



**New Jersey State Association of Fire Districts
September 17, 2021 Quarterly Meeting**

The NJSAFD September 17, 2021, Quarterly Meeting was held at the Wildwood Convention Center located at 4501 Boardwalk in Wildwood, NJ 08260.

Attendance:

See website for sign-in sheets

Time:

9:30 hours

Vice President Craig Aumack called the meeting to order.

- Flag Salute / Moment of silence

Invocation: Commissioner Edward McDermott

Roll call of Officers:

President – Dr. Harry Carter – Excused

Vice President – Craig Aumack - Present

Secretary – Artie Hayducka – Present

Treasurer – Robert Burns – Excused

* All other attendees will be on the website NJSAFD.ORG

Introduction of guest & opening remarks Vice President Craig Aumack

Speakers:

Melissa Ford – NJ DCA Local Government Services.

- a. The Division requires all fire districts to have at least one official enrolled in the internet-based GovConnect network to receive Division and other state government information via e-mail. Once enrolled, an authorization link must be set up for specific Fire District information.

- b. Please contact egg@dca.nj.gov for further information – 609-633-6283
- c. Fire District Internet Website
- d. The website has had the attention of the public and the Division does receive a lot of feedback in non-compliance issues with the Websites. If the Officer is certifying the form, please make sure the website is in full compliance with the statute.
- e. 2022 Budget Submission
- f. Budget submittal and Hearing Dates.
- g. Please be mindful of the statutory due date for all 2022 Fire Districts which is 2/19/2022. There is only a small window of time for submittal, examinations, and approval. Due to the high volume of Fire District budgets in the small window submit their introduced budget as early as possible rather than waiting until the statutory due date.
- h. Revenue/ grants/sale of Assets-
- i. When including the anticipated revenue in the budget please include back -up documentation of the revenue for example: the grant award letter and/or a completed contract for the sale of the assets. If the back -up documentation cannot be presented a budget amendment would be required. If it was the sale of an asset, the asset can still be sold, and the revenue would just go into surplus.
- j. Variances over +/- 10%-
- k. Attach any supporting documentation that will help to explain the reason for the increase in the budgeted line item.
- l. Capital Appropriations
- m. Chief's vehicles (Special purpose vehicles)
- n. A vehicle used for responding to fire calls, is considered a special purpose vehicle for the purpose of determining useful life of the vehicle and (not a passenger vehicle) to have a useful life of 5 years or more as defined in NJSA 40A:2-22.
- o. All required documentation will be required for any special meeting and/or special election before budget approval will be granted.
- p. Election Results – should be submitted to the director within 3 days after the annual election in February. Failure to submit election results will delay the certification of taxes to the municipality. The Division requires a copy of the Election Ballot to be submitted along with the Election Results.
- q. Audit Report- To be submitted thru FAST. Many are Outstanding.

Existing Statute- New budget compliance

Municipal Approval of Elected Commissioners Compensation

- r. New this year- Each district must report commissioner salaries and have a resolution passed by the mayor's office. To get the budget approved

Question will be asked in the budget questionnaire
Appropriate resolutions must be uploaded in FAST.

Matt Gallelo: DCA/DLGS

2021 Fire District Convention - FAST

- 1) Fire districts will submit budget through FAST as they did last year – electronic system where you upload and submit budget to the Division.
- 2) Standard excel spreadsheet- available on website – FAST and Authority Budgets and Portal.
 - a. Single form – locked, formatted, etc.
 - b. Anyone can access and work on form.
 - c. Instructions are in workbook and online, information flows, reducing data entry.
 - d. New this year – Expanded and shortened sections.
- 3) Uploading to FAST:
 - a. Only designated fire district officials can access FAST to upload and submit.
 - i. Secretary to Board, Board Treasurer, Full-time Administrative Staff.
 - ii. Contracted preparers can complete our documents but cannot be the ones to upload and submit.
 - iii. New to FAST – google “NJ DCA FAST”, first result is website, link to portal on website. “New Users”. Register w/ name, email, username, password. Once logged in, click “Request Access”, select your fire district and submit.
 - b. All the supporting documentation that you would normally mail with your budget should be uploaded as an attachment in FAST.
 - i. Separate “slot” for each attachment.
 - c. Must click “Submit” to actually send to the division. You will receive email confirmation.
 - d. Place in FAST for introduced and Adopted Budgets.
 - i. Elections in February for budget, capital, levy cap, restricted fund balance must be reported in FAST in the adopted section

