

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"

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



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

November 18, 2015

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on November 18, 2015 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department Sta. 2 by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of all fallen firefighters, military personnel, and those that have been killed or injured in the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, France. 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 Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department Chief, Frank Denan. Chief Denan welcomed all to Somers Point and introduced Somers Point Mayor, Jack Glasser. Mayor Glasser thanked all firefighters for their service to their respective communities.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 56 of 176 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 22 of 44

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2015 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 \$139,262.33, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank
Checking: \$57,642.48 / Savings: \$5,007.13 / Savings: \$52,681.56 / 13 Month CD: \$23,931.16
/ 1.01% - Due 6/13/2016

Committee Reports

Atlantic County Central Dispatch – Director Vincent Jones III, Atlantic County Dept. of Public Safety Office of Emergency Preparedness, thanked all those that attended the central dispatch presentation on November 10th. Vince reported that there were no excuses on how the proceedings of that presentation were handled. At this time the plan for central dispatch is still moving forward, though they may downsize the structure while still maintaining the required minimum specifications. Vince reported that some groups are raising concerns about the feasibility of continuing with central dispatch. Vince noted that letters of support from all agencies that would like to see central dispatch be completed would be a beneficial idea at this time. Vince reported on the county's efforts to obtain actual and detailed dispatch costs from the local municipal dispatch centers so that a true financial picture may be presented as to what is currently spent in the county and

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how the projected county dispatch costs compare. Vince reported that the plan is still moving forward and that he fully supports central dispatch since he has seen firsthand the issues with getting strike teams and task force assignments dispatched in Atlantic County. Lefty Clayton brought up the historical note that the Atlantic County Police Chiefs' Association did not fully support the county training center in the beginning, but are now fully utilizing the training center to their benefit. Lefty noted that the same will probably be true for central dispatch. There was much discussion about the central dispatch plans and how to keep them on track. Vince reiterated the importance of the updated and detailed financial data and requested that the fire service keep on their municipal leaders to fully complete and return the survey as soon as possible. County Freeholder John Carman reported that he attended the presentation and believes that it was a disaster that caused more damage to the plan instead of helping move the plan forward. Vince reported that the Board of Chosen Freeholders fully supports central dispatch and recently had a unanimous vote to keep the process moving forward. Oscar Dutch reported that he spoke with County Administrator Jerry DeRosso and that they both agreed that county representatives should meet with each municipality. Howard Berchtold noted that it is shameful that the plan for central dispatch has taken a negative turn and has switched much of the focus on the financial details over the quality of service and responder safety. Howard reported that Cape May County may have central dispatch before Atlantic County even though their effort started much later.

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on October 30th in South Egg Harbor. Howard noted that Director Corbo had presented some preliminary results of a statewide fire academy report he was putting together to compare all Firefighter I programs in New Jersey. Howard reported that the initial data had Atlantic County just below the average total training hours with 180 hours compared to the 156 - 225 hours range. Howard reported that interviews are being conducted for two new fire instructors now that two have been removed from the roll, that the Executive Committee authorized an email request for offers to purchase the retired training center engine be submitted prior to November 18th, and that the committee also reviewed, and recommended the adoption of, the 2016/2017 meeting schedule. Howard reported that the Executive Committee received, and recommends the approval of, the administration budget and capital purchase proposal for 2016 and that they expect to review the training, public relations, and photographer budgets at the next meeting in January. Howard reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for January 8, 2016 in Pomona at 19:30 and will be the reorganizational meeting for 2016.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes of the Advisory Board meeting held on November 9th. Howard reported that an agreement has been reached with Pro Auto Recyclers of Egg Harbor Township to supply vehicles for extrication training, the county is working with Atlantic Electric to solve an electrical problem at the training center, and that the contractor will start the burn building door replacement project on November 23rd.

Atlantic County Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent reported that he fully supports the central dispatch plan and noted that the time it currently takes to assemble a task force, with fourteen points of dispatch, is unacceptable. Ed reported that the coordinators responded to one incident, in Hammonton, since the last meeting and that Tender Task Force – Bravo (TTF-B) held a drill on November 15th that went well. Ed provided an update for the FY2015 Homeland Security Grant and reported that all should contact him with desired equipment for the FY2016 Homeland Security Grant. Ed reported that nineteen, of twenty-three, municipalities have already returned signed copies of the new five year Mutual Aid Agreement. Ed reported that he needs to keep the Mutual Aid Plan up to date and file those updates with the NJ DFS in January of 2016. Ed requested that anyone with new apparatus or equipment, retiring apparatus, or have new officers should inform him of those updates as soon as possible via either phone or email before the end of the year.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that a new training center facility usage inspection form is now being utilized and that it requires both pre and post usage completion. Mike reported that the contractor will start the burn building

