

The October 12, 2024 Re-organization Meeting of the New Jersey Firemen's Home Board of Managers was called to order by Chairman Washer at 0900 hours followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Dutch provided the invocation.

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

Roll call was taken with all members of the Board of Managers present, with the exception of Mr. Strube who was excused..

Attorney, Mr. Bell Jr. who is filling in for his father, Mr. Bell Sr., administered the oath of office to the following newly elected and re-elected managers for a four year term commencing October 1, 2024:

Glenn C. Wilson	Warren County
Nicholas Giglio Jr.	Monmouth County
Thomas G. Sutphen	Somerset County
Michael Joas	Camden County
VACANT	Salem County

Chairman Washer congratulated the re-elected managers and welcomed the new manager to the Board.

Chairman Washer then selected Mr. Lugossy to serve as Chairman of the Election Judges, and Mr. Miller and Mr. Mitch to serve as election judges. Each candidate could select a challenger if their is a contested election. Mr. Sutphen motioned that if positions are unopposed the Secretary shall cast a single ballot.

Mr. Bell Jr. was appointed Chairman Protem and he opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Managers. Mr. Washer was nominated, unopposed.

Mr. Washer then took back the meeting as Chairman and opened the floor up for nominations for Vice- Chairman of the Board of Managers. Mr. Apgar was nominated, unopposed.

Nominations were opened for the position of Secretary. Mr. Hull was nominated, unopposed.

Nominations were opened for the position of Treasurer. Mr Sutphen was nominated, unopposed.

Nomination and approval of Professional/ Misc. Appointments for a one (1) year term were made.

The following appointments were approved, with President Ordway noting that the Stenographer's name was incorrectly spelled on the meeting agenda, Secretary Hull apologized (corrected below):

Pension Actuary	David E. Klein
Insurance Broker	Round Risk Partners, LLC (formerly Hughes-Plumer Associates)
Medical Director	Dr. Jay Meyerowitz
Consulting Psychiatric Physician	Dr. Julie Tropeano
Portable X-Rays	Specialty Portable X-Ray Inc.
Stenographer	Mary Ann Saeger
Official Newspaper	Star Ledger

Auditors
Solicitor

Yodice & Company
Joseph Bell

The 2024-2025 meeting dates (attached) for the Full Board were approved.

The Re-organization Meeting was adjourned, with a five minute recess being called before the commencement regular Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger Hull
Secretary

Following a brief recess from this morning's Re-Organization Meeting, the October 12, 2024 meeting of the New Jersey Firemen's Home Board of Managers was called back to order by Chairman Washer.

*The pledge of allegiance; public notice; and roll call had been previously taken during the re-organization portion of the meeting.

The meeting resumed the order of business.

The minutes from the September 12, 2024 Full Board Meeting were approved.

Communications:

Secretary Hull read a card that was sent by the family of Guest Daniel Zink, thanking the Home and staff for the wonderful care of their father.

Reports of Officers:

Secretary:

Mr. Hull thanked everyone for re-electing him and he will continue to get the minutes and information out in quick manner. Mr. Hull asked if anyone would like items mailed to them in addition to the digital email copies to please contact him.

Treasurer:

Mr. Sutphen thanked everyone for their confidence in him. Mr. Sutphen advised that we are three months into our current budget and the projected numbers are fine.

Superintendent:

Mr. Veras congratulated the new manager and those re-elected. Mr. Veras advised that he wants to get our information booklet to the printer. He has Mr. Joas' information and Salem County will be left blank until a manager is elected there. We can print sticker to be added later. Anyone wishing to change their contact information, please see Mr. Veras.

Our recent water testing found two small positive results. The water chlorination system that the State wanted with trackable chlorination is on order and will be installed. Mr. Veras added that the trace amounts Legionella in our water system is NOT the kind that causes Legionnaires Disease.

Managers were reminded of our HIPPA policies and training. We can not discuss guest care outside of the facility. Mr. Veras advised we will be doing the training again.

On October 19th we will be hosting the Antique Fire Truck Muster from 9-2 and the guests are very excited. It is also a great PR event.

Legal Counsel:

Mr. Bell Jr. advised that they are working on a guest removal policy. The draft was submitted to the Superintendent and is under review. Once done, it will be presented to the Board.

Buildings and Grounds:

Mr. Keyser advised that he met with Maintenance Director Tom Hodierno on September 26th to discuss the issues with the chiller. The repairs we had done are a "band aid" and we will be budgeting to replace the chiller. The elevator project is awaiting all parts to be on site before the project starts. The heating coil in the exterior ramp to the dining room area is bad,

This would entail the concrete having to be chopped up. Mr. Keyser suggested using salt as an option instead of tearing up the ramp.

Mr. Keyser also provided a written report from Maintenance Director Hoderne on various projects and their status. (copy attached)

Applications:

Mr. Freeman provided a written report from the application committee meeting held on October 8, 2024 which is attached. The report indicated 75 guest in Long Term Care and 7 in Residential Care for a total of 82 guests. Since the last meeting there have been 1 new admission, and 2 additional new admissions are scheduled for this month. 2 guests have answered their final alarm. There are currently 7 admission applications of the waiting list. The next meeting for the Applications Committee is 0900 hours on Tuesday November 5, 2024 at the Home.

Mr. Apgar inquired if the managers had reached out to their applicants on the waiting list and referred them to the State Association's programs. Mr. Freeman replied he believed so, and reminded managers to keep in contact with applicants on the wait list as they contacted one recently for admission and learned they passed away.

Employee Committee:

Mr. Dutch reported that everything was quiet.

