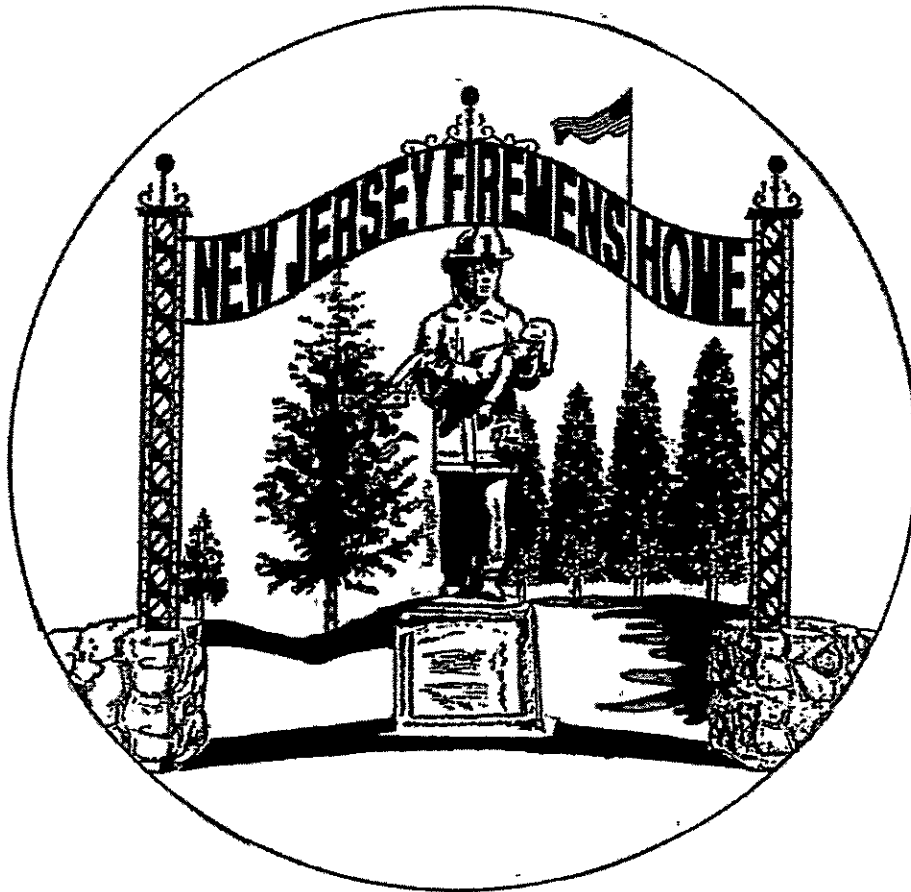


New Jersey Firemen's Home Full Board Meeting



March 8, 2025

The March 8, 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 managers Lugossy, Sutphen, and Miller being excused. *Salem county position currently vacant.

Mr. Bell administered the oath of office to newly elected Hudson County Manager Michael Berckes who is filling an unexpired term.

The minutes from the February 8, 2025 Board meeting was approved.

Communications:

Secretary Hull read a letter from 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 from the Board of Managers. The matter will be discussed during new business. Copy of the letter is attached.

Reports of Officers:

Secretary:

Mr. Hull advised that after discussion with the Superintendent, DRAFT copies of the meeting minutes for review, will only be sent to current managers as well as Mr. Walker the Executive Committeeman from Salem who is assisting in the absence of a manager in that County. We get requests from past managers for copies of the minutes. They will continue to get copies only after they are approved.

Mr. Hull added that there are petitions for re-election on the front table for the five managers that are up this year.

Treasurer:

Mr. Sutphen was not present but submitted a written report to Secretary Hull which was read. Mr. Sutphen reported that if anyone has experienced a toll increase in their travel to and from the Home to please let him know by April 1st. We are eight months into our current budget and everything looks good.

Superintendent:

Mr. Veras reported that the flu is 100% out of the building. We had quite and outbreak that resulted in some quarantining.

The NJFH emails are set up and managers are reminded to start using them. Information on guests will only be sent to NJFH emails. This is to be HIPPA compliant. No emails will be going out about guests until all managers are set up.

We changed out lab provider as part of day to day operations. There was no cost to do so and we have phlebotomist here and get quicker results.

Mr. Veras invited newer managers to watch a presentation he put together for the NJPFA that is very informative about the history of the Home. It will be shown in Mr. Veras' office after the meeting for those interested.

