

New Jersey Firemen's Home Full Board Meeting



October 11, 2025

Date: Saturday, October 11, 2025
Location: New Jersey Firemen's Home
Called to Order: 9:15 AM
Presiding: Chair (Timothy Apgar)
Recorder: Secretary (Amy DeVirgilio)

Roll Call:

Managers present 20; Superintendent John Veras; Legal Counsel Mr. Bell.

Approval of Prior Minutes:

- **September 11, 2025 Minutes** — approved

Communications:

- Chair and Secretary reported **no new written communications** received.

Chair's Remarks:

- Thanks to managers, staff, and guests; commitment to teamwork and forward progress.
- Recognition of Executive Committee attendees.

Proclamations & Recognitions:

- **Manager Gilbert "Gil" Lagosi (Mercer County)** — Proclamation honoring **26 years** of service (Legislative Committee Chair; Finance and Museum Committees). Best wishes on retirement.
 - Remarks by Mr. Lagosi (turns 90 on March 11; gratitude for the Home).
- **Manager Peter Jeffer (Bergen County)** — Proclamation honoring distinguished service (Bylaws and Applications Committees; other assignments). Best wishes on retirement.
 - Remarks by Mr. Jeffer (gratitude; "privilege to serve").

Officers' Reports:

Secretary: No report.

Treasurer: Month 4 of current budget year; finances in good shape.

Superintendent:

Security software updated; some PINs reset. Managers may opt to restore PIN instead of fob—contact Superintendent.

- **Town of Boonton request** to use lower "Farm" parcel for a community garden (labor/fencing/insurance provided by town; gravel-only parking; access via existing gate).
 - **ACTION/VOTE:** Board authorized counsel and administration to draft an indemnified agreement (hold harmless; fencing; site plan approval; annual renewal; cultivation restrictions; town to provide water). Approved by all managers with one opposed by Mr. Hull.
- **Water testing:** Latest results show improvement (one site previously 0.5 ppm non-pneumophila legionella). State has approved reduced sampling sites, lowering costs. Continue monitoring.
- **Pavilion awning** installed (donation from Lacey Township Elks).
- **Pension notices:** Four managers have changes; see Superintendent after meeting for paperwork.
- **Department of Health survey:** 11 surveyors onsite Wed–Tue (non-CMS facility sweep). Minor issues discussed; final determinations issued by Trenton within 10 business days of exit.

Legal Counsel (Mr. Bell):

- Completed a first pass of Bylaws. Noted multiple areas for modernization (last update 2011). Will coordinate with Bylaws Committee on revisions and process.

Committee Reports:**Buildings & Grounds (Keyser):**

- Seasonal grounds transition complete (summer planters removed; fall setup in place).
- Chiller replacement: awaiting spec book to ensure "drop-in" compatibility; aim to avoid re-plumbing.

Applications (Freeman): **Report attached**

- Census (as of 9/30/25): Total 69 residents (breakdown read into record). Four final alarms since prior meeting.
- Pipeline: 3 admissions scheduled; ~15 applications in progress.
- Process updates:
 - Applicants contacted get 2-week response window; non-responses move to bottom of list.
 - Med/psych evals expire after 6 months; renewals requested as needed.
 - Infection control constraints limit rooming options; some applicants must await appropriate placement.

Finance & Budget (Keyser): **Report attached**

- Preliminary FY26–27 budget reviewed; discussion of 2–5% merit raises
- Possible special meeting late October; budget vote targeted for Nov 8, 2025.
- Monthly disbursements \$494,943.30.

Insurance (Strube):

- State Health Benefits Plan (projected +37% health / +63% Rx).
- Joining Foundations HIF effective Jan 1, projected ~+14% for health.
- Plan to market in 2027 based on favorable utilization (~57%).

Legislative (Miller): **Report attached**

- 26 bills currently on Governor's desk; A-5792 signed 8/21/2025

Museum (Hull):

- Progress. Report

Public Relations (Wilson): Positive feedback on Wildwood presence; thanks to logistics team.

Ethics & Code of Conduct (Sutphen):

- No report.

Pension (Apgar):

- No report; actuary transition at BPS (Mr. Kline retired; Mary Reinhart succeeding).

Inventory (Wilson):

- Nothing new to report.

Liaison to State Association (Hull):

- Convention concluded, differ to report from President Orway.