Finance and Budget Committee:

Mr. Hull provided a written report on the two meetings of the Audit and Finance Committee which is attached. The committee met on October 1, 2024 and prepared the 2025-2026 budget. The new budget reflects a 5.09% increase overall. Copies of the budget will be distributed at the conclusion of today's meeting with each manager signing for their copy. Managers are asked to review the budget and be prepared for discussion and action at November's meeting.

The committee held its regular meeting on October 8, 2024. Bills for the month were reported in the amount of \$610,991.58. All revenue and expense vouchers were reviewed and found to be in order.

The next meeting of the finance committee will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 8:00 AM at the Home.

Mr. Hull added one comment on the budget that the managers will see upon review and wish it be known before the rumors get out into the field. The committee has recommended the re-instatement of the suspended guest fees. Any managers who have questions about the budget can contact Mr. Hull.

Superintendent Veras commented that he has met with the Resident's Council as the rumor about the return of guest fees is already in the building.

Insurance:

Mr. Strube was absent and there was no report.

Legislative Committee:

Mr. Lugossy reported that the Governor signed into law bill # S2435 which revises certain requirements for reimbursement from the Emergency Medical Technician Training Fund. It was signed on September 12, 2024 and is approved as PL 2024 Chapter 68.

Additionally, Mr Lugossy advised of two identical bills, S1238 and A3151 which will require employers to train their employees on the legal rights of disabled people with service dogs. The bill is supported by the American Kennel Club and also recommends that anyone who believes they were victims of discrimination because of their service dog, they should contact the US Attorney's Office of Civil Rights.

By-laws:

Mr. Apgar reported that they are awaiting the new committee assignments and have no report at this time.

Museum:

Mr. Hull advised he has this year's convention medals to add to our display as well as additional patches for the boards that were received.

Public Relations:

Mr. Wilson thanked everyone who helped out with the convention in Wildwood. He thanked Mr. Dunn for getting our items to Wildwood. Mr. Wilson added that signing in and just standing in front of our table is not helpful. Please help hand out items and do not block our table.

Ethics and Code of Conduct:

Mr. Sutphen advised no report.

Pension:

Mr. Washer advised he had no report.

Inventory:

Mr. Wilson reported all is well, no additional report.

Golf Committee:

Mr. Signorello advised we will start talking about 2025's event in January.

Liaison to the State Association:

Mr. Hull advised that it was a good convention and deferred to President Ordway's report for further. Mr. Hull added he will continue to attend the State meetings if placed back on the committee.

Inspections:

Mr. Miller reported that he conducted the inspection with Mr. Dunn this morning. Everything was reported to be neat, clean and orderly. There were a lot of happy staff and guests they encountered. Mr. Miller reported that our elevator is still working at a snail's pace and the clock in room # 290 is wrong. (*comments from floor that it is right twice a day). No other issues found during the building inspection.

Superintendent Veras added that parts for the elevator project have begun to arrive.

Long Term Planning Committee:

Mr. Sutphen reported that they had a short meeting this morning. They have a 3- 5 year plan that includes and replacement schedule on major items. Mr. Sutphen mentioned the chiller and administration roofs as being examples of items on the list. The committee also received the report from the actuary that they will review for next month.

Building Addition Committee:

Mr. Cunningham reported that the committee had also received the actuary report and they will also review it, digest it and move forward. Mr. Cunningham added that sub-committees with the Home Staff would be formed if needed in the future to move forward.

State Firemen's Association:

President Ordway reported that the convention went well. All of the State Officers were re-elected and the four resolutions that were voted on all passed.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

Mr. Keyser inquired into who does the annual employee evaluation of the Superintendent. He added that the Superintendent evaluates all employees, but who does the Superintendent's evaluation? Mr. Heflich began to comment on the fine job Mr. Veras was doing, but Chairman Washer and Attorney Bell advised that it not appropriate to discuss an employee in this matter without notice. The general question was fine, but terms of employment etc. were not. The Superintendent is reviewed by the Employee Committee was the consensus.

Mr. Signorello advised that he was recently at the New Jersey Fire Museum in Allentown for a "Firemen's Gala." The museum invited us there and offered to host one of our meetings next year.

Mr. Heflich commented on the elevator project on behalf of guest Joseph Landy and he advised Landy that it would be done by December.

Mr. Jeffer commented that we only have one handicapped parking space for the building and that we really should have more. Mr. Veras advised that they are in the process of fixing cracks in the asphalt and will be re-striping the parking lots. He will review with the parking spaces with maintenance department and add additional handicap spots.

Mr. Heflich congratulated the new manager and those re-elected. He also congratulated Mr. Ordway on his "tough" re-election.

Payment of Bills:

Mr. Hull reported the total bills in the amount of \$610,991.58. Upon motion, a roll call vote was taken and the bills payment was approved.

Motions and Resolutions:

None.

Public Participation:

Mr. Otterbein, Executive Committeeman from Essex County asked two questions of the Board.

1- What is the status of the revisions to the entrance qualifications to the Home?- ie changing it to 84 months of service.

Chairman Washer advised that it is still a work in progress with the applications committee.

2- Mr. Otterbein inquired if the applications that are pending on the waiting all have 84 months of service?

Superintendent Veras advised that this was part of the actuary study and it was found that the average length of service for the guests of the Home is 27 years. Mr. Otterbein felt that this did not answer his question. *Comment from the floor that the policy still has not been changed.

Closed Session:

None had.

Good and Welfare:

Mr. Signorello advised the former Union County Manager Tom Murray has applied to the Home and his wife is aware of our current wait list. He is not doing well and is home on Hospice care. Mr. Signorello spoke of Mr. Murray's service to the Home and asked we keep him in our prayers.

Mr. Freeman wished to thank Monica and the recreation staff for handling the 100 pumpkins Mr. Freeman had gotten donated to the Home. The guests got to decorate them and had a little contest doing so. The recreation department is doing a good job.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 0949 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger Hull
Secretary