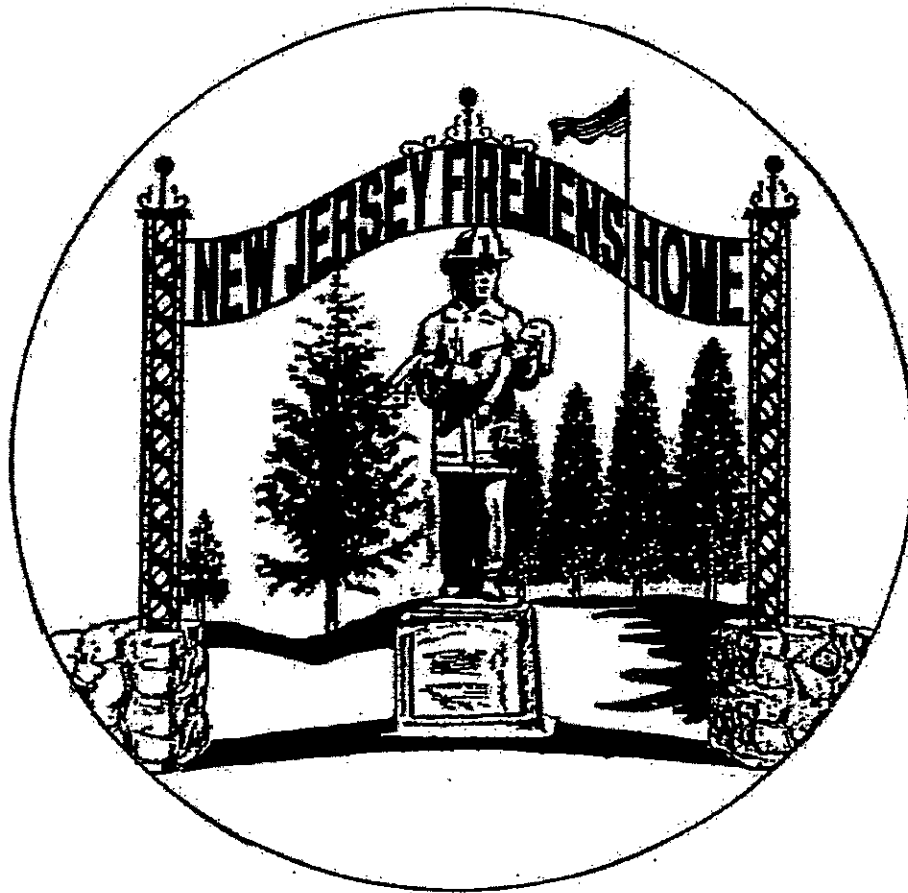


New Jersey Firemen's Home Full Board Meeting



April 12, 2025

The April 12, 2025 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 invocation was provided by Manager Dutch.

Mr. Hull advised that proper public notice had been provided

Roll call was taken with all managers present. *Salem county position currently vacant.

The minutes from the March 8, 2025 Board meeting were approved.

Communications:

Secretary Hull read a note received from the family of guest Jack Hueston who passed away recently. Nancy Hueston thanked us for our care of her husband. (letter attached)

Secretary Hull read a letter from Senator Brian Stack regarding former manager George Heflich. Secretary Hull read the responses sent to Senator Stack and the Secaucus Firemen's Relief Association requesting reconsideration for the restrictions placed on former Hudson County Manager George Heflich at the time of his removal. Copies of all correspondence are attached.

Reports of Officers:

Secretary:

Mr. Hull had no further report other than the responses he sent in regards to the Heflich matter.

Treasurer:

Mr. Sutphen advised the budget was reviewed and we are at the end of the 3rd quarter. We are in very good shape. If any managers had toll increases, please let Mr. Sutphen know.

Superintendent:

Mr. Veras reported that construction of the outdoor kitchen has begun. It is framed and the electric has been run. He presented a sample of the stone that will cover the exterior and the top will be black or "uba-tuba" granite. The appliances for the project are on site.