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door replacement on November 23rd and that the building will be out of service until completed. Mike reported on the collection of statewide Firefighter I training information in response to the discussions at the last meeting. Mike distributed the "New Jersey Fire Academies Firefighter I Comparisons" report in which sixteen, of the nineteen, counties offering Firefighter I training are compared. Mike reviewed, and explained, all of the data and the breakdown of what training is offered with each program. The range of total Firefighter I training hours was from 160 - 225 hours with Atlantic County coming in at 180 total hours, below the overall average of 186.6 hours. Mike stated his belief that Atlantic County is providing a more rounded program, with more final certifications, and graduates firefighters to both NFPA and NJ PEOOSH standards. Mike reported on the purchase of a new soap dispenser for the training center washer. Soap will now be auto dispensed when washing turn-out gear. Mike reported that cracks have been discovered in the smokehouse and that an engineer will evaluate. Mike reported that they will evaluate doing something to the smokehouse roof to shed more water away from the structure. Mike reported on the agreement with Pro Auto Recyclers of Egg Harbor Township to supply vehicles for extrication training. Mike reviewed the upcoming training classes and reported that some need more enrollment or risk being canceled.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Chick Kisby reported that the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be 8:00 PM on December 9, 2015 at the Sweetwater Volunteer Fire Company. Chick noted that nominations and elections for all officers will be conducted.

NJ Firemen's Home – Board Manager Oscar Dutch reported that the Board of Managers recently held their reorganizational meeting and that all else is quiet at the home.

NJ State Firemen's Assn. – Executive Committeeman Henry Schoenstein reported that the NJSFA Executive Committee recently met and that Kevin B. Finnegan, Morris County, has been appointed to the vacant Secretary position. Henry reported that he tried to raise discussion about the proceedings in Wildwood at the convention, but his concerns were not addressed. Henry reviewed some of the details about the NJSFA election at the convention and read a letter from Sussex County requesting the termination of the NJSFA outside counsel. Henry reported that some letters of intent have already been received for the 2016 elections. Henry reported that both the request to have alternate local representatives and the request to reinstate the appeal process were both denied.

Audit Committee – Wayne Dilks reported that the audit committee met on November 17th with the Treasurer and found all of the books and records to be in good order for FY2014.

ACFFA Dinner – The dinner is scheduled for April 2, 2016. Cindy Badger reported that the dinner will be buffet style and reviewed some of the menu options.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

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New Business

A Resolution to endorse and support Atlantic County Centralized Dispatch was introduced. Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the association adopt the resolution (Resolution 2015-005) and to send copies to the Atlantic County Executive, County Administrator, and Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the only offer received, of \$1000, for the retired training center engine.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2016 Administrative Budget of \$3,625.00 as presented to, and recommended by, the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2016 Administrative Capital Purchase Proposal of \$850.00 as presented to, and recommended by, the Executive Committee.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2016/2017 meeting schedule as reviewed, and recommended by, the Executive Committee.

2016/2017 Meeting schedule for the Executive Committee (meetings at 19:30):

March 4, 2016 – Cardiff	May 6, 2016 – Whitey Swartz Fire Museum
July 1, 2016 – Landisville	September 2, 2016 – Absecon
November 4, 2016 – South Egg Harbor	January 6, 2017 – Pomona

2016/2017 Meeting schedule for the Regular Meetings (third Wednesday of month at 20:00):

March 16 – Elwood	April 20 - Fire Training Center (Host Margate)	May 18 – Bayview
June 15 – Collings Lakes	July 20 – Linwood	August 17 – Weymouth
September 21 – Hammonton #2	October 19 – Estell Manor	November 16 – Somers Point #1
December 21 – Scullville	January 18, 2017 – Egg Harbor City	February 15, 2017 – Longport

Bills

The bills, totaling \$4,228.51, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Whitey Swartz - \$155.61 (reimburse photographer supplies) / State of New Jersey-927 - \$1,097.64 (quarterly taxes) / Home Depot - \$260.10 (roof mockup rebuild) / Suburban Propane - \$900.89 (propane) / Good Enough - \$1,050.00 (straw) / Chris Kislow - \$12.01 (reimburse for keys) / Fire Soaps - \$499.00 (washer soap dispenser) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$145.00 (training lunches) / Continental - \$94.00 (equipment maintenance) / South Jersey Welding Supply - \$14.26 (equip. rental)

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Nomination of Officers

The second of two rounds of nominations was held. Only the seats on the Executive Committee are contested. 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, Wayne Dilks, William Donath
Executive Comm. (9)	Howard Berchtold Jr., David G. Buzby, Levon "Lefty" Clayton, Rick Coraluzzo Sr., Don DaGrossa, Oscar Dutch Jr., James Garth Sr., R. Thomas Hunter Jr., Walter "Butch" Kienzle III, Eugene M. Sharpe, C. Robert Winkler III

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership.

