

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

President
Amor "Skip" Portale
Vice President
Ellsworth Ott
2nd Vice President
Charles "Chick" Kisby



Secretary
Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer
Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sect./Treasurer
Cindy L. Badger

September 15, 2010

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on September 15, 2010 at the Hammonton Fire Dept. Sta. 2 by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Reverend Thomas Sweeny. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced Chief DiGiovannangelo of the Hammonton Fire Department. Chief DiGiovannangelo welcomed all to Hammonton.

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 August 18, 2010 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

Report of Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer, totaling \$106,849.56, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Bank of America / Hudson City Savings
Checking: \$31,113.04 / Savings: \$13,133.02 / 18 Month CD-8286: \$52,305.73 / 12 Month CD: \$10,297.77
1.60% - Due 3/1/2011 1.42% - Due 3/8/2011

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. summarized the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on September 10, 2010 in Absecon. Howard thanked the Absecon Fire Department for hosting the meeting. Howard noted that Ted Reinhard was able to attend the Executive Committee meeting, as well as this regular meeting, after a long medical recovery period. All in attendance welcomed Ted back. Howard reported that the Executive Committee and the association may have to take action against Hamilton Township due to continued unpaid tuition despite several attempts to rectify the situation. This has placed an unfair burden on other fire companies or municipalities that keep up to date with tuition payments. Howard reported on the issues brought before the Executive Committee concerning the current

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accounting firm. The 2008 IRS tax filing was only now received from the accountant. There will more than likely be fines associated with the late filing of these forms. The Executive Committee has charged the Treasurer, Asst. Sec.-Trea., and President with researching alternative accounting firms. Anyone that may have a suggestion of which firms to research is asked to contact Treasurer Mellon with the contact information. Howard reported on an addition to and a revision of the Bylaws as well as an addition to the Constitution that were submitted to the Executive Committee. Howard reviewed the specifics of the changes and reported that the Executive Committee has accepted the submissions and moved that they be presented to the association at the October meeting for the first reading. Howard requested that the proposals be sent out via email prior to the October meeting. The proposals change the attendance requirement for officers and provide necessary additions required for the 501(c)3 application. Howard reported that Cindy Badger made a report to the Executive Committee concerning the Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund and the need to research the current legal relationship between this association and the Death Benefit Fund. Howard noted that Secretary Mellon has already started research the historical minutes of this association. Howard reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Oct. 29, 2010 in South Egg Harbor. The committee will meet at the South Egg Harbor firehouse at 17:00 or the Never There Gun Club, Hammonton, at 17:20 for the spaghetti and crab sauce dinner at the gun club. All are welcome to join the committee for dinner.

Fire Coordinator – Howard Berchtold read the minutes of the Sep. 10, 2010 Executive Committee meeting to make the fire coordinator report due to Ed Vincent not being able to attend this meeting. The following was read onto the record of this meeting. “Ed Vincent reported on the mutual aid issues with Atlantic City. Ed has attended two meetings in Atlantic City. Ed reported on the current ACFD staffing levels and possible future changes due to administration required cutbacks. Ed reported on mutual aid issues recently encountered in Pleasantville. Ed described the difference between mutual aid plans and mutual aid agreements. It is the responsibility of each chief to discuss mutual aid plans with the chief(s) of mutual aid departments if changes will be needed. Ed reported on the working group meetings for homeland security grants. The foam unit is under construction. The foam had to be removed from the grant application. Whitey is requesting bids for the foam and Absecon VFD may be able to sponsor the foam on an AFG application. Ed reported on the Seaview Harbor Marina fire in Egg Harbor Township as well as other incidents that the coordinators responded to. Ed reported that the EOC was activated during the approach of Hurricane Earl. Ed reported on the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs Meeting where narrowbanding requirements and the pending re-banding of the 800 mhz radio systems was discussed. Ed emphasized the need that mutual aid plans be submitted to him and updated every two years. Ed reported on the recent news about the natural gas explosion in California and reminded all that pipes of similar age are all over. Ed reminded all that equipment should return from the convention in Wildwood as soon as possible so that it is in service. Ed wished everyone well for their trip to the convention. Rob Winkler question Ed on whether there is a plan for firefighters and their families in the case there is an evacuation of this area. Ed replied that those plans would have to be arranged at the municipal level.

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Discussion was held about the Egg Harbor Township plan to set an ordinance that would penalize the electric company for tying up emergency responders and equipment for long periods of time when wires are down."

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold Jr. reported the meeting of the Advisory Board scheduled for September 13, 2010 was postponed and still pending.

Public Relations – Whitey Swartz reported that more posters were received for the 4H Fair poster contest than received from all of the schools for the NJ state poster contest. The 4H poster contest was very well received.

