

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

November 17, 2010

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on November 17, 2010 at the Somers Point Vol. Fire Co. #1 by President Amor "Skip" Portale. President Portale pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation and Homily by the Chaplain of the Association, Reverend Thomas Sweeny.

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced Chief Sweeny of the Somers Point Vol. Fire Co. #1. Chief Sweeny welcomed all to Somers Point.

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 October 20, 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 \$135,706.04, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / ING Direct / Bank of America / Hudson City Savings / ING Direct
Checking: \$18,151.27 / Savings: \$503.50 / Savings: \$48,739.94 / 18 Month CD-8286: \$52,374.08 / 12 Month CD: \$10,297.77 / 12 Month CD: \$5,639.48
1.60% - Due 3/1/2011 1.42% - Due 3/8/2011 1.25% - Due 10/12/2011

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Oscar Dutch Jr. summarized the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on Oct. 29, 2010 in South Egg Harbor. Oscar reported that the executive committee received and recommends the adoption of the 2011 budgets for public relations, training, and administration. Oscar thanked the Director of Training, Mike Corbo, for concluding the tuition issues with Hamilton Township and working with the township to create a better way of handling tuition purchase orders that will prove beneficial to both this association and Hamilton Township. President Portale also offered his thanks.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Oscar Dutch Jr. summarized the minutes of the Advisory Board meeting held on November 8, 2010. Oscar summarized the ongoing repairs and maintenance to academy facilities and equipment.

Fire Coordinator – Ed Vincent reported that there have been no recent events requiring dispatch of fire coordinators. Ed reported on the Tender Task Force Div. B drill held on Nov. 8, 2010. Ed reported that the foam trailer, from the FY 2009

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Homeland Security Grant, has been delivered and is being housed and operated by the Laureldale Fire Company. The trailer was present at the meeting for inspection. Ed reported on the process involved for obtaining the trailer and the committee process for creating operating and dispatching guidelines for the unit. Ed reported that a dispatching procedure for the foam trailer is still being drafted. Procedures and SOGs will be distributed to municipalities and fire chiefs when completed. A drill, involving the foam trailer, has been scheduled for Dec. 13, 2010 at 18:30 in Germania, Galloway Township. Ed reported that the FY 2010 Homeland Security Grant has been approved but does not yet have a spending plan. Ed reported that a subcommittee has created a report that has been submitted to the county working group for the FY 2011 Homeland Security Grant. Ed reported that the Atlantic County Mutual Aid book has been completed and forwarded to the state. After all sign offs have been completed with the mutual aid book, Fire Marshal Swartz will send copies to the county fire chiefs. Ed reported that the county is setting up "Incident Management Support Teams". The teams will be available to provide support during larger incidents where more IMS positions need to be filled. Ed reported that the county solicitor has drafted a mutual aid agreement that will be sent to all twenty-three county municipalities in an attempt to bring all into NIMS compliance. Ed reported on feedback he has received from some county fire chiefs as to the current status of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association and the general low attendance at that association's meetings. Ed recommended that some plan for the continuation and improvement of that association be created.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – The current president of the chiefs' association, Jim Garth, reported that he will not be running for president for 2011. Jim Garth reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 30, 2010 in Linwood. Plans are that the chief's association will continue with the discussion started at the Nov. 18, 2010 communication meeting and will discuss the future of the chiefs' association and how to improve the same.

Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz echoed Ed Vincent's comments concerning the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association. Whitey reported that the chiefs' association needs to remain intact as it is involved during the fire coordinator appointment process, appoints a member to the Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board, as well as being the direct representative organization for the county fire chiefs when working with Atlantic County Government. Whitey also recommends a plan of improvement for the chiefs association such as concurrent meetings with the firefighters' association with a shorter specific subject meeting following the firefighters' meeting if there is a subject specific to the fire chiefs. Whitey reported that a communications meeting is scheduled for Nov. 18, 2010 at the Egg Harbor City firehouse at 19:00. Whitey reported that the Public Utilities Authority has spoke with Atlantic City Electric and reports that response times will be improved upon. Whitey requested that he be contacted if there is a delayed response from Atlantic City Electric.

Public Relations – Whitey Swartz reported that he will soon be sending out requests for valor award recipients and fire service members who have fifty or more years of service for presentation at the annual valor awards scheduled for the April 2011 meeting of the association.

Training – Director of Training Michael Corbo reported that the FFII class has concluded and the FFI class will conclude on Dec. 21, 2010. Mike reported on the final classes scheduled for the Fall 2010 semester. Mike reported that the National Fire Academy PICO and STICO classes are scheduled as well as a Fire Officer I class scheduled for January. Mike reported that the Spring 2011 class catalog will be completed prior to the December meeting of the association. Mike reported that two new 105 pound mannequins have been purchased and the ground ladders will be tested in December. Mike reported that the test results for the November FFII challenge exams should be received from the state in the next couple of weeks. Mike reported that December 31, 2010 is the end of the FFII challenge exam eligibility period and all who wish to obtain FFII certification after will need to attend an entire class. Mike reported that if any departments can guarantee at least twenty to challenge the exam, arrangements to hold an exam at their location can be made.

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Library – Ron Bird reported that the library is open and to contact him if assistance is needed.

Legislative – John Wagner reported on the ongoing research on the insurance surcharges on personal policies after being involved in a fire department reportable vehicular incident. John also reported on his ongoing discussions with Congressman Lobiondo's office and that he keeps the congressman informed of departmental events listed on the date clearing. Anyone with a subject requiring research should contact John.