Lou Kilmer – DCA DFS

1. DCA/DFS is up and running 100%
2. Training classes will be through KEAN Programs, 150 CEU programs
40% will be in person and 60% will be on Zoom
3. 17th Homeland Security / Fire Safety Conference will be held Friday Oct 1, 2021
4. 18th Annual New Jersey Youth Fire Setter Intervention Conference will be held on
December 2-3, 2021, at Middlesex County Fire Academy.
5. 73 Fatal Fire which occurred in 1 & 2 Family homes this year
6. Governor Murphy sign on to the Fire & EMS Help hotline

Secretary Report - Artie Hayducka

Website update	\$150.00
US Postage stamps	\$110.00
Copies of minutes	\$136.35
Gift Basket for Dr. Carter	\$117.26
<u>Secretary Stipend</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>

Total -----\$1,013.61

Treasurer's Report – (See attached report) Robert Burns was excused from the meeting due to health reasons. Also Mr. Burns will be stepping down from the treasurer position.

Legislative Report – Lynn Nowak - (See attached report)

New Business

The swearing of the Executive Officers & Board Trustees:

Lou Kilmer from the DCA/DFS held the swearing in of officers

President – Dr Harry Carter – Excused

Vice President – Craig Aumack

Secretary – Artie Hayducka

Treasurer – Edward McDermott

Board of Trustees

South: Joseph Zalescik 2021

North: Robert Donahue 2021

Old Business

None.

Closing

The next NJSAFD quarterly meeting will be on December 4, 2021 at 9:30am at the Adelphia Fire Station located at 933 Route 33 in Freehold, NJ 07728.

Meeting adjourned.

New Jersey State Association of Fire Districts

Treasurer's Report

September 12, 2021

Checking Account

Check #	Date	Town	District	Amount	Balance
	5/31/2021	Beginning Balance		\$80,722.00	\$80,722.00
		Income			
35391	6/10/2021	Evesham	1	\$300.00	\$81,022.00
5311	8/25/2021	Lindemwold	1	\$300.00	\$81,322.00
10220	8/25/2021	Plainsboro	1	\$300.00	\$81,622.00
		Expense			
	6/30/2021	Bank fee		\$2.00	\$81,620.00
	7/31/2021	Bank fee		\$2.00	\$81,618.00
1096	6/3/2021	Arthur Hayducka		\$405.83	\$81,212.17
1097	8/25/2021	Craig Aumack		\$119.87	\$81,092.30
1095	6/3/2021	Porzio		\$6,180.00	\$74,912.30
	8/31/2021	Bank fee		\$2.00	\$74,910.30
		Total Expense		\$6,711.70	\$74,910.30
	8/31/2021	Checking Balance		\$74,910.30	\$74,910.30
Money Market Account	5/31/2021	Beginning Balance		28850.67	28850.67
		Income		\$25.04	\$25.04
	8/31/2021	Ending Balance		\$28,875.71	\$28,875.71
Combined Totals	5/31/2021	Beginning Balance		\$109,572.67	
		Change		(\$5,786.66)	
	8/31/2021	Ending Balance		\$103,786.01	

Bills to Pay

1099	9/12/2021	Porzio	\$6,180.00
1098	9/12/2021	Arthur Hayducka	\$1,013.61

Members

2019	126
2020	113
2021	72

This year we will end with a lower balance than last year. If we don't increase our membership we will continue to reduce our funds. Our expenses this year were less than last year. So, we will need significantly more money.

**NEW JERSEY STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS
ANNUAL REPORT
BY LYNN NOWAK
SEPTEMBER 17, 2021**

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN -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: funds can be utilized for “reduction of revenue forand FIRE and other public safety services.”

We met with John Butler, policy advisor to the Governor on these issues on Sept 15, 2021

CAPITAL PURCHASES

A2352, Dancer/Murphy – 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, 2020 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 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 and we need to work on the language.

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.

MOVING FEBRUARY ELECTIONS TO APRIL AND IN PERSON

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>

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 were made identical – age of 57. After passed both houses unanimously, Governor Murphy signed it into law on June 24, 2021: P.L. 2021, c. 123

I registered the Association's support for the legislation as it have moved through the process.

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. 2020, c. 126

SHARED SERVICES

S1, Sweeney/A3389, McKeon – 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). It was referred to the Assembly Commerce Committee.

STATE FIREMEN'S HOME

A5210, Burzichelli – Revises composition and certain functions of State Firemen's Home.

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. Then, in a very rare move for the NJ Legislature, the sponsor withdrew the bill from the files on June 9, 2021.

FIRE MUSEUM

A5075, Burzichelli/ S4001, Sweeney – Removes Fire Museum and Fallen Firefighters Memorial From auspices of DEP and establishes independent organization.

Passed the Assembly (72-1) on March 24, 2021 and the Senate (40-0) on June 24, 2021. It needed to return to the Assembly for concurrence on Senate amendments.

