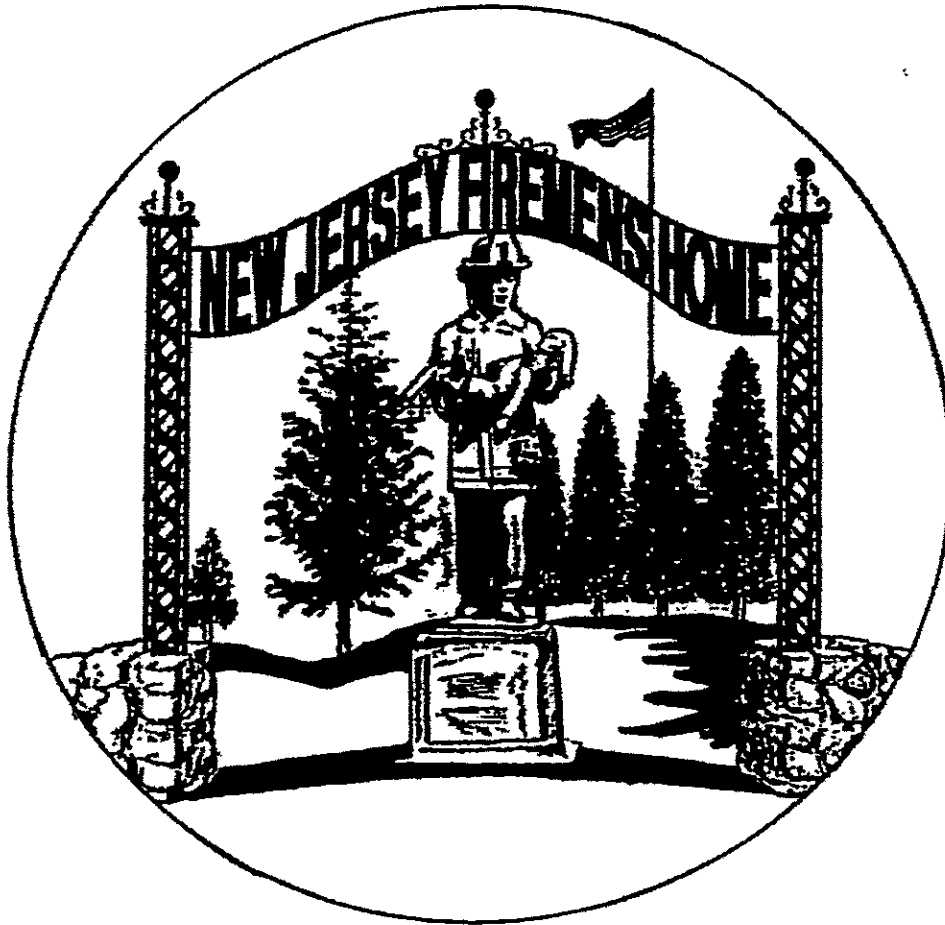


# New Jersey Firemen's Home Full Board Meeting



May 10, 2025

The May 10, 2025 meeting of the New Jersey Firemen's Home Board of Managers was called to order by Vice-Chairman Apgar at 0900 hours and was followed by the pledge of allegiance. An invocation was provided by Manager Cunningham.

Mr. Hull advised that proper public notice had been provided

Roll call was taken with all managers present except Chairman Washer, Mr. Dutch and Mr. Signorello who were excused. \*The Salem county manager position remains vacant.

The minutes from the April 12, 2025 Board meeting were approved.

**Communications:**

Secretary Hull reported no communications.

**Reports of Officers:**

**Secretary:**

Mr. Hull had no report.

**Treasurer:**

Mr. Sutphen advised that we are fine with this year's budget. Prices have increased for everything we buy and we will look at that in our next budget. Please get back to Mr. Sutphen if you have had any toll increases. He has received few responses.

**Superintendent:**

Mr. Veras reported that manager's emails may were receiving training materials regarding internet security from the Home. Those will be stopped as managers have Outlook and are not connected to the Home's network.

Our receptionist, Linda chose to separate from the Home and we wish her luck in her retirement. We are looking to possibly replace her as well as hiring a full time driver to take guests to doctor appointments.