Good of the Order

Oscar Dutch reported that an Atlantic City area Search & Rescue Forum will be held at the Atlantic City Coast Guard Station on November 20th at 10:00 AM. Oscar noted that the new 800 MHz hard patch to the VHF marine channel will be discussed. Vince Jones reported that two incidents and a water rescue drill in the summer highlighted the marine communication issues and that those with water response within their responsibilities will have a new 800 MHz talk group with the USCG that will be hard patched to Marine VHF Channel 83. Vince reported that the new USCG Commander wants to get out and to meet, and drill with, all agencies that respond to water emergencies.

Thank you to the Somers Point Volunteer 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 21:25. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on December 16, 2015 at the Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Company. Elections will be conducted and delegates are reminded to bring their delegate cards. Association dues for 2015 have not yet been received from Minotola, Cologne, Pleasantville, and Somers Point Sta. 1. The delegates from those companies will not be entitled to vote unless dues are submitted.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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RESOLUTION NO. 2015-005

RESOLUTION

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Endorse and Support Atlantic County Centralized Dispatch

WHEREAS, the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association, with a membership of forty-four fire companies in Atlantic County, New Jersey, is an organization dedicated to public safety; and

WHEREAS, the effort for creating a Central Dispatch in Atlantic County has been ongoing for in excess of thirty-five (35) years; and,

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of New Jersey has recognized and encouraged the consolidation of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) through legislative updates including, but not limited to, N.J.S.A.52:17C-7 amended by P.L. 2007 c.56; and,

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services contracted with the John J. Heldrich Center For Workforce Development (Rutgers University) to create the "New Jersey 9-1-1 Consolidation Study" titled "Saving Lives, Increasing Value: Opportunities and Strategies for Consolidating New Jersey's 9-1-1 Emergency Services" which cited Atlantic County as one of seven counties that may be candidates for targeted efforts to encourage consolidation and that cost savings alone are insufficient motivation to pursue consolidation and that the effort should also be driven by the interest in improved service and maintaining high standards of public safety; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Atlantic contracted with L. Robert Kimball & Associates to create the "9-1-1 Consolidation Feasibility Study" from January of 2007 through the final report in April of 2008 which summarized that the consolidation of 9-1-1 and emergency dispatch services had become a national trend as more agencies recognized the benefits in terms of service improvements and potential long-term cost efficiencies with the conclusion that consolidation is an approach that is proactive and vision-centric for the good of the public and public safety service providers and that consolidation within Atlantic County is not only feasible, but highly recommended; and,

WHEREAS, the Atlantic County 2010 Regionalization of Services Committee recommended that the county help facilitate the establishment of a regionalized dispatch system; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Atlantic conducted a baseline survey that procured the interest, and intent, of the majority of municipalities to support, and join, a centralized dispatch followed by the County of Atlantic and The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (now Stockton University) reaching a preliminary agreement for the construction and operation of a countywide central dispatch facility in December of 2013 and moving forward with that plan since;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of Atlantic County, New Jersey endorses and supports the ongoing effort to complete the construction of a countywide central dispatch facility and to consolidate the multiple PSAPs within the County of Atlantic.

This resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association on November 18, 2015 and shall take effect immediately.

Amor Portale, President _____

ATTEST:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary _____

CERTIFICATION

I, Robert A. Mellon, Secretary of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association of the State of New Jersey Inc., certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association, at a regular meeting held on the 18th day of November, 2015, by the membership in attendance.

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary _____

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

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. Nov. 21, 2015	10:00	Minotola VFC	Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale (10:00 - 13:00)
Wed. Nov. 25, 2015	19:00	Gourmet Italian Cuisine, Galloway	Firemen's Night Out Benefiting Bayview VFC
Sat. Dec. 5, 2015	08:00	New York City	Bus Trip to New York City sponsored by Pomona VFC Ladies Auxiliary
Sat. Dec. 5, 2015	11:00	Cardiff VFC	Open House with Santa Claus (11:00 - 15:00)
Sat. Dec. 12, 2015	19:00	Hammonton	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (reg. 17:30 & parade 19:00)
Sat. Dec. 19, 2015	12:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Community Open House (12:00 - 15:00)
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Fri. Mar. 18, 2016	17:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	5th Annual Firehouse Fish Fry Dinner
Sat. Apr. 2, 2016	18:30	Mays Landing Country Club	Annual ACFFA Dinner (RSVP by March 18 th)
Sat. Apr. 9, 2016	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. May 7, 2016	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sat. May 14, 2016	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill
Sat. Oct. 8, 2016	08:00	Elwood VFC @ Mays Landing Country	15th Annual William Kennedy Memorial Golf Tournament
Sat. Nov. 12, 2016	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

Regional Drills/Training

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Sat. May 14, 2016	07:30	Atlantic City Int'l Airport	Triennial Emergency Preparedness Drill

ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. Dec. 16, 2015	20:00	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 20, 2016	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 17, 2016	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

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Fri. Jan. 8, 2016	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. Jan. 4, 2016	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Dec. 9, 2015	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jan. 13, 2016	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Feb. 10, 2016	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Thurs. Jan. 28, 2016	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 28, 2016	19:30	Oceanville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association