

The June 8, 2024 Full Board meeting of the New Jersey Firemen's Home Board of Managers was called to order by Chairman Washer at 0900 hours and was followed by the pledge of allegiance. An beautiful invocation was provided by Manager Dutch.

Mr. Hull advised public notice was provided in the official newspaper, the Star Ledger and on the Home's website

Roll call was taken with all managers present with the exception of Mr. Dunn and Mr. Strube who were excused.

The minutes from the May 11, 2024 Full Board meeting were approved.

**Communications:**

Secretary Hull reported that there were no communications received.

**Reports of Officers:**

**Secretary:**

Mr. Hull advised no further report.

**Treasurer:**

Mr. Sutphen reported that we are in the last month of our budget and had no further report.

**Superintendent:**

Mr. Veras reported that it was a beautiful day for the big event today, the Bergen County Picnic.

Water testing returned a number of positive results for Legionella and we are awaiting the Department of Health on our future steps. We are looking to possibly install our own chlorinator.

Two 20 X 40 tents were donated thanks to various companies from Hunterdon County.

Mr. Veras reported that he attended the Leading Age Convention and the PFANJ Convention in Atlantic City. Both were very informative. While at the convention he met with a company regarding staffing solutions where they would supply us with nurses aids. There would be savings to us as we pay the nurses aids' hourly wage and a \$6.00 per hour fee to the company, saving us on benefits etc. This could help us get our staffing level up to be compliant.

Mr. Heflich wished Mr. Veras a Happy Birthday during his report.

President Ordway had questions about the Legionella testing locations and if it was one site or multiple sites. Mr. Veras gave an explanation on Legionella and water systems and the challenge we face. The town is required to only chlorinate to a certain level and we should look into an in house chlorinator.

Ms. DeVirgilio asked Mr. Veras if the information provided to the guest's families could also be sent to the Managers. Mr. Veras advised he would, and added to his report that we are also looking at new IT supplier. We are looking for savings as well as enhancing our HIPPA protection.

**Legal Counsel:**

Mr. Bell reported that he continues to give guidance to the staff with regards to personnel matters such as the Family Leave Act.

**Buildings and Grounds:**

Mr. Keyser provided a written report from Maintenance Director Hodierne listing the status of various projects. A copy is attached.

The gazebo was power washed and painted as well as two hydrants.

We are looking to allow the Morris County OEM to stage an ambulance here for the EMS service.

Mr. Veras expanded on this advising there were discussions over the years with Saint Claires EMS about an ambulance here, but those conversations died. The OEM is looking to reduce response times to 9-1-1 emergencies by staging ambulances throughout the county. We would provide them space in the rear of the building. There is no cost to us besides a 100 line to charge their rig and defibs. The rig would be staffed around the clock with 12 hours shifts. This would be a benefit to the Home in the event we need EMS response, the rig is right here.

Mr. Wilson inquired if this would effect any of our operations such as a need for extra snow removal since they would need to be able to respond 24/7.

Mr. Veras responded that our maintenance staff already are required to keep grounds clear at all times and he is confident in the maintenance crew.

Mr. Keyser concluded his report adding that information was distributed about the painting of the call boxes out front. The new proposal also includes all steel structures.

Mr. Hull wished to make a motion having the Board approve the agreement with Morris County OEM. This will be brought up under New Business.

**Applications:**

Mr. Cunningham provided a written report a behalf of the application committee meeting held on June 4, 2024 which is attached. The report indicated 72 guest in Long Term Care and 8 in Residential Care for a total of 80 guests. Since the last meeting there have been 2 new admissions and 1 guest answered his final alarm. One guest was discharged from the Home. The Home is full and an admissions waiting list was created as of this month. The next meeting for the Applications Committee is 0900 hours on Tuesday July 9, 2024 at the Home.

Mr. Freeman added to the report that in speaking with admissions this month through emails, we are at 82 guests and full. We have a waiting list.

Mr. Cunningham then made a motion to table any changes to the application admission policy until after the study is complete with potential of a building addition. No discussion was permitted following the tabling motion. The tabling of the policy change passed 13-7.

Mr. Freeman then addressed the board asking that if a committee puts out a request for information, please respond. The committee had only received three replies with regards to the application admission policy.

**Employee Committee:**

Mr. Dutch reported that everything was good on all fronts.

**Finance and Budget Committee:**

Mr. Hull read a written report from the June 4, 2024 meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee which is attached. The committee reviewed revenue and expense reports as well as vouchers for the period. Bills were reported in the amount of \$403,495.27. We are course with current operating budget which has one month left. There were discussions in regards to future budget planning due to all meetings being full board the need to increase manager travel line; our pension "pay back" being significantly larger than anticipated; water testing due to the Legionella situation; and house keeping expenditures.

The next committee meeting will be held at 8:00 AM on July 9, 2024 at the Home.

**Insurance:**

Mr. Strube was not present but had provided a report for Mr. Veras. We have changed broker agencies on our insurance. It is difficult to find anyone who wants to insure nursing homes. You will note Loyds of London on one of our policies. We are sticking with the companies we have rather than attempt to change. "The devil you know".