Our BBQ season starts in May. The equipment for the outdoor kitchen has been ordered and will hopefully be done by May.

Legal Counsel:

Mr. Bell reported that he is working on an agreement with the Board of Education for the use of the athletic fields on our property. It will be done and presented to the Managers next month.

Buildings and Grounds:

Mr. Keyser provided a written report from Maintenance Director Hodiern listing the status of various projects. A copy is attached. A status report on the elevator project is attached to the report. The elevator replacement project is behind schedule. He added that our water testing costs approximately \$6000.00 per testing. Mr. Keyser added that the work, painting and crown moulding, in Dorm D solarium is complete.

Mr. Veras was asked if the materials for the outdoor BBQ project was here to which he replied "no".

Mr. Wilson inquired what have the recent water test results revealed.

Mr. Keyser replied "very little" our new chlorination system is doing its job.

Mr. Veras elaborated that we have had one positive from 22 sites that are tested. Legionella is found in a biofilm that forms on the pipes. To prevent this, the Home has had a bypass valve that allows super hot water to flow through the pipes and flush the water system. Additionally, timers have been added to all the tubs that allow them to turn on and flush themselves preventing water from sitting still in the pipes. Our new water consultant is taking the State to task on some of the testing. After discussion with the town about the chlorination of our incoming water, recent State laws passed about water chlorination and advising that we have testing records, the levels have now increased to the proper level. Imagine that. There are three ways to treat and prevent Legionella in the pipes and that is: chlorine, heat, and flushing. We are doing all three.

Mr. Apgar inquired how much we spent on water testing and Mr. Veras responded we have had testing twice a month for one year now at \$6000.00 a test. We are approaching \$200,000 being spent on the water issues with testing and our new chlorination system.

Applications:

Mr. Freeman provided a written report of the application committee meeting held on March 4, 2025 which is attached. The report indicated 73 guest in Long Term Care and 5 in Residential Care for a total of 78 guests. Since the last meeting, there was no admissions to the Home. Three residents answered their final alarm this month. There are 11 applications on the waiting list as of February 28, 2025. The next meeting for the Applications Committee is 0900 hours on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at the Home.

Employee Committee:

Mr. Dutch advised that it is quiet and nothing doing at this time.

Finance and Budget Committee:

Mr. Hull read a written report from the March 4, 2025 meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee which is attached. The committee reviewed revenue and expense reports from July 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025, as well as vouchers for the period of February 4th through March 4, 2025. Bills were reported in the amount of \$590,380.99.

The committee reviewed and discussed bills for the elevator project, currently in the amount of approximately \$52,000 which will come from the property account as fund were allocated and transferred there last budget. Mr. Hull also made note of our monthly State benefits bill which is \$117,000.

The next meeting of the committee will be at 0800 hours on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at the Home.

Insurance:

Mr. Strube advised that everything is in order and there is nothing new report at this time.

Legislative Committee:

Mr. Lugossy was excused and no report was provided.

By-laws:

Mr. Apgar advised that he had spoken to Mr. Bell about some items and they will have a report next month.

Museum:

Mr. Hull reported progress. Mr. Signorello added that the Westfield Fire Department will be borrowing the hose cart they have in the museum for their 100th Anniversary event and will then return it. Mr. Veras will help arrange this.

Public Relations:

Mr. Wilson reported that the committee will be meeting immediately after this meeting to continue discussions. Nothing further.

Ethics and Code of Conduct:

Mr. Sutphen was excused, no report..

Pension:

Mr. Washer advised he had nothing to report.

Inventory:

Mr. Wilson advised nothing new.

Golf Committee:

Mr. Signorello reported that the Golf flier was mailed out to all of last year's participants and sponsors. We are hoping for good weather. We have several managers away, and will need all the help we can get. Fliers for the outing are on the front table.

Liaison to the State Association:

Mr. Hull advised he was unable to attend the State's last meeting and Mr. Dunn compiled a written report of the meeting that had been distributed to all of the managers. (copy attached). Mr. Hull read a summary of Mr. Dunn's report and thanked him for such a detailed report. Chairman Washer appointed Mr Joas to the committee.

Mr. Veras commented on one item that was in the report which was there is NO hard and fast plan for the addition or number of rooms as it was reported by State's Home Committee.

