



**New Jersey State Association of Fire Districts
June 5, 2021 Quarterly Meeting**

The NJSAFD June 5, 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:

9:35 hours

Vice President Craig Aumack called the meeting to order.

- Flag Salute / Moment of silence

Roll call of Officers:

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

Secretary Report - Artie Hayducka

Website update	\$150.00
US Postage stamps	\$150.00
Copies of minutes	\$112.65
Envelopes	\$18.99
Total -----	\$431.64

After several months of calling the Wildwood Convention Center we contacted Mr. John Lynch who confirmed that we can have our Friday, September 17th, 2021, in person meeting at the convention hall at 09:30hours.

Treasurer's Report – Read by Vice President Craig Aumack

We deposited \$20,700:00 increasing our total to \$90,915:83

Year to date expense totaling \$14,932.78 leaving a ending balance of \$75,983.05

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Closing

The next NJSAFD quarterly meeting will be on September 17, 2021 at 9:30am via Zoom as well as In-Person at the Wildwood Convention Center located at 4501 Boardwalk in Wildwood, NJ 08260.

****Zoom Meeting Link****

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87254815174?pwd=MmVJSEtCU0pLZEtvUjJFRVdSSlllUT09>

Meeting ID: 872 5481 5174

Passcode: 08445

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

NEW JERSEY STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS
QUARTERLY REPORT
BY LYNN NOWAK
June 5, 2021

LOCAL NATIONAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

“Special purpose units of local government are not eligible for funding allocations.” “Special purpose units of government perform specific functions in the community such as fire....” However, “a state and ... may transfer funds to a special purpose unit of local government.” We need the state to transfer the funds to the fire districts. Regarding for what purposes a fire district could make the case for fund eligibility, please see 23 on page 8: funds can be utilized for “reduction of revenue forand FIRE and other public safety services.” Have fire districts experienced a reduction in revenue? I will reach out to Mike Cerra at the League to determine what municipal fire companies are using the funds for. I have potential meeting dates with John Butler and others in the Governor’s Office to discuss this. However, we need to discuss as well.

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.

These bills have been made identical – age of 57 – and have passed both houses and are now on the Governor’s desk following passage by the Senate on June 3. I have registered support for the Association as they have moved through the process.

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 and passed the full Senate on June 3, 2021 (31-0)

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.

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 was signed into law on March 15.***

FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS/FIRE EXTINGUISHERS /SMOKE ALARMS

A5200 (DeAngelo) - Requires bidders on public works construction projects to submit information on fire safety features. **This bill was released by the Assembly State and Local Government Committee on May 12.**

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

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 BUT MAJORITY LEADER WEINBERG HAS INDICATED THAT SHE IS MAKING THIS ONE OF HER LEGACY ISSUES IN THE LAME DUCK BEFORE SHE RETIRESL

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.*