**Legislative Committee:**

Mr. Lugossy reported both houses prepared, passed and sent a spending bill of 55.9 billion dollars to the Governor before June 30th to avoid a government shut down on July 1st.

One bill sitting on the Governor's desk was signed into law. A3939 mandates cancer screening for career firefighters who are not enrolled in the State Health Benefits program, but are eligible for SHBP benefits by virtue of employment. The bill was signed into law on June 3, 2024, approved as pamphlet law 2024, chapter 15.

Mr. Lugossy commended the State for their tracking of bills. There are 8364 bills introduced for this session so far. The committee is tracking 243 bills. 134 are for fire and emergency services; 71 bills in Firemen's Home; and 42 bills in pensions.

**By-laws:**

Mr. Apgar advised no report.

**Museum:**

Mr. Hull reported that Mr. Dutch has received the shelves for the wooden model fire trucks. If the maintenance staff is unable to mount, we will look to have a committee work detail. The patch boards have been updated with patches received; and we will be getting a 1920's uniform from Ms. Dohrmann of River Vale NJ. She is shipping it to the Home.

**Public Relations:**

Mr. Wilson reported that the Public Relations Committee received the notepads that are to be given out to managers and prospective guest. Mr. Washer reported that the can/bottle openers to be given away at the convention will be delivered by June 18th.

**Ethics and Code of Conduct:**

Mr. Sutphen advised no report.

**Pension:**

Mr. Washer reported that if anyone has any issues with their pension to contact him or Mr. Veras. Mr. Sutphen added that he had been asked by Managers about the pension and he advised that the pension people will set it up with you as soon as you are eligible. You will get a form from them.

Mr. Veras explained the eligibility requirements for the pension and that it is a fixed benefit up to 833.00 a month after 10 years of service as a manager. Mr. Hull asked if a document explaining the benefit could be given out to the managers as there is an early retirement option for younger managers who served over ten years. Mr. Veras will put together the information.

Mr. Sutphen added that you should start collecting as soon as you are eligible. It is fixed benefit so it does not matter if you serve another 10 years after you reach maximum, the benefit doesn't change. Mr. Dutch added that once you collect, you can not change it either, particularly if you divide the benefit with a spouse. Be sure your paperwork is correct when you file it.

**Inventory:**

Mr. Wilson reported that all is in order with no new major additions.

**Golf Committee:**

Mr. Signorello reported that everything is going well and our fingers are crossed for good weather. We are good to go.

Mr. Veras advised that we would need to gather somewhere, and registration will begin at 630 AM. We are doing this outing on our own. In the past we paid a golf promoter approximately \$6000 for the event. Mr. Veras asked managers who are going to attend to be on location at 600 AM. We have approximately 106 golfers signed up. Our give away will be a dry wick style shirt with our logo and "golf outing". Managers are asked to wear a Home shirt for the day. A roll call was taken to see which managers are planning on attending so the committee can plan.

**Liaison to the State Association:**

Mr. Hull advised he no report.

**Inspections:**

Mr. Signorello advised he will be doing the inspection on June 13th before the picnic.

**Long Term Planning:**

Mr. Sutphen reported that they had no report until information comes back from the actuarial study.

Chairman Washer advised that since the Home is full and in anticipation of the actuary report, he wished to create committee for a possible building addition to the Home to begin gathering information. The committee will be Mr. Cunningham (Chair); Mr. Mitch (Vice-Chair); Mr. Dutch; Mr. Sutphen; and Mr. Signorello.

**State Firemen's Association:**

President Ordway advised that Mr. Hull sends a nice report out and he has nothing to add.

**Unfinished Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

Mr. Hull made a motion for the Board to approve the agreement with Morris County OEM's Ambulance service for use of space at our facility, under the direction and control of Mr. Veras. Mr. Veras will handle their day to day operational needs at our building. This was passed by the Board.

Mr. Hull then asked for the Board to approve Mr. Veras making Manager ID cards on the Home's System. This way each manager can have photo identification on them when in the facility. Mr. Hull and Mr. Veras had discussion about this and Mr. Veras added that the new ID cards would also be our swipe access cards for the building. They are doing away with the PIN number pads as some guest have figured out codes and accessed areas that they shouldn't. This will be part of our IT upgrade. Additionally, we will be going back to utilizing NJFH.ORG email accounts. No more personal email accounts for Home business. Mr. Veras advised this is very important to the security of our communications.

**Payment of Bills:**

Mr. Hull reported the total bills in the amount of \$403,495.27 Upon motion, a roll call vote was taken and the bills payment was approved.

**Motions and Resolutions:**

None.

**Public Participation:**

None.

**Executive Session:**

None had.

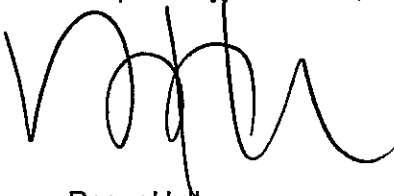
**Good and Welfare:**

Mr. Jeffer was welcomed back, returning from his injuries. Mr. Jeffer responded stating that you don't know until you're flat on your back how important it was to get the phone calls and e-mails asking how he was doing. He thanked everyone who reached out to him and that it helped him in his recovery.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 0950 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger Hull  
Secretary