

The July 9, 2022 meeting of the Board of Managers was called to order by Chairman Greci at 9:30 A.M with the Pledge of Allegiance follow by a minute of silence for recently deceased Manager William Oser. Manager Dutch provided the Invocation.

Secretary McDougall provided the Public Notice of Meeting.

A roll call showed all Managers present. Solicitor Ward was also present MR. Veras was excused.

The minutes of the June 11, 2022 meeting were approved upon a motion by Mr. Sutphen and Second by Mr. Matthews. Mr. Washer stated that the transcript on page 20-21 have him asking questions of Mr. Ordway and other discussion by him. He was not at the meeting. Mr. Apgar was the manager asking the questions. Mary Ann will so note the comments by Mr. Washer to correct the matter.

Mr. McDougall read a report from the two meetings held with Senator Bucco. Same is attached to the minutes. Chairman Greci stated that both the NJSFA and the Home need to continue working together. Discussion followed.

Treasurer Sutphen reported that we have completed the 2021-2022 Budget on a positive note. The 2022-2023 Budget began July 1st.

Secretary McDougall read Superintendent Veras monthly report. Same is attached to the minutes.

Committee Reports:

Applications: Mr. Horvath provided his report which is attached to the minutes. He advised the managers that the updated census as of 7/8/2022 was in everyone's mail box.

Employees: Mr. McDougall reported a meeting was held with Managers Horvath, Hull and Freeman. Discussion on increases for employees and the Annual Salary Range Resolution. The committee reviewed the May CPI Report noting the report of 9% inflation rated included Gas and Food. Excluding the two items the rate is 6%. The Committee recommends increases for employees no more than 5% based on annual evaluations by their Supervisors and approved by Mr. Veras. Mr. Hull noted this applies to all employees excepting Mr. Veras who is governed by a 5-year contract.

Finance and Budget: Mr. Silvestri provided his report bills totaling \$447,270.69. Full report is attached to the minutes.

Insurance: Mr. Strube reported everything is in order.

Legislature: Mr. Lugossy reported A 4217 which mandates Cancer Screenings for Professional Firefighters covered by State Health Benefits and requires other Insurers to cover costs of same. This bill and a companion senate bill S2743 has passed and sent to the Governor for his signature. S2837 provides Tuition free college credits for Law Enforcement, Firefighters and their dependents if retired on job related disability.

Mr. Freeman inquired about Volunteers being included in this bill. Mr. Ordway replied that the Association is working on a bill to include Volunteers.

By Laws: Mr. Lugosi provided his report as to amending the By-Laws to eliminate the Executive Board. A lengthy discussion followed.

Discussion concerning renovations to Residential Dorm with work being performed by employees. Mr. Grenici will discuss same with Tom Hoerdine on Monday and any work will stop. Mr. Veras will be asked to provide a report to the board when he returns from vacation.

Museum: Mr. Hull reported donations of small items continue to be received. The original proposal for the structure to support the Fire Ring donated by Livingston FD. Has been scrapped as much too expensive. A new proposal using decorative wood not to Exceed \$2,000.00 is recommended. A motion was made by Mr. Wilson and second by Mr. Apgar to authorize the work was approved.

Public Relations: Foam Beer Can coolers have been ordered for distribution at the convention. Help will be needed beginning at 7 AM on Friday. Mr. Hankins offered to deliver same to Wildwood with their truck. Mr. Wilson stated he will have the delivery changed to have them sent to Wall Township Office. An updated brochure promoting the home is being worked on. Mr. Hull is working on an advertisement promoting the home for the newspaper distributed at the convention.

Golf: Mr. Grenici reported on the May outing noting \$7,000.00 was raised. The committee is looking to install a Gas Fired Fire Pit with some Adirondack chairs installed for the men to enjoy during the cooler weather. The outing for 2023 is planned for May 9.

Inspections: Mr. Lugossy and Mr. Apgar reported overall the facility was very clean, a few minor issues will be reported to the Superintendent.

President Ordway reported that caucuses start in 2 ½ Weeks. Convention in Wildwood with full meeting on Friday beginning at 10 A.M. with Saturday voting only, no meeting, beginning at 7 A.M.

New Business:

Manager Matthews reported progress with plans for our meeting, Ladies Tour in Cape May and the dinner to follow. Ladies will be picked up at 2:30 P.M. at Uries. He asked that Secretary McDougall send invitations to all current and past managers was has been done in the past.

Mr. Silvestri moved payment of bills in the amount of \$447,270.69 Second by Mr. DeLaurentis. All in favor.