WATER COMPANY MANDATES

A1330, Mosquera/Murphy – 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/Murphy– 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

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, 2020 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, 2020 (73-1). S1648 was introduced on Feb 13, 2020 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

No further action.

FIRE SAFETY/FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS/FIRE EXTINGUISHERS /SMOKE ALARMS

A5200 , DeAngelo/ **S1406**, Pennachio - Requires bidders on public works construction projects to submit information on fire safety features.

A5200 was released by the Assembly State and Local Government Committee on May 12, 2021 and is awaiting consideration by the full Assembly. No action in the Senate.

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. NOTE: This bill passed both houses last session but was pocket vetoed by Governor Murphy.

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

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 RETIRES.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES
BUREAU OF AUTHORITY REGULATION

2022 FIRE DISTRICT BUDGET CALENDAR

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Statutory Date</i>
Introduction and approval of budget by Fire Commissioners at least 60 days prior to the annual election. LOSAP resolution must be adopted. The introduced budget must be "cap compliant."	12/21/2021
District submits two copies of budget as introduced and approved by the Fire Commissioners to the Director of the DLGS, at least 60 days prior to the annual election. Submit two copies of adopted LOSAP resolution to DLGS. To place a property tax levy cap referendum on the budget, the submitted budget must include and identify the specific amounts and budget line items for which funds approved at referendum will be used.	12/21/2021
Advertisement of public hearing at least ten days prior to such hearing	01/12/2022
A complete copy of the approved budget is posted and made available to each person requesting a copy during the week preceding the hearing and during the hearing.	01/14/2022 to 01/21/2022
Public hearing to be held not less than twenty-eight days after approval of the budget by Fire Commissioners. (After closing hearing, Fire Commissioners may adopt the budget without amendments, or may approve amendments).	01/22/2022
Adoption of budget not later than twenty-five days prior to the annual election. If a property tax levy referendum is included in the adopted budget, all amounts to be put out for public vote must be indicated. The Board of Commissioners must pass a resolution authorizing the referendum question at adoption. The amount to be raised by taxation must agree with the amount in the adopted budget.	01/25/2022
District submits two copies of complete adopted budget package to Director within seven days after adoption.	02/01/2022
Division returns one certified copy of adopted budget to District within seven days.	02/08/2022
Advertisement of certified, adopted budget at least seven days prior to the annual election.	02/12/2022
Annual Election and LOSAP ratification. A public question for a cap levy referendum is handled as part of the annual fire district election. (only if required)	02/19/2022
Submit annual election results to Director within three days after annual voter referendum and copy of official ballot. Please note: Failure to submit election results will delay certification of taxes to the municipal assessor. (only if required)	02/22/2022



9-17-21

Print Name	County	Township	District
Artie Wawucka	Middlesex Co	Piscataway NJ	#1
Brian Wallace	"	"	VFIS
Greg Santunosti	"	"	*1
James Bailey	Monmouth	Hopewell	#4
Nick Lombardi	Middlesex	Piscataway	1
Debra Brown	Somerset	Bridgewater	2
James A. Brown	SOMERSET	BRIDGEWATER	2
Melissa Ford	Staff	DEA-DLGS	
John Burda	Monmouth	Marlboro	1
Matt Galletto	Mercer	DEA-DLGS	
JOSEPH SPEVAK	MONMOUTH	MANALAPAN TWP	2
CRAIG Amack	Middlesex	Piscataway	4
Kareo Light	Middlesex	Piscataway	#4
Ed McDermott	Middlesex	Piscataway	#4
Robert McKean	Monmouth	Neptune	#2
Tim ODonnell	Salem	Pittsgrove Twp	#2
Russ GULBERT	OCEAN	LEHFD #1	#2



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9-17-21

Print Name	County	Township	District
Jeff Chaplin	Ocean	Little Egg Harbor Township	2
Jesse Dobornitz	Ocean	Little Egg Harbor Twp	2
Joe Lawson	Somerset	Bridgewater	2
Christopher Bernack	Burlington	Mt Laurel	1
MICHAEL CARONIA	OCEAN	LEH	2
Tim Kirkland	Monmouth	Monmouth Dist	2
James Hoppel	Monmouth	Howell	5
Michael D'Amico	Middlesex	Old Bridge	4
Ken Huper	Monmouth	Howell	5
BRUCE R SMITH	MIDDLESEX	EAST BRUNSWICK	1
James Porecki	Monmouth	Howell	5
John Marsigliano	Somerset	Bridgewater	2
LYNDA JOY	MIDDLESEX	So. BRUNSW.	2
William Rupp	Salem	Pittsgrove	2
Robert D'Amico	Monmouth	Howell	5