Mr. Veras wished to thank the maintenance crew for the work on the outside landscaping as well as the outside kitchen. With the exception of the granite and the electrical work, everything was done in house with the kitchen.

It is Nurse's Week and there are a number of events and activities planned for the staff. The Bergen County group has offered to help support those activities.

Mr. Veras also acknowledged Manager Lugossy on celebrating the 50th anniversary of his 39th Birthday. The Managers wished Gil a Happy Birthday.

**Legal Counsel:**

Mr. Bell reported that he is still working on the agreement with the Boonton for the use of our athletic fields. He had also assisted on some personnel matters.

**Buildings and Grounds:**

Mr. Keyser provided a written report from Maintenance Director Hodierne listing the status of various projects. A copy is attached. Mr. Keyser reported the water testing is ongoing. He thanked the maintenance crew for the plantings they did around the grounds and the phenomenal job they did on the kitchen. They are looking to hire summer help for the outside grounds

**Applications:**

Mr. Freeman provided a written report of the application committee meeting held on May 6, 2025 which is attached. The report indicated 68 guest in Long Term Care and 5 in Residential Care for a total of 73 guests. Since the last meeting, there was one admission to the Home. Two residents answered their final alarm this month. There are 7 applications with pre-admission meetings to be scheduled. Five applications were incomplete. Due to the long waiting list, the committee recommended managers advised applicants to delay their psych reports until a bed is closer to opening. The reports expire after 6 months and they are costly to some. The next meeting for the Applications Committee is 0900 hours on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at the Home.

Mr. Sutphen asked if the psych report is not done, would the application be considered incomplete. Mr. Freeman advised "No".

Ms. Deviriglio asked for a process to keep managers abreast of the statuses of applicants so they know when to schedule tests. Managers not on the committee don't know where applicants are on a waiting list. Discussion ensued and Mr. Veras commented that they will try to put together a list by county with initials of applicants and their status. Ms. Deviriglio asked that it be available like a shared Google document. Mr. Keyser asked that it be updated weekly.

**Employee Committee:**

Mr. Dutch was excused. Mr. Mitch had no report other than the items Mr. Veras touched on.

**Finance and Budget Committee:**

Mr. Hull read a written report from the May 6, 2025 meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee which is attached. The committee reviewed revenue and expense reports from July 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025, as well as vouchers for the period of February 4th through April 8, 2025. Bills were reported in the amount of \$414,929.10.

The committee discussed our current, antiquated revenue and expense report. With the Home using Quick books we are looking to go to a profit and loss report that will be easier for the reader.

The next meeting of the committee will be at 0800 hours on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at the Home.

**Insurance:**

Mr. Strube advised that he had no new report.

**Legislative Committee:**

Mr. Lugossy reported that Ed Donnelly from the FMBA and Congressman Frank Palone worked together against cuts to the SAFER and AFG funding cuts. Congressman Palone blasted President Trump for cutting funding that was promised to New Jersey firefighters.

Mr. Lugossy also reported on bill A4163 that was signed into law as Chapter 49. The bill requires insurance companies provide funding for biomarker testing.

**By-laws:**

Mr. Apgar advised no report.

**Museum:**

Mr. Hull reported that he received a few helmet shields that he will get mounted to the wall display.

**Public Relations:**

Mr. Wilson reported that committee met after the last month's meeting and they have come up with two items to handout. The first is a four color pen and the second is a mini flashlight. Mr. Wilson allowed Mr. Giglio to report on the items. Mr. Giglio reported that the items are ready to be ordered from 4 Imprint and they need coordinated a shipping location for the items. This will be coordinated with the Home and Mr. Dunn possibly being able to receive them in Wildwood.

**Ethics and Code of Conduct:**

Mr. Sutphen advised that he no report.

**Pension:**

Mr. Washer was excused. Mr. Apgar had no report other than the check has been sent to the pension board this month.

**Inventory:**

Mr. Wilson advised nothing new..