NJ Firemen's Assn. – Henry Schoenstein thanked all local, Atlantic County, associations for getting their IRS form 990s filed. Henry reported that the recent field exams went well with only a few minor issues. Henry reported that one local in the state has filed a complaint concerning the physical being valid for only ninety days. The issue is being reviewed since there may be some validity to the concern raised. Oscar Dutch raised a concern about recent communications between the NJ Firemen's Assn. and the NJ Firemen's Home. Henry will look into the matter.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported on the continuing repairs and maintenance at the home. Oscar reported that the residents continue to voice their pleasure with the food selections prepared for them.

Special Presentation

A video presentation on "F-500 Encapsulated Technology Foam" was played for the membership.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

The second reading of the proposed Constitution and By-laws revisions and additions were accepted into the record.

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association adopt the 2011 public relations, training, and administration budgets as submitted to the executive committee.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$4,378.58, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Screen Prince - \$1,401.00 / Modern Gas - \$1,052.47 / Staples - \$194.84 / Lowes - \$296.58 / Hamilton Fire & Safety Equip. - \$63.50 / State of NJ Payroll Taxes - \$735.21 / State of NJ Payroll Taxes - \$394.42 / IRS Federal Payroll Taxes - \$240.56

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Nomination of Officers

The second of two rounds of nominations was held. Only the nominations made by, and seconded by, delegates to the association, in good standing, were recognized. Those that were nominated had to be a delegate or member, as stipulated in the by-laws, of the association and formally accept the nomination. All those nominated accepted either verbally or by letter submitted prior to this meeting. Those nominated are as follows:

President (1)	Amor "Skip" Portale
1 st Vice President (1)	Ellsworth Ott
2 nd Vice President (1)	Charles "Chick" Kisby
Secretary (1)	Robert A. Mellon
Treasurer (1)	Jaime C. Mellon
Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)	Cindy L. Badger
Chaplain (1)	Rev. Thomas Sweeny
Sgt.-at-Arms (3)	Charles Harlan, William Thomas Hand, Wayne Dilks
Executive Comm. (9)	Howard Berchtold Jr., Oscar Dutch Jr., C. Robert Winkler III Ronald Bird Jr., James Garth Sr., Ted Reinhard, R. Thomas Hunter Jr. Rick Coraluzzo Sr., Charles J. Guenther, John V. Wagner, Dennis C. Sharpe

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that all nominations be closed.

An election by secret ballot will be held for the contested offices of the Executive Committee at the Dec. 15, 2010 meeting of the association. All other offices are uncontested and a motion that the secretary of the association cast a single ballot for those offices will be in order for the Dec. 15, 2010 meeting of the association.

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership to act upon.

Good of the Order

Thank you to the Somers Point Vol. Fire Co. #1 for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

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Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:40. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be hosted by the Bargaintown Vol. Fire Co. and will be held 20:00 on Dec. 15, 2010 at the Cardiff Vol. Fire Co. on the Black Horse Pike due to Bargaintown constructing a new fire station.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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Date Clearing

Thurs. Nov. 18, 2010	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting Atl. Co. Communication Meeting
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.
Sat. Dec. 11, 2010	08:00	Farmington VFC	Breakfast with Santa
Sat. Dec. 11, 2010	12:00	Pomona VFC	Photos with Santa
Sat. Dec. 11, 2010	19:00	Hammonton VFD	12 th Annual Christmas Parade & Block Party – Reg. @ 17:30, Parade @19:00
Sun. Dec. 12, 2010	08:00	Somers Point VFC #2	Community - Breakfast, All You Can Eat
Mon. Dec. 13, 2010	18:30	Germania VFC	Hosting Drill with Atl. Co. Foam Trailer
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
Sat. Apr. 9, 2011	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. Nov. 12, 2011	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner

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

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Proposal for Addition

"Constitution, Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of the State of New Jersey".

NEW

ARTICLE X

Proposed:

SECTION 3: DISSOLUTION Upon dissolution of the association, the association's assets shall be disposed of exclusively for the purposes of the association or distributed to such organizations, or departments of local government, organized and operated exclusively for fire and emergency services within Atlantic County, New Jersey. Dissolution must be approved by a majority vote of the member fire companies' delegates at two consecutive monthly meetings.

Respectfully submitted;

By-laws Committee
Friday, September 10, 2010

First Reading
Wednesday, October 20, 2010

Second Reading
Wednesday, November 17, 2010

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Proposal for Revision and Addition

"By-Laws, Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of the State of New Jersey".

REVISION

ARTICLE V ELIGIBILITY OF OFFICERS

Section 4

Current: To be re-elected to any position, a member must have attended at least 2/3 of the regular meetings during the previous year. Executive Committee members and Administrative Officers must also attend at least 2/3 of the Executive Committee meetings.

Proposed: *To be re-elected to any position, a member must have attended at least fifty percent (50%) of the regular meetings during the previous year. Executive Committee members and Administrative Officers must also attend at least fifty percent (50%) of the Executive Committee meetings. The attendance requirement for re-election may be waived by recommendation of the Executive Committee and a majority vote of the association at a regular meeting. The Executive Committee shall only make such a recommendation after reviewing acceptable extenuating circumstances that have prevented an officer or committee member from fulfilling their obligations during the prior year. The Executive Committee may make such recommendation to the association without specific explanation if needed to provide appropriate privacy to the officer or committee member requesting that attendance requirements be waived.*

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