Inspection (Miller/Dunn):

- No deficiencies observed in today's inspection.

Long-Term Planning (Sutphen):

- KDA to present at November meeting (same materials previously circulated)

Unfinished Business:

- None.

New Business:

- Parish soccer field request: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Boonton requested field use; referred to existing Boonton BOE contract holder to coordinate.
- Capital lift device: B&G supportive; will advance as a capital item with state-contract pricing if eligible.
- Manager Miller brought up compensation increase. Motion to increase county-based compensation by \$250/quarter per manager. Approved by all managers with one opposed by Mr. Hull.
- Budget packets to be sent UPS this week.

Payment of Bills:

- \$494,943.30 — Motion to approve; roll call approved.

Motions & Resolutions:

- None beyond items noted above.

Public Participation:

- Resident Sam Henderson expressed heartfelt appreciation for care and staff.
- Chief Charles Lynn, Jr. (Deputy & Battalion Fire Chiefs Association President) urged timely progress on facility expansion; offered organizational support; emphasized moral duty and partnership with the State if needed.
 - Board acknowledged the input; reiterated November KDA presentation, need for hard costs, and funding pathway work.

Good & Welfare:

- Manager Don Windsor (1972–1996) memorialized, recent funeral and interment at the Home's cemetery. Staff commended for exemplary care and integrity. Anticipated estate gift to the Home noted (details pending settlement).
- Seasonal resident events (pumpkins/pies) acknowledged.

Executive Session:

- None.

Adjournment:

- Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy DeVirgilio
Secretary

New Jersey Firemen's Home Reorganization Meeting



October 11, 2025

The October 11, 2025, Reorganization meeting of the New Jersey Firemen's Home Board of Managers was called to order by Acting Chairman Apgar at 0900 hours and was followed by the pledge of allegiance. The invocation was provided by Manager Dutch.

Mr. Apgar advised that proper public notice had been 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.

Attorney, Mr. John Bell Sr., administered the oath of office to the following newly elected and re-elected managers for a four-year term commencing on October 1, 2025:

Oscar Dutch Jr.	Atlantic County
Roy DeYoung Jr.	Bergen County
Harry Strube Jr.	Gloucester County
Roger Hull	Ocean County
Thomas Washer	Sussex County

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

Acting Chairman Apgar then selected Mr. Wilson to serve as Chairman of the Election Judges, and Mr. Washer and Mr. Strube to serve as election judges. Each candidate could select a challenger if there is a contested election.

Mr. Bell Sr. was appointed Chairman Protem and he opened the floor for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Managers. Mr. Apgar was nominated by Mr. Hull, 2nd by Mr. Keyser, unopposed. Mr. Ordway motioned that the Secretary cast one ballot for Mr. Apgar, motion carried.

Mr. Apgar then took back the meeting as Chairman and opened the floor up for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board of Managers. Mr. Miller was nominated by Mr. Hull, 2nd by Mr. Keyser, unopposed. Mr. Washer motioned that the Secretary cast one ballot for Mr. Miller, and the motion carried.

Nominations were opened for the position of Secretary. Ms. DeVirgilio was nominated by Mr. Dunn, 2nd by Mr. Wilson, unopposed. Mr. Ordway motioned that the Secretary cast one ballot for Ms. DeVirgilio, motion carried.

Nominations were opened for the position of Treasurer. Mr. Sutphen was nominated by Mr. Cunningham, 2nd by Ms. Devirgilio. Mr. Ordway motioned that the Secretary cast one ballot for Mr. Sutphen, and the motion carried.

Nominations and approval of Professional/Misc. Appointments for a one (1) year term were made. Mr. Keyser made a motion, 2nd by Wilson, that the following appointments be approved, motion carried:

The following appointments were approved:

Pension Actuary	Mary Reinhardt, CEBS, RPA
Insurance Broker	Round Hill Risk Partners, LLC
Medical Director	Dr. Jay Meyerowitz
Consulting Psychiatric Physician	Dr. Julie Tropeano
Portable X-Rays	Specialty Portable X-Ray Inc.
Stenographer	Mary Ann Sager
Designation of Official Newspaper	Star Ledger
Auditors	Yodice & Company
Solicitor	Joseph Bell

The 2025-2026 meeting dates (attached) for the Full Board were approved.

The Reorganization meeting was adjourned, with a five-minute recess being called before the commencement of the regular Full Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Dunn
Acting Secretary