Please get you NJFH email up and running. We corrected the emails regarding guest updates so that you will only receive messages about your guest.

IT updates have been made and are system is more robust due to HIPPA compliance.

Mr. Veras introduced Alan Fox, president of the resident's council who was in attendance.

Legal Counsel:

Mr. Bell reported that he and Mr. Veras met with the Boonton Board of Education regarding drafting an agreement with the schools for use of our fields near Vreeland Avenue. There was never an agreement in place. A lease agreement was drawn up that covers clean up, insurance, dog policing, background checks on those involved in youth sports, etc. We are waiting for it to be signed.

Mr. Signorello inquired if this was the first time the fields were used by the school?

Mr. Bell and Veras responded that the fields have been used for some time but there was never any written agreement, just a "handshake".

Mr. Keyser inquired if there was any deed restriction on the property?

Mr. Bell responded that he did not believe there were any impediments.

Mr. Keyser followed up with our ability to sell a piece of the property if we could

Mr. Bell advised that he did not believe we could divide the land, but would research it.

Mr. Dutch commented that we did have an agreement signed some time ago which included them (the Board of Education) putting a new roof on an outbuilding that they use to store their athletic equipment.

Buildings and Grounds:

Mr. Keyser provided a written report from Maintenance Director Hodiernie listing the status of various projects. A copy is attached. Mr. Keyser reported that we had trace amounts of legionella in our water and testing is ongoing. We have a temporary CO on the elevator and he met with Tom Hodiernie about the outdoor kitchen and painting in the elevator room. Mr. Keyser added that the grass will be growing soon and maintenance will have a lot on their plate.

Mr. Miller asked about the water test results and our new water testing consultant bringing the State to task on the type of legionella found and testing. Mr. Veras advised that the consultant is working with her attorney and putting something together. Mr. Veras explained the Home's proactive measures to flush our system through heat, chlorination and flushing. Mr. Veras is confident the resident that had legionella, did not get it at the Home.

Applications:

Mr. Freeman advised that there were several census reports compiled and distributed. The most current and accurate one shows the total number of guests at 74. He then provided a written report of the application committee meeting held on April 8, 2025 which is attached. The report indicated 70 guest in Long Term Care and 4 in Residential Care for a total of 74 guests. Since the last meeting, there was one admission to the Home. Three residents answered their final alarm this month. There are 7 applications on the waiting list as of March 31, 2025. Two applicants are awaiting openings, four applications were incomplete and one was returned. The next meeting for the Applications Committee is 0900 hours on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at the Home.

Employee Committee:

Mr. Dutch advised that everything is quiet.

Finance and Budget Committee:

Mr. Hull read a written report from the April 8, 2025 meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee which is attached. The committee reviewed revenue and expense reports from July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, as well as vouchers for the period of February 4th through April 8, 2025. Bills were reported in the amount of \$573,832.38.

The committee reviewed and discussed bills for the elevator project and that those funds will be coming from the property fund. The currently show as a deficit on revenue and expense report.

The committee also noted that we spent over \$20,000 on the Heflich legal matter.

The next meeting of the committee will be at 0800 hours on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at the Home.

Insurance:

Mr. Strube advised that he had no new report.

Legislative Committee:

Mr. Lugossy reported on the State of New Jersey's 58.1 billion dollar budget, 7.2 billion of that is allocated for pensions. Mr. Lugossy read a letters from State FMBA president Ed Donnelly and Senator Corey Booker to the Secretary of Homeland security regarding the closing of the National Fire Academy and cuts in funding.

Mr. Lugossy also discussed two bills working their way through the legislature.

S-788: Exempts stipends received by volunteer first responders from payroll taxes.

S-2887: clarifies that volunteer firefighters are eligible for the maximum worker's compensation benefits.

