



**New Jersey State Association of Fire Districts
March 6, 2021 Quarterly Meeting**

The NJSAFD March 6, 2021, Quarterly Meeting was held at the North Stelton Fire Station located at 72 Haines Ave., in Piscataway, NJ 08854.

Attendance:

See website for sign-in sheets

Time:

9:30 hours

President Harry Carter called the meeting to order (which was held via Zoom & In-Person).

- Flag Salute / Moment of silence

Roll call of Officers:

*President – Dr. Harry Carter – Present
Vice President – Craig Aumack - Present
Secretary – Artie Hayducka – Present
Treasurer – Robert Burns - Present*

Treasurer's Report – Not available at this time.

Secretary Report - Artie Hayducka

Website update \$150.00
US Postage stamps \$150.00
Copies of minutes \$105.83
Total -----\$405.83

Old Business

None.

New Business

Secretary Artie Hayducka reported that his E-mail was hacked again and he has a new e-mail address which is as follows Hayducka426@GMail.com

Attorney Richard Braslow held a long and lengthy discussion on the new Elections Rules and the School board Elections which will occur in April of this year.

Vice President Craig Aumack read and reviewed Lynn Nowak's reports.

Please see the attached reports from Lynn Nowak.

Election of Officers for 2021

Executive Board

President Harry Carter
Vice President Craig Aumack
Secretary Artie Hayducka
Treasurer Robert Burns

Trustee's

South: Joseph Zalescik - 2021 - Trustee
South: Clifford Ruth - 2021 - Trustee
North: Robert Donahue - 2021 - Trustee
South: Randolph Jager - 2021 - Trustee
North: Nick Lombardi - 2021 - Trustee

Closing

The next NJSAFD quarterly meeting will be on June 5, 2021 at 9:30am via Zoom as well as In-Person at the North Stelton Fire Station located at 72 Haines Ave, in Piscataway, NJ 08854

****Zoom Meeting Link****

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74279414002?pwd=d3pHRkdVeGxocUJZZFhDdVQxRC9DUT09>

Meeting ID: 742 7941 4002
Passcode: sbtB5m

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

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**NEW JERSEY STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS
QUARTERLY REPORT
BY LYNN NOWAK
MARCH 6, 2021**

FIRE DISTRICT ELECTIONS

On December 21, 2020, Governor Murphy issued an executive order moving February fire district elections to April. He subsequently issued a notice that the April elections would be in person and two other executive orders on this topic. Please note that Governor's Counsel's office communicated with me on this on an ongoing basis and set conference calls with representatives from DCA on which Rich and I participated to provide input.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 211

ISSUED DEC 21, 2020

FEBRUARY FIRE DISTRICT ELECTIONS MOVED TO APRIL 20, 2021

<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-211.pdf>

EXECUTIVE ORDER 216

ISSUED JAN 26, 2021

REGARDING SUBMISSION OF PETITIONS FOR CANDIDACY

<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-216.pdf>

ANNOUNCEMENT

ISSUED FEB 8, 2021

APRIL 20 FIRE DISTRICT AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS WILL BE IN PERSON

EXECUTIVE ORDER 223

ISSUED FEB 19, 2021

REGARDING FIRE DISTRICT ELECTIONS WHERE A SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION IS ALSO TAKING PLACE THE SAME DAY

NOTE: THIS ONLY PERTAINS TO EAST AMWELL, BUENA VISTA TOWNSHIP AND BUENA BOROUGH

<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-223.pdf>

CAPITAL PURCHASES

A2352, Dancer – Permits fire districts to undertake capital projects upon resolution of board of fire commissioners. (Removes the voter approval mandate for fire district capital purchases and debt issuances.)

Introduced on Feb 3, 2020 and referred to the Assembly State and Local Government Committee.

We had a call with Senator Bob Smith on Dec 4 asking him to sponsor the bill in the upper house. He was frank and advised that he did not believe that the legislature would be amenable to removing voter approval on anything at this time. He suggest that we look at

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the statute that provides school districts with another option when voters reject a capital construction referendum. He said he would be happy to take that to the Office of Legislative Services to draft a bill tailored to fire district needs and he would sponsor it. I found the statute (short title below). Rich and I agree that it is not ideal. We need to work on this.

N.J.S.A. 18A:7G-12 provides that a school district that has unsuccessfully sought to obtain voter approval for school facilities construction twice in a three-year period may apply to the Commissioner of Education for approval to issue school bonds for the local share of the project.

EXEMPT FIREMAN CERTIFICATES

A4745, Armato - Raises from 45 to 57 maximum eligibility age for exempt fireman certificates and membership in New Jersey State Fireman's Association.

S1634, Doherty – Raises from 45 to 60 maximum eligibility age for exempt fireman certificates and membership in New Jersey State Fireman's Association.

S1634 was heard and released by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on Fri, Dec 11. Amendments moved the eligibility age in this bill from 60 to 57. A4745 passed the full Assembly (75-0) on Jan 11, 2021, maintaining the age of 57. It was referred to the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee. Then, in an unusual practice, the full Senate passed S1634 (32-0) on Jan 28, 2021. Typically, as the Assembly bill passed first, it would have substituted by the Senate bill. S1634 is now referred to Assembly Law and Public Safety. The problem appears to be that the two bills are still not identical with the Assembly bill stating the individual not be more than 57 years old when joining the New Jersey Firemen's Association. The Senate bill maintains language in existing law: the individual not be more than [45] 57 years old when joining "fire engine, hook and ladder, hose and supply company or companies, fire association or fire department of board of fire wardens." This language is deleted in A4745.

