

The March 13, 2021 meeting of the Board of Managers was called to order by Chairman Frato at 9:30 A.M with the flag Salute

Chairman Frato thanked everyone for their well wishes following a recent heart attack.

Secretary McDougall read the Public Notice of the meeting that has been published in the Star Ledger and posted on the NJFH Web site.

A roll call showed all board members present with the exception of Managers Oser and Foran. Solicitor Ward and Superintendent Versa were also present

The minutes of the February 13, 2021 meeting of the Executive Board were approved upon a motion by Manager Sutphen and Second by Manager Greci.

Correspondence: Secretary McDougall reported an Email had been received from the NJSFA concerning the requirement for manager's, whose terms are up this year, needing to complete a petition if they are planning on running for reelection. Copies of the petition have been provided to the 5 managers.

Treasurer Sutphen reported that everything is in order with the current year budget. He requested that managers who come to the home log into the book the date a reason for the visit.

Superintendent Veras reported that the steps to the new planned entrance have been completed The famous bridge will be completed by next Friday. A TCO for the second floor has been received pending receipt and review of as built to be provided by the Architect. Inspections by the state Board of Health and DCA are pending. The April meeting will be held at the home with the Governor issuing executive Order 230 that raises indoor gatherings to 25 effective Friday 3/19. This will allow for managers to be present with the public participating via ZOOM. The recreation Staff is accepting dates for summer BBQ's and Bergen County is working on a plan to provide bagpipers for the guests on St. Patrick's Day. An update with the current telephone system has been completed.

Building & Grounds: Mr. Signorello stated that Mr. Veras had given most of his report concerning construction. He noted that furniture is being delivered The next meeting with the contractor will be on Friday 3/19. He stated that the committee will now focus. on other needed projects

Applications: Manager Horvath read his report noting same was provided to the secretary and is attached to the minutes. Mr. Veras also reported that the new application has been posted on the WEB Site and so far 12 applications have been downloaded. Managers will automatically receive an email with information from anyone in their county that how downloaded the application. Further information will be provided at the April meeting.

Employees: Mr. Freeman reported that the staffing for the new Memory Care Unit is Saturday April g. The committee will meet at 9 A.m. April 10<sup>th</sup> before the full board meeting.

Finance and Audit: Mr. Silvestre read his report and provided a copy to the secretary and is attached to the minutes.

Legislation: Mr. Lugossy reported that S1017 was adopted by both houses of the Legislature and awaits the Governor's signature. The bill provides for retirement of members of the Police and Fire Pension system to retire after 20 years of service without any age restriction.

Discussion on Five Points of proposed legislation that affects the home:

1. Vacancy in Managers Position to be filled by Chairman of the Firemen's Home.

Mr. Greci stated the home should fill the vacancy not the NJSFA.

Mr. McDougall stated that due to the long standing feud between the two organizations he is in favor of all five points and will defer comment on any of the five points.

Mr. Sutphen agrees with all five points.

Mr. Dutch agrees on all 5 points. Problems with the two organizations go back to the 30's. He will have copies of information documenting this for anyone who wants to see this at the April meeting. Mr. Silvestri agrees with all five points.

Mr. Freeman Agrees with some points but not all.

Mr. Sanders agrees with all five points.

Mr. Signorello agrees that the Chairman should choose the manager.

Mr. Horvath ok with chairman picking the manager. He also stated he is OK with the budget being separated from the NJSFA. He does not agree with the borrowing issue at this time as he has questions about whether individual managers could be held responsible.

Mr. Jeffer. Stated he provided all managers with a memorandum yesterday. Copy made part of the minutes.

Mr. Matthews Agrees with all points stating that the Fireman's Home should be an autonomous board. He also noted that the county will still elect their managers at the caucus meeting.

Mr. Lugossy agrees with all five points.

Mr. Giglio agrees with all five points

Mr. Strube agrees with all five pints

Mr. Hull wants to know the history of how this bill was created. He stated that none of the five points were in the comptroller's report as we had been advised that the bill is a result of the comptroller's report. He said he spoke with Mr. DeLaurentis on several occasions who stated that this bill was the idea of the firemen's home and that it was created by the firemen's home.

He is against all five points. He asked Tom Ward what his relationship is with Mr. Burzechelli

Mr. Denny agrees with all five points.

Mr. Ordway disagrees with all five points.

2. Entire Budget including Operating or Capital will be subject to Governor's Approval. Complete oversight and veto authority with the Governor.

Mr. Greci agrees with all five points

Mr. Signorello agrees

Mr. Sutphen state that this is what we are currently doing now with approval of budget from the Governor.

Mr. Horvath Doesn't want any conflict with the 2 percent funding not for or against

Mr. Hull against number 2



Mr. Jeffer against number 2

3. Authorize Executive Board of Managers to have power to borrow/mortgage for capital and refurbishing projects at the Home subject to the approval of the Governor.

Mr. Freeman Neutral

Mr. Signorello Neutral

Mr. Horvath questioned if managers would have to put up personal assets against any borrowing.

