



ATLANTIC COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

March 15, 2006

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on Mar. 15, 2006 in Folsom by President R. Thomas Hunter Jr.. The meeting was opened with the flag salute, followed by a prayer offered by Howard Berchtold Jr., Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

Chief Smith of the Folsom Fire Company was introduced. Chief Smith welcomed all to Folsom.

In Attendance

Roll call was taken by Secretary Robert A. Mellon, who reported a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the Feb. 15, 2006 meeting sent to chiefs and secretaries.

Report of Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer as read by Treasurer Lou Raciti. President R. Thomas Hunter Jr. reported that the Treasurer has been audited and a final report is not yet available.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. reported on the Mar. 3, 2006 meeting of the Executive Committee. FDIC East has pulled out of Atlantic City and is canceled. The Flashover Simulator training is going well and FFI has started. Howard reported that an article in the Egg Harbor City Times misinterpreted the County's position on regionalized dispatch. The EHC Times reported that Atlantic County was against volunteers. County Executive Levinson has spoken with the Egg Harbor City Times in order to correct the misinterpretation. Howard warned that whenever anyone is dealing with reporters, one must be careful of how you state things. Discussion was held within the Executive Committee on how to improve the library. The Executive Committee is also looking into new Association letterhead. It was discussed among the committee that more email should be used to distribute the minutes and that this may replace regular mail in the future.

Fire Marshal - Whitey Swartz reported on the Valor Awards. There are thirty-eight possible recipients. The Valor Award Committee will meet to make the final selections. Whitey is looking to improve the poster contest in the schools for next year. Whitey also reported that the 200 Club



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Memorial Service is on Mar. 26, 2006 and tickets are still available. The Fire and Rescue Expo is scheduled for Oct. 14, 2006 and volunteers are needed to join this committee. Whitey reported on proposed changes to SCBA standards. These changes may be costly and unnecessary; Whitey has copies of the proposed changes for those that would like it. Whitey has compiled the annual report of calls. Thirty-eight of forty-five companies reported their calls. The report will be ready for the next meeting. Whitey reported that Dave Buzby and the Buzby family have donated \$25,000 to the memorial fund.

Fire Marshal Harold "Whitey" Swartz presented Chester Crowell, of the Minotola Fire Company, a proclamation from County Executive Levinson for his many years of service to the community with his many positions held within the fire service.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent reported that he attended the State Fire Coordinator meeting. They are working on foam distribution throughout the state. The Division of Fire Safety has already staged 775 gallons of foam at the Atlantic City International Airport. Ed reported that the County CEBRN team, ACFD Haz-Mat, and the Airport Haz-Mat are supposed to be inspected annually. Ed reported that he will attend a meeting concerning the proposed natural gas pier in Gloucester County. Ed reported that the Fire Academy has received twenty sets of used, but good, turn-out gear from Chews Landing. Chews Landing replaced their gear using a grant. Ed reported that the Fire Coordinators will respond once a department has requested aid outside their local response area. Ed reported that he and the Fire Coordinators will personally visit all departments so that they may update the mutual aid book as required annually. Ed reported that F2500 will be repaired and placed back at the Academy as a backup command vehicle. Ed reported that the county has purchased an aerial pictography system that will be useful with pre-plans. (<http://www.pictometry.com>)

Training Committee – Mike Corbo reported that FFI is up and running with twenty-seven students. FFII starts on Mon. Mar. 20, 2006. Mike is looking into running a FFII class this summer since next year it will be a 100+ hours class. Flashover Simulator is up and running. So far, no one is signing up for the simulator training. A minimum of twelve students are needed for flashover training. Mike reported that the online registration on the association website is up and running. (<http://www.atlanticcountyfireassoc.org>) Looking to add online facility use registration.

Library Committee - Ron Bird reported that the library will be closed for the next couple of weeks. If anyone needs anything Ron can be reached on his cell phone, (609)892-9610, and he will assist with the request.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association. – Chief Jim Garth reported that the next meeting will be March 28 in Landisville.

Fireman's Home - Oscar Dutch Jr. reported that the home has hired a new superintendent.



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NJ Fireman's Relief Assn. - Atl. Co. Executive Committeeman Henry Schoenstein reported that the relief, special relief, and supplemental relief allowances are being increased. The two counties with two Executive Committeeman will now only be represented by only one after the current terms of office run out. A rule concerning special meetings was adopted. Ten days notice will be required to hold a special meeting of the Executive Committeeman.

Firefighter's Dinner – President R. Thomas Hunter Jr. expressed appreciation for both Ron Bird and Dennis Sharpe for coordinating the dinner. 1st Vice President Dennis Sharpe reported that it was a good dinner and that a good time was had by those in attendance. Approximately fifty people were in attendance.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act on.

New Business

Howard Berchtold reported that the county moved to officially recognize the Training Center Board of Directors. They will now be recognized as the "Fire Training Advisory Board" under the Dept. of Public Safety. This now gives the board standing within Atlantic County government. A motion was made, seconded, and carried for the Atlantic County Firefighter's Association to also recognize and approve of this.

Bills

The bills were read by Treasurer Lou Raciti. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Applications for Membership

Tim Brining of the Elwood Fire Company was accepted into membership.



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Good of the Association

Howard Berchtold reported that Atlantic County was one of only two counties recently recognized for coordinating Homeland Security initiatives.

It was reported that Chester Crowell was recently honored by the Minotola Fire Company at a surprise dinner.

Ed Vincent reported that Shell Oil Co. issued a warning that cell phones have caused fires while refueling vehicles. Ed also reported that Brigantine Fire Dept. has 3000 feet of 3 ½ inch hose available if anyone wants it. Contact Chief Stanley Cwiklinski if interested.

There are two corrections to the "Officers and Schedule of Meetings" cards.

1. The contact for the "Atlantic County Fireman's Death Benefit Fund" should be Dianna Kreutzer at (609)625-0512.
2. The "Atlantic County Fire Training Center Board of Directors" (now known as "Fire Training Advisory Board") Meetings should be at 19:00 and not at 19:30.

Guest Speaker – Forest Fire Service

Glenn Liepe of NJ Forest Fire Service made a presentation on the Interface Plan for Atlantic County. It is the first one to be completed in the state. Glenn also reported on the Incident Command System along with other projects and plans. Kenny Badger then presented a slide show of the Forest Fire Service's rotor and fixed wing aircraft. The Forest Fire Service will do training with all companies that want training on filling the aircraft. Please call to schedule training. A Forest Fire Service Bloodhound was also presented as well as a report on the Juvenile Fire Setter Program.

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 22:05. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on April 19, 2006 at the Training Center.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary



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Date Clearing

Sun. Mar. 26	10:30	Atlantic City	Cape/Atlantic 200 Club Memorial and Breakfast
Sat. Apr. 8	16:00	Oceanville	Baked Ham or Fried Oyster Dinner 16:00-20:00
Sat. Apr. 29		Cologne	Flea Market
Sat. May 20	13:00	East Vineland	1 st Annual Golf Tournament @ Centerton Country Club
Sun. Jun. 4	12:00	Dorothy	Chicken Barbecue @ Dorothy Fire Co. 12:00-18:00
Tues. Jun 6		Cologne	Chicken Barbecue
Sat. Nov. 4		Cologne	Craft Show