STATE FIREMEN'S HOME

A5210, Burzichelli – Revises composition and certain functions of State Firemen's Home. Introduced on Jan 4, 2021 and referred to the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee. Both Craig and Rich contacted me and said that this had many in fire service very angry. I have spoken to the sponsor's chief of staff and he does not intend to move it in the near future and if it does move down the road, it will not be in its current form.

SHARED SERVICES

S1, Sweeney – Encourages sharing of services.

Senate President Sweeney has this bill moving again: it was heard and released by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on Feb 11, 2021 with substantial amendments I have shared this with Rich Braslow.

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LIGHT FRAME CONSTRUCTION

S2051, Weinberg - Establishes fire safety standards and protocols for certain light frame residential construction; requires project labor agreements for this construction; requires placards identifying primary structural systems of buildings.

Scheduled to be heard by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee on Mon, Sept 21 but it was held.

No further action.

IMMUNIZATION FROM CIVIL LIABILITY

A306, Danielson/**S1648**, Lagana – Provides immunization from civil liability for first responder who forcibly enters property to provide emergency assistance.

A306 passed the full Assembly on July 30 (73-1). S1648 was introduced on Feb 13, 2020 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

No further action.

COVID RELATED BILLS

S2691, Greenstein/ **A4310**, Benson - Requires Division of Local Government Services to approve local unit budgets with excess anticipated miscellaneous revenue due to COVID-19 and authorizes school districts to maintain surplus at four percent for 2020-2021 school year.

S2691 was heard released by the Senate Education Committee on Sept 14. A4310 was previously heard and released by the Assembly Education Committee on Aug 10. Senate floor amendments, passed on Oct 29, removed local government units so the bill now only pertains to school boards. It passed the full Senate unanimously on Nov 16. It passed the full Assembly on March 1 and is now on the Governor's desk.

FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS/FIRE EXTINGUISHERS /SMOKE ALARMS

A1656, Quijano/**S1805**, Ruiz – Requires fire suppression systems in new single and two family homes.

A1656 was introduced on Jan 14, 2020 and referred to the Assembly Housing Committee. It has not yet received a hearing in committee. S1805 was introduced on Feb 24, 2020 and referred to the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee, and likewise has not yet been heard.

No further action

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A2600, DeAngelo/S1518, Greenstein – “New Townhouse Fire Safety Act”; requires automatic fire sprinkler systems in new townhomes.

Both bills were introduced on Feb 13, 2020 and referred to committees, in the Assembly to Assembly Housing Committee, in the Senate to Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee.

No further action

A859, Chiaravalloti - Requires Division of Fire Safety to annually distribute smoke alarms; appropriates \$1 million.

A859 was introduced on Jan 14, 2020 and referred to the Assembly Housing Committee. It has not yet had a hearing.

No further action

WATER COMPANY MANDATES

A1330, Mosquera – Prohibits water companies from assessing more than one charge per fire hydrant to fire departments, fire districts or volunteer fire companies for use of fire hydrants.

A1330 was introduced on Jan 14, 2020 and referred to the Assembly State and Local Government Committee. It is awaiting a hearing in committee.

A1331, Mosquera – Requires water companies to provide representative of fire department, fire district or volunteer fire company access fire hydrants for water flow rate testing purposes.

A1331 was introduced on Jan 14, 2020 and referred to the Assembly State and Local Government Committee. It is awaiting a hearing in committee.

No further action

OPMA AND OPRA REFORM

A748, Johnson/S379, Weinberg – Reforms Open Public Meetings Act;

Both bills were introduced on Jan 14, 2020. A748 was referred to the Assembly State and Local Government Committee, S379 was referred to the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee, neither has had a committee hearing yet.

A749, Johnson/S380, Weinberg – Reforms Opens Public Records Act.

Both bills were introduced on Jan 14, 2020. A749 was referred to Assembly State and Local Government Committee, and S380 was referred to Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee.

No further action

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SIGNED INTO LAW AND PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS

S238, Singleton/A2899, Space/ **A1106**, Murphy - Revises law governing training and duties of Junior Firefighters' Auxiliary members.

S238 was heard and released by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on Jan 30, 2020. I registered the support of the Association. It passed the full Senate unanimously on Feb 10. It was heard and released by Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee on Oct 19 and passed the full Assembly unanimously on Oct 29. The Senate concurred on Assembly amendments on the same date.

Signed into law, Nov 20, P.L. 202, c. 126

A3902, Wimberly – Permitted extension of certain municipal deadlines under emergency circumstances.

This bill very broadly permitted the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to extend the deadline where municipalities would have to make payments to other taxing districts including fire districts. While it passed the Assembly unanimously on March 25, the Senate chose not to act on this bill.

A3969, Danielsen/S2392, Sarlo – Permits extension of municipal deadlines under emergency circumstances.

This bill limited the extension to the first calendar day of the next calendar month. While almost every legislator, including the Senate sponsor, expressed unhappiness with the legislation (strongly supported by the Governor), it passed both houses by wide margins and was signed by the Governor on May 14, P.L. 2020, c. 34. Note that it also allows a local public body to conduct its meetings virtually during a state of local disaster emergency.

March 6, 2021

Richard Braslow		Artie Hayducka	
John Borden		Nick Lombardi	
Doug Hough		Brian Wallace	
Robert MacFaria		Greg Santonastaso	
Robert Burns		Doug Howelett	
Tim O'Donnell			
Grampa Pat			
Frank Biddle			
Dr Harry Carter			
Cliff Ruth			
T Beach			
Patrick Douglas			
D Titonn49s -I phone			
Jimbo			
George Patten			
Richp 143			