Mr. Jeffer against any borrowing for yearly budget. And stated we can get money from the state if we need it for any capital project.

Mr. Hull against stating he would not trust any you guys with his finances.

4. Election to Board of Managers occur by petition issued by Board of Managers with election at County Caucus run by New Jersey Firemen's Home

MR. Freeman stated it makes sense same basic procedure we have now.

Mr. Horvath Wanted to know if we will have to have people at all caucuses. Wants to know further info and procedure before he can commit.

Mr. Jeffer totally opposed stating it works now so shy change it.

Mr. Hull Against has no trust with money no trust with ballots

5. All Ex Officio Members to become Honorary Members of the Board.

Mr. Dutch stated that if we are to be separated from the state association there is no need to have ex-officio members.

Mr. Freeman disagrees with number 5

Mr. Matthews proposes ex officio members be non-voting member with no county having more than one vote.

Mr. Signorello not in favor.

Mr. Horvath neutral

Mr. Jeffer disagrees and read from his memorandum which is attached.

Mr. Hull is against and disagrees with statement about problems with state association and feels the home is the agitators.

Mr. Wilson opposed and should stay as is.

End of discussion on five points.

Museum. Mr. Wilson reported not much happening due to the quarantine. Mr. Hull reported working on a donation from Bergen County.

Public Relations. Mr. Wilson has no formal report noting there will be a meeting of the committee after the April Board meeting.

Pension. Mr. Frato reported that a meeting was held last Friday with the Pension advisor and the committee and everything is in good order.

Inventory. Mr. Wilson reported he has been in contact with Mr. Veras and as new items are received info is taken off the packing slips and entered in the file.

Golf. Mr. Greci reported everything is going good. We will need volunteers and asked for managers to secure 5 hole sponsors. The committee will meet at 8 AM on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

State Firemen's Association. Mr. Ordway stated that as of now the County Caucus and Convention will be a walk through for voting only with no meetings. This may change on guidance from health officials.

Ed Mullin has been appointed to the Treasures position due to the recent passing of Barry Osborne.

He did not agree with earlier comments about negative comments. He supports the home 100 percent.

The office now direct deposits the check to the home rather than Mr. Silvestri driving to the the state office to pick up same.

He said that when Mr. Matthews made comments about some language in a hand out about the funds to the home it was changed immediately.

He represents all 21 counties not just one. He does ask questions and was offended by the comments.

Mr. Horvath said he was appalled that a letter sent by Mr. Ordway regarding A5210 and the low number of guests at the home which was read at a meeting of the Volunteer Fire Chief's.

He felt that the opening of the new memory care unit and new applications being received will put us up to pre covid numbers.

Mr. Greci asked Mr. Ordway if only members of the state association were eligible to run for manger's position. He responded that he wasn't sure.

Mr. Jeffer wants a decenter appointed to the committee so that all sides will be heard. Mr. Frato stated that all appointments are made by the Chairman and a full report will be provided after any meetings.

Mr. Hull stated that he has reached out to Mr. Burzechelli and Mr. Dancer, who has taken his name off the bill as co-sponsor. He will continue to express his decent.

Mr. Silvestri moved the payment of bills in the amount of \$325,261.75 second by Mr. Sutphen. A roll call was taken with all in favor except Mr. Hull.

Resolution 4-2021 Authorizing and Approving Contract for Labor Counsel was moved by Mr. Sanders and Second by Mr. Matthews. Mr. Jeffer questioned the need for appointment. He was advised that the attorney has represented us for the past few years and is currently in the middle of a case. A roll call showed all in favor with the exception of Mr. Jeffer who abstained and Mr. Hull who voted no.



Public session:

Joseph Diehl from Pine Beach asked Mr. Ward about his relationship with Mr. Burzichelli. Mr. Ward stated he had a professional relationship. Mr. Diehl felt it is a conflict of interest.

Larry Handlin, Bergen County Ex. Committeeman asked how managers are notified of application requests. Mr. Veras responded that managers received an automatic email with the information. He disagreed with the comment earlier about George Heflich and stands by the appointment.

Mr. Handlin commented on point 4 of the legislative Committee Report. He wanted to know how we proposed to conduct the election of manager's. Elections were conducted without problem and we have worked together in the past. Point 5 he stated that regardless of who the president is he represents all the firemen and votes in the best interest of the home.

He stated that the home liaison is welcome to participate at the NJSFA meetings.

He questioned Mr. Oser's receiving information from the home. Mr. McDougall responded that he sends information through the US Mail noting that Mr. Osier has had problem with his Email in the past.

Good and Welfare:

Mr. Freeman stated Employee Committee will meet at 9 AM on April 10, Mr. Silvestri stated Finance will meet 8 AM on April 6.

Mr. Hull stated he was glad to see Mr. Wilson back and that Mr. Frato is up and about.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 A.M.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paul C. McDougall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "McDougall" clearly legible.

Paul C. McDougall, Secretary