

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 16, 2011

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on November 16, 2011 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company No. 2 by President Amor "Skip" Portale. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence. President Portale then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

Opening Remarks

President Portale introduced Chief Denan of the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company No. 2. Chief Denan welcomed all to Somers Point, introduced his company officers, noted that Somers Point Fire Companies have the honor of working with a public safety oriented government that has been proactive with new fire and police equipment including a new quint for the fire company, and then introduced Councilman Sean McGuigan. Councilman McGuigan welcomed all to Somers Point on behalf of the city council and Mayor Jack Glasser who had to attend a planning board meeting. Councilman McGuigan also offered thanks to all of the firefighters for their service to the residents of Atlantic County.

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 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 \$124,022.33, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America	/	Bank of America	/	ING Direct	/	Parke Bank	/	Parke Bank
Checking: \$35,758.28	/	Savings: \$2,099.87	/	Savings: \$40,086.37	/	13 Month CD: \$23,077.81	/	12 Month CD: \$23,000.00
						1.35% - Due 5/6/2012	/	1.10% - Due 10/30/2012

Committee Reports

Executive Committee –Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the Nov. 4, 2011 meeting of the Executive Committee held in South Egg Harbor. Howard reported that the Atlantic County Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc. President, Jim Schoenstein, was in attendance to discuss the need for distinct separation between the ACFFA and the ACFDBFA. Jim stated that he understood the need and was working on changes to the organizational (bylaws) documents of the ACFDBFA. Howard reported that the Executive Committee is recommending the suspension of the 2012 4H Fair Poster Contest due to ongoing minimal participation. The Executive Committee is also recommending to accept the Director of Training's request to modify the 2011 training capital spending plan due to surplus funds from obtaining better pricing and

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

not needing to purchase all that was originally anticipated. Four sets of instructor gear has been ordered, two purchased by the county and two purchased by the association. Howard reported on the update from Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent that Deputy Fire Coordinators should report mutual aid updates, including newly elected officers, from their assigned departments/companies before the end of the second week of January and not the end of November as previously reported. Howard reported that the Executive Committee recommends accepting the Treasurer's recommendation to hire Kevin Kehr as the new association accountant and the committee further recommends that a transition plan be developed to minimize the impact of switching accounting firms. Howard reported that the Treasurer has been kept busy with all of the ongoing business and is dealing with Home Depot credit issues that might be best resolved by closing the account and opening a new one at a later date. Howard also reported that the Executive Committee has received and accepted the 2012 Public Relations Budget proposal and is recommending the association accept it. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be in Pomona on January 6, 2012 and will be the annual reorganizational meeting of the committee.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that the board met on November 14, 2011 at the training center. Discussion was held concerning the future expansion of the training center. Mike Corbo will work on creating a report outlining expansion needs and coordinate with police and EMS so a full plan for expansion can be put into a proposal to the county. Howard reported that the two engines have been washed and waxed by the Ocean City FD recruit class, as a thank you for use of the training center, and they look great. South Egg Harbor VFC donated four inch hose to the training center and the one engine still needs to be sent out for repair of a constant leak. Many minor projects are ongoing at the training center. The cleaning of the training center has been subpar at best and attempts to get the county to correct the issue is an ongoing effort. Whitey reported that the building used to have a full time janitor and now they only get a crew for approx. fifteen minutes in the morning and approx. ten minutes in the afternoon.

