

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

July 16, 2014

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on July 16, 2014 at the Linwood Fire Department 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.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced Chief Charles "Chick" Kisby III of the Linwood Fire Department. Chief Kisby welcomed all to Linwood.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance - 44 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented - 20

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2014 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 \$136,092.88, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank
Checking: \$54,962.33 / Savings: \$5,005.11 / Savings: \$52,401.10 / 12 Month CD: \$23,724.34
/ 0.60% - Due 5/6/2015

Special Presentation - Atlantic County Central Dispatch Update

President Portale introduced Atlantic County Administrator: Jerry DelRosso, Central Dispatch Project Manager: Mike Bradeis, and Network Administrator: John Garry who were in attendance to provide an update on the Atlantic County Central Dispatch plans and current progress. Administrator DelRosso reported that John Miller, Radio Network Administrator, was unable to attend due to illness. Administrator DelRosso summarized the long history involved with central dispatch and highlighted how it was the fire service that helped get the project moving forward after it appeared to be stalled. Currently twenty-two of the twenty-three county municipalities are onboard. At this time Hamilton Township is not committed due to the recent upgrade of their radio infrastructure. The county is currently discussing options with Hamilton Township. Administrator DelRosso explained how Atlantic City has received 3.5 million dollars from the CRDA for their current CAD/RMS upgrade and how the grant requires that Atlantic City join the regionalized central dispatch. Atlantic County has entered into an agreement with Stockton College for the planning and building of central dispatch on land that Stockton will

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transfer to the county. The RFQ for architects has been published and the final five applicants are being reviewed. The review will consist of county, Stockton, municipal (three mayors), fire, police, and EMS representatives. Stockton College's Vice President of Development will head up the construction of the facility and he has estimated that the building will be ready for occupancy near the end of 2016. Administrator DelRosso reported that a committee will be formed to determine how to bring the facility online by phasing users. Currently a committee is working on the CAD/RMS (computer aided dispatch/record management system) specifications with representatives from the fire, police, and EMS services. John Garry reported that they will be seeking a public safety consultant to assist with the final specifications of the CAD/RMS system. Meetings will be scheduled with the fire, police, and EMS service representatives and the consultant to seek specific wants/needs for the CAD/RMS systems. Mike Bradeis reported that Ed Vincent and Oscar Dutch are representing the county fire service and have already had discussions about the policies and procedures for operating central dispatch. Anyone with additional fire service input should contact either Ed or Oscar. Mike reported that many of the supervisors of the current fifteen PSAPs serve on the central dispatch committee and the data from each PSAP will be reviewed by the consultant for inclusion into the new system. The contract for a consultant is currently being finalized and then the meetings and review process will start. Egg Harbor City Fire Chief Butch Kienzle requested that a local and/or state based architect be given preference. Mike Bradeis explained that the architect chosen should have critical infrastructure experience and that weighs heavily on the final decision. Administrator DelRosso noted that state bidding requirements also come into play and local preference may not be possible. Chief Kienzle inquired whether different radio manufacturers will be compatible with the county's radio system. Mike Bradeis reported that all P25 standard equipment should work. Discussion about possible manufacturer specific radio options, such as encryption and GPS/geo-location, may not be fully compatible and may be outside the P25 standard. Majority stated displeasure that they may need to purchase from a specific equipment manufacturer to be fully compatible. All agreed that the radio system, and CAD/RMS, should have open architecture as a required specification if possible. Administrator DelRosso took notation of the concerns for the radio network administrator, John Miller, to address. Administrator DelRosso also reported that he will ask Vince Jones to put together information from all of the recent committee meetings with each sector of public safety so that all know what the other service is seeking and what questions have been asked. Mike Bradeis reported that recent tower upgrades included VHF upgrades to assist with paging and municipalities still utilizing VHF radios. Longport Fire Chief Lefty Clayton requested that the final CAD/RMS vendors have some kind of internet based demos so that the fire chiefs can review and comment before any final decision is made. Oscar Dutch reported on the history of the push for central dispatch and how the fire service was pivotal with obtaining municipal information in order for the county to start the latest research that is now moving central dispatch towards reality. Oscar thanked Jerry DelRosso, Mike Bradeis, and John Garry for attending the meeting and providing an update. Ed Vincent reported that he and Oscar will continue to seek input from the fire service and will invite county officials to attend future ACFFA meetings to provided continued updates on the central dispatch progress. Cindy Badger recommended John Garth to serve with Ed and Oscar, representing the fire service, due to his many years of radio system experience. Jerry DelRosso took note of the recommendation.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Vice Chairman Oscar Dutch summarized the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee held on July 11, 2014 at the Landisville Vol. Fire Company. Oscar reported on the discussion held concerning the need of fire chiefs to be more proactive with their recruits/students and require proper behavior and learning practices when attending the fire academy. Oscar reported that Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz will require assistance with setup for the 4H Fair on August 7th and breakdown on August 9th. Oscar reported that the Secretary is still waiting for a response from the state concerning the corporate change requests and that membership dues request have been sent to member fire departments/companies. Oscar thanked the Landisville Vol. Fire Company for hosting the meeting.

