site.

Secretary McDougall called the roll. All managers present with the exception of Managers DeLaurentis, Catena, and Matthews all who asked to be excused. Guests included Donna Russo, Amber Burdick, Rich Otterbein and Edward Robbilar.

Secretary McDougall read communications from Rev. Karen Gazzillo, The family of Donald R. Patterson, Sr. and Atlantic County Firefighters Association. Secretary McDougall stated he had nothing further to report.

Treasurer Sutphen Reported that Managers would be reimbursed \$100.00 plus mileage for attendance at the Caucus and the September meetings, not to go to their local relief for reimbursement.

Asst. Superintendent Veras reported that the home is now COVID free and thanked the staff for their exceptional help. The new administrative employee Janet Theiss is transitioning. She is being trained by Mary Ann Arney and Cindy before they leave.

#### Committee Reports:

Building and Grounds. Mr. Veras reported construction is moving along and that issues continue with the Architect. New drawings for the bridge to the new addition have been sent to DCA for approval. Electric Service underground has been completed and new generator installed. Cable TV will be here next week to install the new TV and Internet Service. Mr. Greci had a few questions on the height of the building and change orders outstanding. Mr. Veras responded.

Mr. Dutch inquired about the new security entrance noting the need for accountability for staff and all who enter the home. Mr. Veras reported that the computer server must be updated by IT. We will then renovate the front entrance so that all will enter through the handicapped entrance by the museum and pass the receptionist desk. This will also make the entrance ADA compliant. Mr. Wilson inquired about the entrance by the kitchen. Mr. Dutch explained all will be expected to enter in one spot with proper scanning whether it be a card, or other visual recognition. This will also be incorporated with the employees work accountability/payroll system.

Applications. Mr. Freeman report three new applications have been approved and one approved pre COVID will be admitted upon COVID testing. Full report made part of the minutes.

Finance. Mr. Silvestri reported that the finance committee had a meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the revenue and expenses for the period 7/1/19 through 6/30/2020. Vouchers and Bills in the amount of \$981,361.18. were examined and approved. He thanked Mr. Flood for all his assistance during his tenure.

Employees. Mr. Freeman reported the committee met on June 13 and interviewed candidates for the administrative position. The committee selected Janet Theiss for the position. Written report is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Wilson stated that he had been advised that the COVID Virus came into the home via CNA's who worked at other nursing facilities. He proposed, that should another pandemic or other serious situation arise no employee should be allowed to work in another facility during such emergency. They would be required to choose the home or other employment not both. A motion was made by Mr. Hull and second by Mr. Greci to approve the suggestion by Mr. Wilson.

Insurance: Mr. Strube reported everything is in order.

Legislative. Mr. Lugossy reported that one bill of interest to the fire service, A3945, has been approved and signed by the Governor. This law extends LOD benefits to Public Safety Officers in PERS and PFRS who contract COVID 19. All levels of government are being required to spend so much time due to the virus that not much else is getting accomplished.

Bylaws. No Report

Museum. Mr. Wilson reported that Hackettstown had delivered their 1880 Hand Pumper to the home last month. It is a nice addition to the museum.

Public Relations: Mr. Wilson reports progress.

Inventory: Mr. Wilson is ready to work with Mr. Veras as new items begin to arrive for the new addition.

Liasson to State Association. Mr. Lugossy reported all should be aware of changes for the caucus meetings and the cancellation of the Convention. Any questions should be addressed to Mr. Ordway.

Search Committee. Mr. Freeman reported for Chairman DeLaurentis. The committee is recommending that John Veras be appointed to the Superintendents position. Written report is attached to the minutes.

Audit. Written report attached.

State Firemen's Association. Mr. Ordway explained the caucus procedures noting expense permitted \$100.00 for delegates and \$50.00 for Life Members

Petitions have been received for 21 Executive Committee positions and 5 Home Managers. Two have filed for Monmouth County manager position.

Legislation Change for the age limit has been agreed to by the Assembly Committee. Awaiting further action.

One Association will not be seated this year,

A small increase in subsidy has been approved.

Delegates and Life Member expense has been increased for next year.

Firefighters required to quarantine due to COVID as a result on Line of Duty can request up to \$100.00 should they be required to stay in a hotel.