Fire Marshal / Public Relations – Fire Marshal Harold "Whitey" Swartz reported that he would like to have all county fire reports and updates to the information book turned in as soon as possible. Now is the time to start considering valor award nominations and submissions for the fifty years of service recognition. Whitey requested that the names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails for all new officers be sent to his office. Whitey reported that the company National Restoration does business as a board up company but is also a public adjuster. NJ law states that public adjusters are only to be on properties between 08:00 and 18:00, Monday through Friday. The NJ State Fire Marshals will be discussing the issue of public adjusters on fire scenes after their allowed hours. Whitey reported that he recommended to the Executive Board that the 2012 4H Fair Poster Contest be suspended due to minimal participation.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the fall FFI is three quarters complete and will start live burn training in two weeks. The FFII exam is next Monday, Nov. 21, 2011. The spring FFI will be three hours longer, now a total of 157 hours, in order to include the new mandatory RIT training as per the NJ DFS. Mike reported on the remaining classes scheduled for the fall semester and the need to have more firefighters from the county sign up for continuing education. A Fire Officer I class will start on Jan. 3, 2012 and run for three weeks. The Fire Investigator class has been moved to March of 2012. Mike reported on the proposed changes to the 2011 capital spending plan. There is no longer a need for an additional instructor laptop as reported to the Executive Committee. There is a new nozzle and a gated wye in the equipment shed. All SCBA has been flow tested and has passed. The ground ladders will be inspected in December. The Spring 2012 Course Catalog should be ready for the December meeting of the association. Now that cold temperatures are increasingly likely, water use on the training grounds may be limited as per the temperature guidelines in the operating procedures. Many classes have been canceled due to low or no preregistration. Most of the classes are basic level classes that should be attended by all firefighters early in their years in the fire service. The flashover simulator has been utilized by more out of county than in county firefighters and this type of training is something that could be invaluable. Tools of Rescue is another class that all firefighters should try to attend. If each county department/company tries to have a couple of firefighters each semester take

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

one course, many of these classes would not have to be canceled and the county fire service would benefit greatly by the increased level of training. The SCBA Competency class (covers use of and self rescue) is another extremely valuable training opportunity for all firefighters and is a required prerequisite for the new RIT Training class. The Emergency Vehicle Operations is a costly class to run, even though the books were obtained for free, due to the number of needed instructors. Attempts were made to get JIF to cover the class costs but they deferred it back to each municipalities' training budget. Mike wants all firefighters to remember that Firefighter I is only a basic introductory course and that all firefighters should try to further their training when ever possible.

Library – Ron Bird reported that he is working with a Mays Landing Librarian to try and get a book tracking computer program at no cost to the association. If anyone needs library access, contact Ron at tower452002@yahoo.com.

Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Association – Chick Kisby reported the next meeting of the Atl. Co. Fire Chief's Assoc. will be November 29, 2011 at the Linwood Fire Department.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch Jr. reported that the NJ State Firemen's Assoc. and the NJ Firemen's Home Board of Managers held a joint meeting and it went well.

Fire Coordinator – On behalf of Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent, Oscar Dutch Jr. reported that the task force trailers purchased under the Homeland Security grants have been received. There are two box trailers and four flat bed trailers(for foam totes).

Radio Policy / Central Communication – President Portale introduced Atlantic County Communications Supervisor Mike Bradeis. Mike reported on the ongoing county plans and efforts for both central dispatch and radio technology updates. Out of fifty locations for central dispatch with existing structures, none remained after ones required extensize modification costs were eliminated. A survey has been sent to all municipalities requesting total current dispatch costs. Not all have been returned, if you can, urge your mayor, manager, or police chief to complete the survey and return it. The county is now researching two possible Greenfield sites for a new construction central dispatch. Mike urged all fire departments/companies that support central dispatch to relay that to their respective municipal leaders.

Communications

Announcement from Mays Landing Fire Chief Dave Connelly reporting the passing of Firefighter Kevin "Dago" Thelen.

Response from New Jersey Senator Jim Whelan expressing his support for the NJ Division of Fire Safety to remain unchanged as rumors predict the elimination of the division.

Response from New Jersey Assemblymen John Amodeo and Vincent Polistina stating that no formal proposals exist for the elimination of the NJ Division of Fire Safety and that information provided will be useful if they ever have to debate such a proposal.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act on.

