

# 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



February 16, 2011

## Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on February 16, 2011 at the Longport Fire Dept. 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

Chief Clayton of the Longport Fire Company was introduced. Chief Clayton welcomed all to Longport. Chief Clayton introduced Mayor Nick Russo. Mayor Russo welcomed all to Longport and noted the importance of keeping your department's historical documentation for future reference. Mayor Russo reported on the recent review of the early minutes for the Longport Fire Dept. as they prepare for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. Mayor Russo reported that initial plans for a celebration of 100 years may include a large parade and he hopes that all of Atlantic County's fire service will join them in the summer of 2012.

## 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 Jan. 19, 2011 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 \$129,192.77, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America /	Bank of America /	ING Direct /	Bank of America /	Hudson City Savings /	ING Direct
Checking: \$32,199.82 /	Savings: \$5,560.20 /	Savings: \$22,822.53 /	18 Month CD-8286: \$52,655.28 /	12 Month CD: \$10,297.77 /	12 Month CD: \$5,657.17
			1.60% - Due 3/1/2011	1.42% - Due 3/8/2011	1.25% - Due 10/12/2011

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – Chairman Howard Berchtold Jr. summarized the minutes of the Jan. 7, 2011 meeting of the executive committee. Howard reported that he was reelected as Chairman and Oscar Dutch was reelected as Co-Chairman for 2011. Howard reported on the discussion about the current relationship, and the need for no direct legal relationship, with the Atlantic County Firemen's Death Benefit Fund Association. Since the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association is seeking conversion from a 501(c)4 to a 501(c)3 non-profit under IRS rules, there can be no direct benefit provided such as a death benefit. Howard noted that the death benefit fund is an excellent organization and a worthy cause that should be supported by

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the county fire departments. All legal means of support will still be provided by the firefighter's association without any direct or financial relationship. The next meeting of the executive committee is on Mar. 4, 2011.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – Howard Berchtold Jr. highlighted some of the details from the Jan. 10, 2011 meeting of the board. Many repairs are being completed on the training center buildings. Plans are being laid out to start the process of getting training center expansion plans back on the county agenda. The next meeting of the board is on Mar. 14, 2011.

**Fire Coordinator** – Ed Vincent reported on the fires that the coordinator and/or deputy coordinators responded to during the last two months. Ed reported on the text messaging plans for the coordinators and reported on the new chiefs in Egg Harbor City (Walter "Butch" Kienzle III), Linwood (Charles "Chick" Kisby), Farmington (Leonard Tilley), and Mullica Township (Jerry Critelli Jr.). Ed reported that a county radio policy committee has been formed. Ed has retyped the 1994 fire radio procedure and sent it to the radio committee members for review, comments, and suggestions for updating the policy. Ed reported on the recent Tanker Task Force (Div. A) meeting. Ed thanked Chip Stockton (Germany) for leading the task force for several years and welcomed John Yochim (Port Republic) who will now lead the task force. Ed reported on the meetings he recently attended for the NJ Divisional Fire Coordinators and the NJ Dept. of Fire Safety. Ed reported that new gear is being requested for the deputy coordinators as well as clarification of insurance coverage for the coordinators. Ed reported that an updated mutual aid book is complete and that Fire Marshal Swartz will send copies to all departments who should reuse the two inch red binder that the current copy is in. Ed reported that there are nine deputy coordinators and each will be assigned five county departments to stay in touch with so as to keep mutual aid information up to date. Ed reported on the fiscal year 2010 and 2011 Homeland Security Grants and their current status. Ed would like a list from all departments on what they want or need for the fiscal year 2012 Homeland Security Grants. The proposals for the 2012 grants will start in September 2011. Ed reported on the recent NFPA standards failure of the "Blaze Fighter" firefighter gloves manufactured by The Glove Corporation and the recent closure of that company.

**Fire Marshal** – Fire Marshal Harold "Whitey" Swartz reported on county departments that have not yet submitted fire call data for the 2010 county report. Whitey needs the call totals submitted by March 1 to be included in the report. Whitey reported that he will be updating the fire departments information book and that any updates should be sent to him. Whitey reported that bids have been received for the cascade unit and due to there be exceptions included in the bids it will have to be put out for bid again. Whitey reported that he is seeking a written explanation from the county concerning coordinator insurance coverage. Whitey reported that an engineers report on the training center buildings is being completed and that the Director of Fire Training, Mike Corbo, is working on the engine being donated by the Wagner family of Estell Manor.

**Public Relations** – Fire Marshal Harold "Whitey" Swartz reported that only four applications were submitted for valor awards. If anyone is unsure if someone is qualified for a valor award, they should contact Whitey for assistance. Whitey reported that he has also received four applications for 50+ years of active service members. Whitey reminded all that recognition for 50+ years of active service must be submitted by the chief of a department. Whitey reported that the Cape/Atlantic 200 Club Memorial Service & Brunch is scheduled for Apr. 10, 2011.

**Training** – Director of Training, Mike Corbo reported that the spring Firefighter I class has started with sixty-one students. The hands-on training days will be divided in half to accommodate the large class. Mike reported that the recent graduation ceremony for the fall class had over one hundred eighty in attendance and only one hundred fifty seats available. The next graduation ceremony will be scheduled for a day in June and an auditorium will be found for the event. Mike reported that the fire inspector class has started and that the QTO, QSO, ODI class is scheduled multiple times and is mandatory for certain members of every company that will utilize the training grounds for department training. Mike reported that STICO and

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PICO are scheduled twice this semester, one for daytime and one for evening. Mike reported that NJ weekend at the National Fire Academy is scheduled for June 11 & 12 and only costs the sponsoring agency approx. \$36.00 per student. Mike reported that the sign up window for the NJ DFS classes starts on March 1 and is done online through the NJ DFS website. Anyone needing CEUs for Fire Official, Fire Inspector, or Fire Instructor should check the NJ DFS courses. Mike reported that the NJ DFS has issued guidelines for standardizing all RIT training and is also seeking IFSAC and/or ProBoard certification for state certified fire training. It is unknown when the certification process will be completed. Mike reported on the pending purchases of a second smoke machine, replacement mannequins, as well as additional nozzles and appliances. Mike reported that the Wagner family, of Estell Manor, has purchased the old Estell Manor engine, formally Longport engine, and is donating it to the academy.

**Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association** – Charles "Chick" Kisby reported that the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association will be on Mar. 31, 2011 in Minotola.

**NJ Forest Fire** – President Portale reported that NJ Forest Fire Service will have a presentation at the next association meeting in March.

**NJ Firemen's Home** – Oscar Dutch reported on the continuing upgrades and repairs at the home. Oscar reported that the budget, submitted to the state, has not yet been approved. Oscar reported that he will arrange a trip up to, and tour of, the home for anyone interested. Contact Oscar if you would like to go.

**County Communications** – Oscar Dutch reported on recent central dispatch meetings. It was confirmed that "Firehouse Software" is compatible with proposed dispatch plans. Oscar reported that the idea of a western dispatch center has been dropped and that plans are back to researching a full central location.

**NJ Firemen's Assn.** – Henry Schoenstein reported that the relief scale was increased by \$250 on January 1, 2011. Henry reported that all officer reports have been received from all locals in the state and that the financial reports are now due. Henry reported that the online report submissions have greatly simplified the process. Henry reported that the "green sheets" are due by the end of February and that the East Orange building has not yet been sold.

**ACFFA Dinner** – Wayne Dilks reported that the dinner is scheduled for 18:30 on Friday, March 25, 2011 at Careme's, Atl. Cape Comm. College. Please RSVP by March 16th. Cost is \$40.00 per person and includes a wine and beer setup.

## Communications

There were no communications to report.

## Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act on.

## New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the treasurer researches the best rates and reinvest the Bank of America 18 Month CD (due on Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>) and the Hudson City Savings 12 month CD (due on Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>) when they become available.

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## Bills

The bills, totaling \$9,752.56, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. Treasurer Mellon pointed out that the accountant bill represents two years of service. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills --- Kaufmann, Wagner, & Jennings - \$5,485.50 (accounting services) / Atlanticare - \$70.00 (CPR cards) / Walt's Primos - \$759.56 (class lunches) / Staples - \$261.29 (office & graduation supplies) / Hayes Mindish - \$110.00 (2011 schedule cards) / NJ DFS - \$640.00 (officer class student text books) / Mike Corbo - \$1,586.80 (reimburse two instructors registration and airfare for FDIC) / NJ Payroll Taxes - \$459.05 / NJ Payroll Taxes - \$246.76 / IRS Payroll Taxes - \$133.60

## Applications for Membership

Jason Milligan of the Oceanville Vol. Fire Co.; James Hiltner Jr., Anthony Tabasso Jr., Debra Ann Boyle, Brian P. Duffey, Joseph J. DeStefano, David Funk, John A. Clifton, Thomas P. Sher, Michael Palmer, Michael J. Sher, Daniel T. Germana, Danyl D. Loyle, Brad Eissler, Chris Paisley, Chris Maher, Robert J. Palamaro Jr., Christopher Graves, and John A. Sher of the Margate Fire Dept. were accepted into membership.

## Good of the Order

Fire Marshal Whitey Swartz reported that he has a list of departments that are not in compliance with the NFIRS reporting. Whitey reminded all that grants will be withheld from departments not in compliance.

Howard Berchtold reported that Treasurer Jaime Mellon and Asst. Secretary-Treasurer Cindy Badger have accomplished much work with the financial business including researching a new accounting firm. Howard noted that over \$4000 worth of IRS penalties, due to the accountant filing taxes late for previous years, have been waived after diligent intervention by Treasurer Mellon.

Thank you to the Longport 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 21:10. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Mar. 16, 2011 in Folsom.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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## Date Clearing

Sat. Feb. 26, 2011	20:00	Vineland Moose Lodge #434	Red Knights Motorcycle Club 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Beef & Beer
Fri. Mar. 25, 2011	18:00	Careme's @ Atlantic Cape Comm. College	Atl. Co. Firefighters' Assoc. – Annual Dinner
Sat. Apr. 9, 2011	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sun. Apr. 10, 2011	10:30	St. Nicholas Church & Borgata	Cape Atlantic 200 Club Memorial Service(10:30) & Brunch(12:00)
Sat. May 14, 2011	10:00	Smithville	Oceanville VFC @ Mayfest (Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries)(10:00-17:00)
Sun. May 15, 2011	10:00	Smithville	Oceanville VFC @ Mayfest (Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries)(10:00-17:00)
Sat. May 21, 2011	11:00	Hammonton VFC #2	4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Second-2-None Motorcycle Run
Sun. Jun. 5, 2011	12:00	Dorothy VFC	54 <sup>th</sup> Annual Chicken BBQ 12:00 - 18:00
Sat. Oct. 1, 2011	10:00	Smithville	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest (Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries)(10:00-17:00)
Sun. Oct. 2, 2011	10:00	Smithville	Oceanville VFC @ Oktoberfest (Foot Long Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Fries)(10:00-17:00)
Sat. Nov. 12, 2011	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner

(Please email your event info to [robert.mellon@atlanticcountyfireassoc.org](mailto:robert.mellon@atlanticcountyfireassoc.org))