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Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – The meeting of the Advisory Board, scheduled for July 14, 2014, was canceled.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported that the county wildfire urban interface plan has been submitted to the state and has been approved by the Division of Fire Safety and the Forest Fire Service. Ed has emailed a copy of the plan to all fire chiefs and will schedule a drill based on the updated plan. Ed reported that all mutual aid plan updates have been received with the exception of Ventnor and Brigantine. Deputy Fire Coordinator Lefty Clayton will work on obtaining the two updates. The "Atlantic County Mutual Aid Plan" is a collection of all the local plans with additional information such as strike teams and task forces. The county plan is filed with the NJ DFS and made part of the emergency resource deployment protocols. The plans must be updated every two years. The NJ DFS has accepted the current plan and the two missing local plans will be added as addendums when received. The mutual aid plan will be scanned and sent to all fire chiefs on disk. Ed reported that all municipalities have signed the mutual aid agreement with the exception of Margate and Hammonton. Ed reported that the Atlantic City Airshow is scheduled for Wednesday August 13th with a practice day on Tuesday August 12th. Ed will contact the same departments/companies that assisted last year to provide the same assistance this year.

Fire Marshal / Public Relations – Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz reported that he will need assistance with transporting supplies and setting up at the Atlantic County 4H Fair in August. Loading of the van will be at 09:00 on August 7th at the training center and setup at approximately 11:00 at the 4H fairgrounds.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I is running with fifteen students and Firefighter II has nine students. Mike reported that the fall 2014 Firefighter I class will start on Tuesday, August 19th at 19:00. Mike reported that a letter and applications for the firefighter and junior competitions has been sent out. No responses have been received as of this meeting. Applications need to be returned by August 1st. A preliminary competition will be held on August 6th at the training center if more than four teams are entered. The junior competition will be at the training center on August 7th. The final for firefighter teams will compete, and the winning junior team will demonstrate, at the 4H Fair on August 8th. Mike reported that the fall 2014 course book will be completed before the August association meeting. Mike reported that four hundred eighty firefighters received training during the spring semester and the Firefighter I graduation, held on July 7, went well with one hundred thirty in attendance. Mike reported that only Firefighter I graduates will have a formal graduation ceremony. Mike reported on updates from the NJ Division of Fire Safety. All NJ fire certifications, going back five years, will receive IFSAC certification. Those also wanting the ProBoard certifications will need to challenge the ProBoard tests. Firefighter I will have new specifications starting in January 2015. Jones and Bartlett publishing will be redoing the firefighter textbook/program in 2015. Starting in 2015, students will receive an e-license with the textbook allowing tablet and/or PC versions of the textbook. There will only be three train the trainer programs in the state for instructors concerning the new Firefighter I training specifications. IFSAC and/or ProBoard certifications are not automatically accepted in other states. Both certification systems are autonomous and each state chooses what to accept or not to accept from other states. All NJ Firefighters will need a FEMA SID number in order to interact with the NJ Division of Fire Safety. Starting with the fall 2014 semester, Firefighter I hours will be increasing. The spring class was 172 hours. Mike is accessing the additional requirements in order to determine how many hours must be added to the training. Mike reported that the entire state has had Firefighter I written test issues. Atlantic County recently had 18 of 43 fail the first attempt. Students are allowed three attempts to pass the test before retaking the entire course. The problem appears not to be an issue with the test but with students using good learning practices such as studying for the test and reviewing the textbook. Mike reported that the e-license, starting in 2015, will allow the use of self testing on a tablet or PC so to be better prepared for the written test. All students have and are being informed that studying for the written test is critical and that the state averages a 30-40% failure rate. Mike reported that he works with the students and their schedules to allow them to take the written test.

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Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Charles "Chick" Kisby reported that the next meeting of the chiefs' association is scheduled for August 13, 2014 and will be hosted by Laureldale Volunteer Fire Company.

Legislative – John Wagner thanked Egg Harbor Township Fire Chief Bill Danz for his efforts with the legislative proposals concerning municipal appropriations to volunteer fire companies. John thanked Ed Vincent for providing a legislative update at the chiefs' association meeting on July 9th and noted that the update has been emailed to the fire chiefs.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the home has created a Facebook page and that they have been hosting summer BBQs for the residents. The admission form has been updated to include information about final arrangements, such as choice of funeral home. There was one recent issue with a funeral home that was no longer in business. The law requires a decedent to be removed from the home within five hours. NJ State Senator Richard Codey owns funeral homes in Boonton and Caldwell. He has volunteered temporary services if the home is in such a situation again.