Inspections:

Mr. Wilson advised that he will be doing the inspection with Mr. Hull this afternoon. Any problems will be reported to the Superintendent. Mr. Dutch added that it has been some time since we have gone over our back property. Rebar markers had been placed to mark our property lines and probably are due for re-painting. Mr. Dutch asked if maintenance can go out and check. Mr. Hull joked that we might have another surprise RVRSA building on our property. Mr. Veras will have maintenance check. Comments from floor to maybe put caps on the rebar for easier locating.

Long Term Planning/Addition Committee:

Mr. Cunningham reported on behalf of the committee that they are awaiting a report from the architect. Nothing further to report at this time.

State Firemen's Association:

President Ordway advised that Mr. Dunn's report covered most. There is one association from Ocean County not being seated at the convention. Petitions are here if you wish to run for a position. Four spots have been added for signatures but only two are required. The additional spots were added in case there is an issue with one of the signers. The "Tom Sutphen rule."

Mr. Signorello asked if someone could be nominated from the floor at the caucus. Mr. Ordway replied yes, a motion and a second from the floor is fine. The petition is to just get your name on the ballot.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Signorello advised that he wanted to know the status of the unfortunate incident that happened two months ago.

Mr. Ordway responded that Mr. Hull previously reported that he and Mr. Handlin spoke, Mr. Handlin apologized and the matter was over and closed.

Mr. Signorello stated that things were said in a threatening manner to him, Mr. Joas and Mr. Cunningham. None of them received an apology. Mr. Signorello added that he would like a copy of the video of what happened and is considering taking matters into his own hands by maybe going to the Morris County Prosecutor's Office.

Mr. Apgar responded that he had been asked to reach out to Mr. Handlin and did so as requested. They spoke two times and Mr. Handlin see things different and didn't feel it was necessary to apologize (to Mr. Signorello, Cunningham and Joas). The confrontation was more with Mr. Hull, but threaten comments were made to other managers.

Mr. Strube recommended setting up a meeting with Mr. Bell and all parties involved and maybe, after apologies, it is done.

Mr. Bell stated he was amendable to that idea.

Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Joas and Mr. Signorello were also agreeable to a meeting. Mr. Signorello added that he is not happy, there is the "tale of the tape" if Mr. Handlin thinks 'nothing happened', referencing our video system.

Mr. Strube added that maybe it could be settled with a handshake.

New Business:

Mr. Keyser reminded Managers to make sure applicants are aware that the monthly guest fee is being reinstated July 1st. There are processes for those who claim hardship.

Chairman Washer appointed Mr. Cunningham to fill the vacant spot on the Finance Committee.

The letter from the Secaucus Firemen's Relief Association was addressed by Mr. Hull. There was never any restriction barring Mr. Heflich from being a guest of the Home if he needed the services he earned. Additionally, if an immediate family member of Mr. Heflich does become a guest of the Home we can revisit the restrictions on him being at the Home at that time.

Mr. Jeffer commented that he felt that we could be penalizing guests that are friends with Mr. Heflich and that is wrong. Guest might want to see him.

Mr. Strube responded that what Mr. Heflich did was wrong.

Mr. Hull added that we had a hearing, we debated this, voted on it and are not re-litigating it today. We will clarify that Mr. Heflich was never barred from being a guest of the Home and

that if the day comes an immediate family member of George is in the Home, we will then revisit the matter. This was approved from the floor and Mr. Hull will send a response to the Secaucus Relief Association and copy Mr. Heflich.

Payment of Bills:

Mr. Hull reported the total bills in the amount of \$590,380.99. Upon motion, a roll call vote was taken and the bills payment was approved.

Motions and Resolutions:

None

Public Participation:

Mr. Otterbien, Essex County Committeeman and Chairman of the State Association's Firemen Home Committee thanked Superintendent Veras for the information he provided with regards to the number of rooms and occupancy of the Home. It was very informative.

Executive Session:

None had.

Good and Welfare:

Mr. Giglio advised that a Monmouth County guest recently passed away and when he spoke with the funeral home they commented how he was "the cleanest person they ever received from a nursing home" and could tell how he was really cared for.

Mr. Hull added that the Ocean County Fire Marshals FMBA Local #98 is hosting a Motor Vehicle Fire Investigation Course at the Ocean County Fire Academy in June. It is a hands on investigations class with live burns. There are fliers on the front table, please take and share with your county's fire marshals and fire investigators.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 0950 hours.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger Hull
Secretary