Additionally, the Governor did sign bill A-3894 that updates fire safety statutes for licensure and equipment requirements.

Mr. Signorello commented that New Jersey Weekend is open at the National Fire Academy, those issues were resolved.

By-laws:

Mr. Apgar advised that it is a work in progress.

Museum:

Mr. Hull reported that he received a leather helmet from Don Wiesner's collection that belonged to a friend of his that was a classmate and Middletown Firefighter (Winkler) that was murdered. A Taylor Tin helmet shield from Chief Wiesner was also received and will be displayed in the museum.

Public Relations:

Mr. Wilson reported that the committee will be meeting immediately after this meeting to continue discussions on items for the convention. Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Giglio for his work. Nothing further.

Ethics and Code of Conduct:

Mr. Sutphen advised that he no report.

Pension:

Mr. Washer advised he had nothing to report.

Inventory:

Mr. Wilson advised no changes.

Golf Committee:

Mr. Signorello reported that they having been getting donations and golfers have been signing up. We are hoping for nice weather. We need all the help we can that day. He noted several managers will be away on a cruise together. Mr. Apgar described it as the "love boat". We will be meeting at 6 AM they day of the event.

Liaison to the State Association:

Mr. Hull advised everything is quiet. He had informal conversations with President Ordway, Vice President Hankins and Executive Committeeman Otterbein. Nothing to report at this time.

Inspections:

Mr. Wilson advised that he conducted the inspection with Mr. Hull and they had a short list of items to address. They have inspection again today and will review those those items again today. There was nothing major that would red sticker the building. Mr. Berckes assisted with the inspection.

Long Term Planning/Addition Committee:

Mr. Sutphen advised that they had met with KDA who presented us with ideas and requested our thoughts to move forward.

State Firemen's Association:

President Ordway advised that Mr. Hull's report covered everything.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Hull presented and discussed a proposed change to the admissions eligibility criteria for the Home. Currently it is one year of service. This topic has been discussed and debated for over a year. Mr. Hull presented a proposal that was mailed to all managers months ago along with the history of the discussions from previous minutes. The benefit of the Home should be an earned benefit. Mr. Hull proposed that applicants after an agreed upon date will have to have seven years of fire service. This can be verified in several manners as outline in the proposal. Line of duty injuries would automatically qualify regardless of time service. All applicants must be in the scope of the Home's care. Copy of proposal attached.

The matter was discussed and debated further today. Mr. Dutch raised concern that we service all firefighters in the State of New Jersey, not just those in the State Association. This is addressed in the policy. Mr. Keyser had several inquires about the line of duty clause only being for active firefighters, the current average years of service for our guests (27) and felt we did not need to change the policy. Mr Joas inquired if we ever had any applicant with only one year of service. Mr. Hull advised we had, but as per policies we can not discuss specific guest info in public. After much more discussions, Mr. Dunn motioned that we adopted the policy effective May 1st. Roll call vote was taken and the new policy was approved 13-8.

New Business:

Mr. Freeman advised that he had received several phone calls inquiring if someone had an application in progress would they be exempt from \$850.00 monthly guest fee. Guest fees are being restored to all guests.

Mr. Veras advised that with the monthly fees coming back, if a resident can not afford the fee they can submit paperwork for reduce rent. Handled like relief application that would then go to finance committee.

Payment of Bills:

Mr. Hull reported the total bills in the amount of \$\$573,832.38. 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:

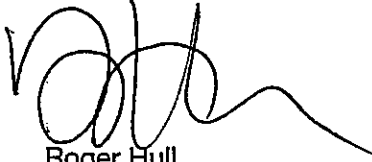
Mr. Dutch reported that as of 9 AM on Wednesday, Emmitsburg was opened back up according to the Division of Fire Safety. New Jersey Weekend at the Academy is back on.

Chairman Washer advised that he will not be at the next two meetings, Mr. Apgar will be in charge.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 1007 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RH' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Roger Hull
Secretary