NJ State Firemen's Association – Henry Schoenstein reported that the Atlantic County Caucus is scheduled for 19:30 August 12th at the Egg Harbor City firehouse, registration starts at 18:30. The convention is scheduled for 13:00 September 12th and 09:00 September 13th in Wildwood. The Memorial Service is to precede the convention meeting on September 13th.

Atlantic County 4H Fair – President Portale reported that the fair is scheduled for August 7th, 8th, and 9th, with Firefighter Competition on August 8th, and reminded all that assistance will be needed on August 7th to setup.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

Drawing was held for the Wildwood Parade order for the Atlantic County Unit (lead Dept./Co. to also carry ACFFA banner):

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 1. Galloway Twp. | 6. Absecon | 11. Linwood | 16. Egg Harbor City |
| 2. Mullica Twp. | 7. Hammonton | 12. Buena Vista Twp. | 17. Whitey Swartz Fire Museum |
| 3. Buena Borough | 8. Estell Manor | 13. Northfield | 18. Remaining Atl. Co. Units |
| 4. Egg Harbor Twp. | 9. Somers Point | 14. Longport | as submitted directly to Parade Committee |
| 5. Port Republic | 10. Dorothy, Weymouth Twp. | 15. Hamilton Twp. | |

Online registration still required at http://www.njfireexpo.com/memorial_parade.html

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Bills

The bills, totaling \$38,360.68, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Pine Creek Structures - \$2,275.00 (shed) / AtlantiCare - \$135.00 (CPR cards) / Suburban Propane - \$1,279.24 (propane) / Lowes - \$994.53 (training supplies & equipment maintenance) / This & That Uniform - \$114.00 (instructor polo shirts) / Home Depot - \$25.02 (keys) / Staples - \$411.97 (training & public relations office supplies) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$636.80 (training lunches & graduation food) / South Jersey Welding - \$26.04 (equipment rental) / 1st Half 2014 Instructor Payroll - \$27,166.64 (instructor payroll) / IRS - \$5,296.44 (1st half 2014 payroll taxes)

Applications for Membership

Joseph D. Rush III of the Atlantic City Fire Department was accepted into membership.

Good of the Order

Thank you to the Linwood Fire Department for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Rev. Thomas Sweeny. There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:35. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on August 20, 2014 at the Mizpah Volunteer Fire Company.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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Date Clearing http://www.atlanticcountyfireassoc.org/ACFFA_Date_Clearing.htm

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Jul. 19, 2014	22:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 2	50/50 Raffle @ 139 th Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Sun. Jul. 27, 2014	16:00	Bayview VFC @ Pitney Pub	Beef-N-Beer
Sat. Aug. 2, 2014	16:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Spaghetti Dinner
Aug. 7, 8, 9, 2014	varies	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair (Firefighter Competition - Fri. Aug. 8 at 19:00)
Sun. Aug. 10, 2014	09:00	Bayview VFC	American Red Cross Blood Drive
Tues. Aug. 12, 2014	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Aug. 22, 2014	19:00	Bayview VFC @ Gardner's Basin, Atlantic City	2 nd Annual Bayview Sunset Cruise
Fri. Sep. 12, 2014	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 13, 2014	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Oct. 4, 2014	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest
Sat. Oct. 4, 2014	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sun. Oct. 5, 2014	10:00	Historic Smithville, NJ	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest
Sat. Oct. 11, 2014	08:00	Elwood VFC @ Mays Landing Country Club	13 th Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Sat. Oct. 11, 2014	12:30	Bargaintown VFC @ McCullough's Emerald Links	6 th Annual Golf Outing
Sat. Oct. 18, 2014	15:30	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner
Sat. Nov. 8, 2014	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
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ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. Aug. 20, 2014	20:00	Mizpah VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 17, 2014	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 15, 2014	20:00	Dorothy VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 19, 2014	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 17, 2014	20:00	Cardiff VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 21, 2015	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 18, 2015	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. Sep. 5, 2014	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Oct. 31, 2014	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 2, 2015	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

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Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Mon. Sep. 8, 2014	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Nov. 3, 2014	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 5, 2015	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Aug. 13, 2014	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Sep. 10, 2014	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Oct. 8, 2014	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Nov. 12, 2014	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 10, 2014	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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Wed. Jan. 14, 2015	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Feb. 11, 2015	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Thurs. Jul. 24, 2014	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 22, 2015	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association