**Golf Committee:**

Mr. Signorello was excused. Mr. Veras gave a report that they are all set. We have 60 golfers signed up already and we need 100 for the event. We should be fine. It is an 8 AM shotgun start and we are all hoping for good weather.

**Liaison to the State Association:**

Mr. Hull advised that he along with committee members Keyser and Joas attended the State Association Meeting in Wall Township on May 3rd. Mr. Cunningham also attended. Mr. Hull added that prior to composing his report on the meeting, President Ordway distributed his informational report that covered the meeting. The report was distributed by Mr. Hull and he had nothing to add other than there was a question on the floor at the State meeting about our wait list that was directed to the applications committee. A copy of President Ordway's Report is attached.

**Inspections:**

Mr. Mitch advised that he and Mr. Joas would complete the inspection and submit a report to Mr. Hull to be added to the minutes. \*Their report indicated the exterior of the building needs to be power washed.

**Long Term Planning/Addition Committee:**

Mr. Sutphen advised that they are still waiting on information from KDA. Mr. Sutphen added that we would need 39 beds for 1 guest per room and he is not sure how the board wants to go. Please let the committee know your feelings.

**State Firemen's Association:**

President Ordway advised that he had nothing to add to his written report that was distributed.

**Unfinished Business:**

None presented.

**New Business:**

Mr. Sutphen brought up long term planning's concept of single beds and the need for 39 additional beds. He added that there is money in Trenton from COVID that could be used for nursing homes that needs to be spent. He added that in the past we had someone in Trenton keeping us informed about what goes on (lobbyist). Someone who knows how Trenton works and is there every day working for us. The last guy we had provided us with a lot of information.

Mr. Jeffer advised that he could get us information from a lobbyist he knows to get us a proposal to review.

Mr. Apgar commented that we just released our lobbyist and he is not on board for putting another one on payroll.

Mr. Wilson asked that we get the information from Mr. Jeffer, but he does not recommend the organization we used before.

Mr. Joas asked for the benefit of new managers what happened with previous lobbyist.

Mr. Hull explained the previous terse relationship with the State due to bill A5210 being created, the previous dynamics with a full board and separate e-board not always in agreement, and the fact that we were not getting information (reports) monthly from the previous lobbyist. He attended a meeting and was arrogant about being here on a Saturday.

Mr. Strube asked President Ordway if the State had a lobbyist (they do) and if we could make it a cooperative effort to seek funding. Mr. Ordway did not see an issue with this. Mr. Hull asked that he and Mr. Otterbein be kept in the loop as we are the Liaison chairs for each respective group.

A vote was taken and approved to seek information only at this time about a lobbyist.

Discussion followed about Managers contacting any representatives they know to seek support of funding. We should be able to talk to our assemblyman and state senators.

Mr. Bell spoke on an example of other funding (9-1-1 fund) and it could be better used instead of balancing the State budget.

Mr. Keyser asked about our new admission policy and the fact it reads firefighter. He asked about auxiliary members or fire police. Mr. Apgar responded that they must be a firefighter. Mr. Hull elaborated that this was debated during the creation of the policy. They must be a firefighter to qualify, not other classification of membership.

Mr. Miller asked that the finance committee look into giving the managers an increase in the quarterly stipend. He suggested an increase of \$250 a quarter which is approximately \$83.33 a month. The total increase for managers would be \$1000 so the annual increase to our budget based on the total number of managers would be \$21,000. The finance committee will explore it for the next budget.

#### **Payment of Bills:**

Mr. Hull reported the total bills in the amount of \$414,929.10. Upon motion, a roll call vote was taken and the bills payment was approved.

#### **Motions and Resolutions:**

None

**Public Participation:**

Mr. Otterbein, Essex County Executive Committeeman expressed his thanks to the Home for the care of his brother in law who was a guest of the Home for several years. Mr. Otterbein thanked the Home for great care and the fabulous job they did for him while he was here. He asked Mr. Veras to thank the staff on behalf of his family.

Vice Chairman Apgar expressed the board's condolences to Mr. Otterbein for his loss.

**Executive Session:**

None had.

**Good and Welfare:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 0943 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RH' followed by a stylized flourish.

Roger Hull  
Secretary