Mr. Signorello Motioned Shall the Executive Committee under Article IV of the By Laws Be Abolished Second by Mr. Matthews. A long discussion followed with all managers commenting both in favor and against the motion. Manager Horvath made a Motion to Table the motion, Second by Manager Hull. A roll call vote was taken 17 in favor and 3 opposed. Motion to table carried.

Resolution 10-2022 APPROVING SETTLEMENT BETWEEN AND AMONG THE NEW JERSEY FIREMEN'S HOME, BBELMONT CONSTRUCTION CORP. AND SPIEZE ARCHITECTURAL GROUP. Moved by Manger McDougall and Second by Manager Signorello. Resolution approved all in favor.

Resolution 11-2022 ESTABLISHING SALARY RANGE OF EMPLOYEES. Moved by Manager Hull and Second by Manager Signorello. Resolution approved 17 in favor 3 opposed.

MOTION APPROVING RECOMMENDTION OF THE FINANE/EMPLOYEE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHING INCREASE FOR EMPLOYEES FOR 2022-2023 BUDGET YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022. Motion moved by Manager Signorello and second by Manager Sutphen. Motion approved 16 in favor and 4 opposed.

Good and Welfare:

Mr. Handlin, Hudson County Ex. Inquired as to the balance at the end of the budget year. Mr. Ordway read from the Budget Report ending 6/30/22 stating \$658,650.93. Mr. Handlin inquired of the cost of renovation. He was advised that Mr. Veras will have a full report for the next meeting.

Mr. McDougall stated that he read in the Abridged Minutes that Ex. Committee Otterbein reported that the Managers had approved a contract for Laundry Services. and that the contract was for House Keeping and Laundry Service

Mr. Freeman reported the wrong Fire Department name on the Memorial Report for Mr. Mackenzie. It should be Tautan

Mr. McDougall reported he had a long discussion with the daughter of a Bayonne Firefighter who was a guest at the home and had recently passed away. She was very pleased with the way both her dad and her family was treated by the very compassionate staff during his final days.

Michael Petrakian from Bayonne introduced himself as a candidate for the vacant Hudson County managers position. He stated that the gentlemen who had passed away was a neighbor and was 98 Years of age and a World War 2 veteran.

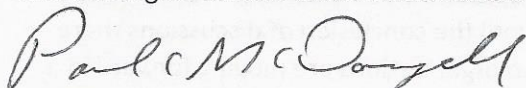
Mr. Jefffer inquired about the vacant building owned by the Board of Managers on Vreeland Avenue. Mr. Greci responded that a Structural Engineer conducted a walk through and will have a report on whether the building can be repaired or should it be torn down.

Mr. DeLaurentis inquired if the motion to table on the By-Law change was indefinite.

Nick Champo from Bergen County stated that his Grandfather and Father were both Guests at the home and that the Home is a super place.

Mr. Hankins reported progress on reaching out to the membership on the programs available to all Firefighters.

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



Paul C. McDougall, Secretary

The officers of the home held an informational meeting with Senator Anthony Bucco at the home on June 22nd. A range of issues were discussed including the need for a program that supports firefighters long term care in the distant southern part of the state. He suggested not needing agreements in the adjacent counties of Morris. He asked about the vote taken back in September when the program was approved 17 – 4 we responded which Counties voted against the program that their concern at the time was the legality issue. Manager Signorello shared with the Senator his personal situation as to why he changed his vote in April.

We reported to him about the agreement back in December at the meeting that was held in Trenton. The Memorandum of Understanding that the CHN was the start of a three-year program that was limited to 15 firefighters. That meetings had been held with the state association committee regularly centered on the CNH. He said he has heard from some people that they don't support the CNH. He advised that no good can come of moving the Wildwood resolution forward. He wants the two organizations to come together on common ground working together for the firefighters. Time to forget about the past and move forward.

Our Officers all agreed that is what we ever wanted and hoped that would be the end result. The senator would be scheduling a meeting with the State Association followed by a meeting with both groups.