Facilities – Whitey Swartz reported that the county has budgeted for the replacement of the cascade system and the washing machine. If funds are still available, the dryer will also be replaced. If no funds are available, the dryer will be replaced at a later time. Whitey reported that the instructor's ready room will be moved to the recessed area of the engine bays by erecting a chain link wall and gate. This will allow for better air circulation around the turn-out gear. The existing ready room will be converted into a workshop.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz reported that the county fire activity report is late due to waiting for the Atlantic City and the Airport fire departments to report their 2009 activity. After leaving more than adequate time for those departments to report, Whitey will generate the report without their data and distribute the report soon.

Training – Director of Training Michael Corbo reported on the FFI gradation held in Somers Point. Fifty-four of the eighty-seven students were in attendance. Mike thanked the Somers Point school district for the use of the school. Mike reported that the fall FFI is now running with forty-nine students and the FFII class with twelve students. Mike reported that he has FFII challenge exams scheduled. The challenge exam is a worthwhile use of time if a firefighter qualifies since certification can be obtained without have to attend FFII for a second time. The challenge opportunity will no longer be offered by the state after this year. Mike reported that a Fire Official class will be offered through the NJ DFS. The thirty-six hour class is open to all currently certified fire inspectors. Mike reported that the fall 2010 training course catalog has been distributed to all county fire chiefs. The catalog is also available on the association website. Mike reported that Larry Petrillo is no longer the State Fire Marshal and Director of the Division of Fire Safety. Mike reported on the rumor that the governor will announce Petrillo's replacement at the convention in Wildwood. Mike reported that the buyout of Morning Pride has delayed delivery of the new instructor turn-out gear. All gear should be delivered by the end of September. Due to the buyout, the 50% off received will probably not be available for future purchases. Mike reported that two of the QTO, QSO, ODI classes have been canceled so far due to zero students. It is a requirement that a QTO, QSO, ODI class be attended by department representatives if a department is going to use the facilities for training. If the requirement is not met, an instructor will be required to supervise the use of the facilities at an addition cost to the department. Mike

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reported on the damaged propane line feeding the barbeque on the training pad. The damage was possibly caused by lawn equipment.

Library – Ron Bird reported that the library is open, inventory is still being worked on, and to contact him if assistance is needed.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Jim Garth reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Sep. 30, 2010 in Nesco. More discussion about FAA narrowband radio system mandates and requirements is scheduled. Discussion is also scheduled concerning the rebanding of the 800 mhz radio system. Jim reported that the chief's association trophy for the Wildwood parade will be for Best Appearing Atlantic County Brush Truck or Mini Pumper.

Legislative – John Wagner reported that he has contacted JIF concerning firefighters being reported to their personal insurance after being involved in an incident with fire department vehicles. John reported that JIF informed him that it is not their policy to report firefighters involved in minor incidents. John reported that upon more research it was revealed that two different claims handling firms have and will report individuals involved in incidents regardless of the JIF policies. John is continuing the research by reaching out to legislative officials to see if there is anything that can be done or is already in place to prevent the reporting of zero claim incidents. So far at least two county firefighters have been assessed over \$1,000 in surcharges by their personal insurance after being involved in a minor zero claim fire department motor vehicle incidents. Lefty Clayton reported that there may be a statute that prevents those surcharges and he will check into that. John requested that he be contacted if anyone has any other issues that require research.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that roof repairs have been completed along with many other repairs and upgrades. Oscar wished everyone a safe trip to Wildwood.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

Chief Danz, EHTFD, reported on the progress of the ordinance in Egg Harbor Township that will levy fines upon the electric company if they do not respond in a reasonable time. There was a meeting with Atlantic City Electric at the Cardiff firehouse. The electric company would like to work with the fire department and settle any issues without the need to pass an ordinance. The ordinance is still in the workshop stage. The electric company has agreed to research four incidents where their response was in excess of four hours in the absence of a major storm response. The Egg Harbor Twp. Fire Dept. is willing to allow a maximum wait time of one or two hours for the electric company. It was reported that similar issues have been encountered in Mullica Township. Chief Danz reported that Atlantic City Electric's Public Affairs Manager, Kenneth

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Mosca, has been helpful with dealing with the fire department issues. Whitey Swartz requested that all chief officers attend the next chief's meeting and stand with the Egg Harbor Twp. Fire Dept. and help get all issues with the electric company straightened out.

Chief Danz also reported that PEOSHA officials have been in Egg Harbor Township and have done an extensive inspection of the Cardiff Fire Company. The officials plan on inspected all EHTFD companies and possibly several others within the county.