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

New Business

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to follow the recommendations of the Fire Marshal and Executive Committee and suspend the 2012 4H Fair Poster Contest due to low participation.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to follow the recommendation of the Executive Committee and adopt the 2012 Public Relations Budget as submitted.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to follow the recommendation of the Executive Committee and approve the 2011 Training Capital Proposal modifications with the exception of the additional instructor laptop computer.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to follow the recommendations of the Treasurer and Executive Committee and hire Kevin Kehr as the new association accountant with a stipulation that a transitional plan be put in place so that all accounting functions will transfer smoothly from the current accountant to the new accountant.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$6,430.16, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds. The association flow tested and repaired five SCBA and the county flow tested twenty SCBA.

Bills --- New Jersey Dept. of Labor - \$670.14 (payroll taxes) / New Jersey Dept. of Labor - \$408.42 (payroll taxes) / Sam's Club - \$30.47 (new checkbook) / Hughes Farms - \$328.00 (straw) / Harold Eckbold - \$100.00 (straw) / Modern Gas - \$1,289.70 (propane) / Continental Fire & Safety - \$602.50 (engine equipment) / MES - \$1,547.00 (SCBA Flow Test & Mask Lenses) / Moore Medical - \$480.75 (trauma bag medical equipment) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$187.00 (training food) / Michael Corbo - \$542.57 (one instructor laptop & training foam) / Lowes - \$112.05 (flashover wood) / Staples - \$131.56 (training office supplies)

Nomination of Officers

The second of two rounds of nominations was held. Ted Reinhard sent word to withdraw his name from the Executive Committee nominations. 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, William Thomas Hand, Wayne Dilks
Executive Comm. (9)	Howard Berchtold Jr., Ronald Bird Jr., Rick Coraluzzo Sr., Oscar Dutch Jr., James Garth Sr., Charles J. Guenther, R. Thomas Hunter Jr., C. Robert Winkler III, Levon "Lefty" Clayton, David G. Buzby

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

Applications for Membership

There were no applications for membership.

Good of the Order

Lefty Clayton introduced Jerry Naylis, formally with the Atlantic City FD and now residing in North Jersey with several positions in private, local, regional, and state fire service. Jerry reported on the recent NJ Fire Safety Commission meeting. Discussion at the meeting included the recent jury verdict against the Tinton Falls FD, Monmouth County, in the case of the downed electrical wires in 2007. It was brought up that not having a 501(c)3 non-profit charity designation may have been detrimental in this case as some additional immunities may have been afforded by that status. It is reported that the state legislature will be researching the current tort claim laws as they applied to this case. Jerry also reported on the new training regulations that are now in the comment phase of being implemented. Jerry remarked that this association having a library available to Atlantic County firefighters is a tremendous resource. Jerry added that additional reference material is available through the Nation Fire Academy at no charge either through their website or at (301)447-1189 (ask for Patti and tell her Jerry said Hi). Jerry also noted that the federal fire act grant applications now ask if your firefighters are trained to the Firefighter II standard and if not, what are your plans to achieve that training? Jerry suggested that any departments/companies seeking apparatus grants also include the Emergency Vehicle Operations training as part of the grant application.

Thank you to the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company No. 2 for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

Adjournment

There being no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 21:15. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on December 21, 2011 at the Scullville Vol. Fire Company. Elections will be conducted and delegates are reminded to bring their delegate cards.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

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

Date Clearing

Tues. Nov. 29, 2011	20:00	Linwood FD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Fri. Dec. 2, 2011	18:00	Somers Point	Somers Point Christmas Parade w/ FD
Sat. Dec. 3, 2011	08:00	Pomona VFC	Bus Trip to New York City
Sat. Dec. 10, 2011	08:00	Farmington VFC	Breakfast with Santa Claus
Sat. Dec. 10, 2011	19:00	Hammonton VFD	Annual Christmas Parade & Block Party – Reg. @ 17:30, Parade @ 19:00
Wed. Dec. 21, 2011	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jan. 18, 2012	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Thurs. Jan. 26, 2012	20:00	Bayview VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.
Tues. Jan. 31, 2012	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc.
Wed. Feb. 15, 2012	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Sat. Apr. 14, 2012	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner
Sat. May 5, 2012	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner
Sat. Nov. 10, 2012	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner

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