We left the meeting feeling that it was a positive discussion

On July 7, 2022 Vice Chairman Signorello, myself and Kevin Hagen along with President Ordway, VP Hankins and Ex. Board Chairman John Lane and Matt McCormick The states Trenton Rep met with Senator Bucco again discussing a range of subjects. That included the state's Health Care Reimbursement program, and the Community Nursing Home Program. The meeting lasted two hours. Senator Bucco again stressing the need for the two groups to share information and move forward and not look back at past issues. There was a list of items present for the committees to discuss outside the items mentioned above. The two Trenton Professionals at the Senators direction were asked to put together an Agenda for discussion with the committees concerning the CHN and Health Care Program. It was agreed that a time period of 60 Days maximum would be appropriate to conclude the discussion which would be by the Wildwood weekend. We agreed that until the conclusion of discussions there would be no discussion at the caucuses other than that the two organizations are moving forward in a positive direction for the common goal in the best interest of all firefighters. Senator Bucco requested that all emails meeting accusations rhetoric cease while these discussions are ongoing. President Ordway has contacted all executive committeemen as per the Senators request Joe and I request the same from the managers.

Senator Bucco stated that the two organizations care programs can co-exist and complement each other for the benefit of all firefighters.

Applications Meeting 07/05/2022

The Applications Committee meeting was held on Tuesday July 5, 2022 at the Fireman's Home Boonton New Jersey at 09:00 hours.

Attending the meeting were Board Managers Bruce Horvath, Albert Freeman, Paul McDougall, Peter Jeffer, and Tom Washer. Excused from the meeting was Joe Signorella. Representing their respective departments, Mrs. Ursula Baumgartner, Ms. Amber Lee Brundrik, and Mrs. Mary Kate Ernst.

The Census as of July 5, 2022 is as follows, Long Term (53) fifty-three, which includes (3) Three in Lathrop Station. Six (6) in Residential. The total now stands at fifty-nine (59). Since the June meeting of the Applications Committee we have lost three (3) brothers who have answered their last alarm. May they rest in peace?

During the meeting (5) applications have been reviewed. Four (4) have been approved with times to be announced later. One (1) still under review. Since last month Two (2) applicants have come into the home. Two (2) are coming in this week, one (1) on July 6 the other on July 7.

Copies of this report have been submitted to the Board's Secretary, and the Board's Stenographer.

The next meeting of the Applications Committee will be Tuesday August 9, 2022 at 09:00 hours.

Respectively Submitted
Bruce R. Horvath
Applications Chairman

Audit & Finance Committee Report

July 5, 2022

The Audit & Finance committee held its monthly meeting at the home on Tuesday, July 5th, 2022. Attending this meeting were Mr. Silvestri, Mr. Sutphen, Mr. Horvath, Mr. Freeman and Mr. McDougall.

Items reviewed were the revenue & expenses from June 1st through July 1st. Everything was found to be in order.

The vouchers from 6/1 through 7/1 were reviewed by the committee in compliance with section 2, article 5 of the bylaws for the New Jersey Firemen's Home. The total bills for the period amounted to \$447,270.69.

A discussion was held on employee salaries per employee committee recommendation. The committee reviewed and discussed the employee raises and has agreed that there would be a raise of no more than 5% based on annual employee review by supervisors and the superintendent.

The next meeting of the finance committee will be held on Tuesday, August 9th, 2022 at 8:00 AM, at the home.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Silvestri

Audit & Finance Committee Vice Chairman

Superintendent's Report – July 9, 2022

Firstly, my apologies for not being with you today and I appreciate your understanding.

1. At our recent weekly meeting with our Medical Director, it was discussed how there continues to be popup outbreaks amongst various communities. Although residents or staff may test positive, there are no signs of any severe illness thankfully. The State has Not changed their treatment of a positive test result and Still considers it an "outbreak", hopefully the guidance will catch up soon.
2. The Staff Education program has been enhanced to include all departments and increase competency checks on best practices (infection control, etc.).
3. Nursing Supervisors have made changes to scheduling and staff assignments to improve efficiency.
4. Maintenance Department continues small scale improvement projects, in-house, whilst performing regularly scheduled maintenance tasks.
5. Washing machine replacement is complete
6. CoreWorks, our new housekeeper, transitioned well and maintained the better staff members from the previous vendor. Several improvements to their process have made the residents more comfortable.
7. Carpet replacement in the first-floor hallway is complete.
8. Some seasonal employees were added to help manage summer vacations by maintaining staff levels.
9. Barbeques are "shine ONLY" and will be cancelled for RAIN or excessive HEAT. There still is not an "indoor option" to hold barbeques.
10. In our planning of BBQs for next year, we may explore Saturday dates and keep Sundays as a rain date. This poses some challenges from a staff scheduling standpoint, but we will work to see if this is possible. When a cancellation occurs, it causes too many issues with purchased food and fitting in an alternate date.

Thank you, enjoy the summer and stay safe.

Respectfully submitted,

John Veras
Superintendent