New Business

There was no new business to act on.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$5,144.88, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Oscar Dutch - \$40.13 / Atlanticare - \$45.00 / Butterhof's Farm - \$712.50 / Adams Fire Protection Co. - \$2,698.25 / This & That Uniform - \$1,219.00 / Patti Corbo - \$310.00 / Thomas Sweeny - \$120.00

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership to act on.

Good of the Order

Rob Winkler reported that he has been asking if there are any plans in place for first responders and their families in the event of a major incident or evacuation of the area. Rob checked with Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent who referred him to the OEM of his municipality. Rob checked with Egg Harbor Township OEM and was informed that there is no plan. Rob suggested that all first responders check with their local OEM office to find out if they have a plan. President Portale reported that there is no plan for Galloway Township first responders. Howard Berchtold suggested that this issue be discussed between all municipalities, the county, and possibly be coordinated by the Fire Coordinator's office. All agree that a plan should be in place to relocate first responders and their families while also including specifics on how emergency services will be placed back in service at the conclusion of an event.

Thank you to the Hammonton Fire Department Sta. 2 for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

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Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny.

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:10. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held 20:00 on Oct. 20, 2010 at the Sweetwater Vol. Fire Co., Mullica Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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Date Clearing

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|----------------------|-------|------------------------------|--|
| Thurs. Sep. 16, 2010 | 07:30 | Avalon Golf Club | Cape May Co. Firemen's Golf Tournament |
| Thurs. Sep. 16, 2010 | 12:00 | Wildwood Conv. Ctr. | Jersey F.O.O.L.S "One Ambition Tour" Training |
| Fri. Sep. 17, 2010 | 13:00 | Wildwood Conv. Ctr. | NJ Firemen's Assoc. Convention |
| Sat. Sep. 18, 2010 | 09:00 | Wildwood Conv. Ctr. | NJ Firemen's Assoc. Convention |
| Sat. Sep. 25, 2010 | 12:00 | Cologne VFC | 50 th Anniversary Celebration |
| Sat. Sep. 25, 2010 | 15:00 | Farmington VFC | 1 st Annual Spaghetti Dinner |
| Sun. Sep 26, 2010 | 07:00 | Minotola VFC | Breakfast |
| Thurs. Sep. 30, 2010 | 20:00 | Nesco VFC | Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn. |
| October Fri. & Sat. | 19:00 | Nesco VFC | Haunted House and Hayride |
| Sat. Oct. 2, 2010 | 08:15 | Farmington VFC | Big Rig Rescue™ Training Program - Oct. 2 & 3 |
| Sat. Oct. 2, 2010 | 08:30 | Elwood VFC | Golf Tournament – Greentree Golf Course, Mays Landing |
| Sat. Oct. 2, 2010 | 10:00 | Smithville | Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest w/ Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries |
| Sat. Oct. 2, 2010 | 16:00 | Germania VFC | Turkey Dinner |
| Sun. Oct. 3, 2010 | 10:00 | Smithville | Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest w/ Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, French Fries |
| Sat. Oct. 9, 2010 | 11:00 | Shore Fellowship Church, EHT | Free BBQ for all Firefighters and Police Officers 11:00 – 13:00 |
| Sat. Oct. 9, 2010 | 15:30 | Port Republic VFC | Roast Beef Dinner |
| Sun. Oct. 10, 2010 | 08:00 | Somers Point VFC #2 | Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat |
| Sun. Oct. 10, 2010 | 16:00 | Bayview VFC | Beef & Beer at McGettigan's 19 th Hole Tavern 16:00 – 19:00 |
| Sat. Oct. 16, 2010 | 14:00 | Mays Landing VFC | All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner 14:00 – 20:00 |
| Sat. Oct. 30, 2010 | 09:00 | South Egg Harbor VFC | 24 th Annual Holiday Craft Show |
| Sat. Nov. 13, 2010 | 16:00 | Oceanville VFC | Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner |
| Sun. Nov. 14, 2010 | 08:00 | Somers Point VFC #2 | Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat |
| Sat. Nov. 20, 2010 | 10:00 | Minotola VFC | Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale 10:00 – 14:00 |
| Tues. Nov. 30, 2010 | 20:00 | Linwood VFC | Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn. |
| Sun. Dec. 12, 2010 | 08:00 | Somers Point VFC #2 | Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat |
| Tues. Jan. 25, 2011 | 20:00 | Absecon VFC | Hosting Meeting of the Atlantic Co. Fire Chiefs' Assn. |
| Thurs. Jan. 27, 2011 | 20:00 | Oceanville VFC | Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firemen's Death Benefit Fund |

(Please email your event info to robert.mellon@atlanticcountyfireassoc.org)