Increase effective July 1<sup>st</sup> for home health care to \$5,000. Monthly.

Effective January 1 there will be five reports that will be mandatory to be filed on line.

Mr. Signorello inquired as to how many managers voted to cancel convention. Ordway responded all 21.

Mr. Signorello suggested that they acted too soon in cancelling convention noting the financial impact on Wildwood. He stated that Wildwood had been good to the firemen over the years. Ordway responded that Wildwood does not care about us.

Mr. Horvath asked what the bottom line was as to the age change. Mr. Ordway responded age changes from 46 to 57 meant for exemption as well.

Mr. Sutphen stated that he did not receive any acknowledgement on the filing of his petition. Mr. Ordway responded that Secretary Pelaia was taking care of this, but he did know it had been received.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Hull questioned the Audit Report as Attorney Client Privilege. He still thinks an Independent Audit should be done.

Mr. Foran reported that there was an oversight in the requirement of a grave marker on the grave of Mr. Fleckenstein. He takes the responsibility and will see if any information can be found as he recalls a total five markers were required at the time. He will follow up and see that the marker is installed.

Mr. Lugossy reported that the Mercer County Firemen's Association will be making their annual donation to the home in the amount of \$5,000.00 with the request that it be earmarked for the new memory care unit.

Mr. Silvestri moved for approval of bills in the amount of \$981,361.18 second by Mr. Sutphen all in favor.

Mr. Hull moved Resolution 15 appointing John Versa Superintendent of the New Jersey Firemen's Home. All in favor with the exception of Mr. Foran and Mr. Ordway

Public Session:

Mr. Edward Rouillard, former employee and resident at the homes property 320 Vreeland Ave addressed the board on several items. He congratulated Donna and Amber for the extraordinary work they did during the COVID virus that infected so many guests and staff. He stated the minutes of the January meeting when he addressed the board were incorrect. He suggested that the property at 320 Vreeland Ave is not properly registered with the Town of Boonton as a rental unit.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Wilson thanked the Director of Nursing and staff for the fantastic job they have been doing during the emergency

Mr. Wilson wanted to know if he should discuss in open session or Executive session, the positions and number of people being hire to replace those retiring. Mr. Freeman stated that the committee felt only one person was needed at this time. Mr. Veras said he could better explain in executive session.

Mr. Wilson wanted further discussion as to the part time position of CFO that Mr. Flood has held. He was advised that our new Superintendent needs time to address many questions that have been asked.

Mr. Signorelli made a motion to go into executive session to discuss litigation of property, Personnel Positions, and the Audit Report.

The Board returned to public session at 11:12 A.M.

#### Unfinished Business

Discussion was held as to our September meeting usually held at the Firemen's convention in Wildwood. Mr. Frato advised the board that Mr. DeLaurentis has been in contact with Foresgate Golf Club which is in the middle of the state to accommodate our meeting and lunch. A tentative plan is for the meeting to be held on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM followed by lunch. The cost is \$300.00 for the rental of a tent and \$100.00 per person for food and other refreshments. He is still negotiating prices. Mr. Sanders made a motion to proceed with the plan and second by Mr. Sutphen. All in favor except Mr. Ordway who has a conflict with the date.

Mr. Frato stated that with Mr. Floods retirement we need someone to take over the Golf Outing.

Mr. Wilson stated he wanted to rescind his motion for an independent audit. Mr. McDougall who had second the motion was in agreement.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to go out for quotes for our annual audit for next year. The motion was second by Mr. Hull. On a voice vote all in favor.


#### Good and Welfare:

Mr. Dutch reported on research he had done as to a question on an estate of a former guest at the home, Mr. Fleckenstein. He stated he had the file available for anyone that wanted to review it. There were three beneficiaries, the Home, Mount Carmel Church, and the Knights of Columbus. The total estate was \$132,506.02 less expenses of \$16,634.00. The remainder of the estate was divided with payment of \$38,623. 00 to each beneficiary.

Mr. Freeman stated that we should periodically request RFP's for various services the home receives.

Mr. Foran inquired if there would be some recognition for Mr. Flood? Mr. Dutch responded that Mr. Flood would be at our September meeting when a proclamation will be presented to Mr. Flood.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 A.M.



Paul C. McDougall, Secretary