

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

May 18, 2016

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on May 18, 2016 at the Bayview Volunteer Fire Company 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 and Introduction of Host Chief

President Portale introduced Chief Chuck Mackintosh of the Bayview Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Mackintosh welcomed all to Bayview. President Portale, also Chief of the Galloway Township Fire Department, welcomed all on behalf of the fire department, the Mayor, and Council of Galloway Township. All are grateful for the mutual aid assistance received and the excellent working relationship with all of the Atlantic County fire service.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 34 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented - 16

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2016 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 \$134,535.55, as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

Bank of America / Bank of America / Capital One 360 / Parke Bank
Checking: \$52,861.96 / Savings: \$5,007.88 / Savings: \$52,734.55 / 13 Month CD: \$23,931.16
/ 1.01% - Due 6/13/2016

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold summarized the minutes from the meeting of the committee held on May 6, 2016 at Whitey Swartz's Firefighters Museum of Southern New Jersey. Howard reported that he was unable to make the Executive Committee meeting due to being stuck in traffic while returning from Washington DC. Howard thanked Vice-Chairman Oscar Dutch for running the meeting. Howard thanked Whitey and Joy Swartz for hosting the Executive Committee at their museum. Howard reported that it was announced at this meeting that the 501(c)(3) determination letter had been received from the IRS. Howard asked all to thank Secretary Robert Mellon, for the almost unending effort completing all of the paperwork, as well as all other contributors that worked on getting this multiyear process done successfully. It was reported that Firefighter I lost two students and is running with twenty-two now. Director Corbo

informed the Executive Committee that the low enrollment this semester is being seen across the state. The annual dinner was canceled, and refunds provided to those that RSVP'd, after receiving twelve RSVPs. Treasurer Jaime Mellon informed the Executive Committee that she contacted the NJ Treasury Department about the back fees and penalties recently brought to the association's attention. They confirmed that the notices had been going to the address of a past association treasurer. They informed her that, with the correct request, the penalties may be abated but the base fees and the interest must still be paid up to date. Treasurer Mellon reported that she has added this to the payroll taxes paid by the accountant for all future payments and will request that they write a letter seeking abatement of the penalties. The Atlantic County 4-H Fair Association has requested that Atlantic County Firefighters' Association continue their annual display, fire prevention, and firefighter competition at the fair this year. The dates of the 2016 Atlantic County 4-H Fair are August 11th, 12th, and 13th. A motion was made and carried by the Executive Committee to immediately pay some of the current bills, prior to the regular meeting, in order to avoid late fees. Howard reported that he has spoken with President Portale about adopting some kind of formal policy allowing for approval of bills earlier than a meeting when it is prudent to do so in order to avoid penalties and a minimum number of the officers and executive committee approve. The Executive Committee was informed that Skip Portale has a set of oxy-acetylene tanks for sale and the purchase may save money over the long term instead of renting tanks for the training center. The committee approved a motion to recommend the association make the purchase if the Director of Training finds that tanks meet the needs of the training program. Whitey Swartz recommended that the Executive Committee look into a fire academy banner to be used for a background in class photos. Director Corbo and Rob Winkler will look into some options and work with Whitey to get pricing. There was then inquiry from the floor concerning how the NJ penalties occurred and how will the situation be prevented in the future. Treasurer Mellon reported that the penalties are from a payroll tax that had not been paid since 2008 and was not part of the accountant's current payroll responsibility. Until recently, all mail about those fees were being sent to the home address of a prior association treasurer. The total of the fees due plus interest and penalties is less than \$500. Treasurer Mellon reported that the address has been corrected and the accountant will handle the fee moving forward as well as seeking abatement of the current penalties. President Portale reported that all mail is now received at the training center instead of at any officer's home address and that this was just one that slipped through the cracks.

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board – Howard Berchtold reported that advisory board did not meet for their scheduled May meeting and that the next meeting of the board is scheduled for July 11, 2016 at the training center.

Fire Coordinator – Fire Coordinator Ed Vincent congratulated all of the valor award recipients and 50 years of service honorees recognized at the April meeting of the association. Ed reported that some mutual aid companies were not aware of the EHTFD 800 MHz talk group changes during the Hidden Creek Golf Club fire on April 13th. They are: Command 1 renamed to EHT Fire 2, Command 2 renamed to EHT Fire 3, Command 3, 4, & 5 – deleted. Ed reported that the Task Force and Strike Team leaders have not yet scheduled any drills. Ed reported that the FY2014 Homeland Security Grant will be closed out when one last item is delivered, they are preparing to start the FY2015 spending when updated pricing is obtained, and \$52,000 in requests were submitted for the FY2016 Homeland Security Grant. Ed reported that Mike Gallagher, NJ DFS Delaware Regional Coordinator, has resigned and that Craig Augustini is now covering that region along with his Shore Regional Coordinator area. Ed reported that the triennial airport drill was held on May 14th with much confusion. The planned water shuttle operations were canceled two hours before the drill. Ed reported that he encountered issues when arriving at the gate and had no clear need to be there once in the drill area. It was also reported that some county fire crews only placed their apparatus on the runway and had no other assignment other than sit in the truck. Many of those that attended the drill reported that they are disappointed with the way it was run and the lack of any useful training for county fire crews.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that Firefighter I lost two students and currently has twenty-two that will finish with their test on June 9th. Firefighter II has twelve students and will wrap-up on May 23rd. Mike reported that he attended FDIC, along with 33,400 others, and was able to obtain the donation of turn-out gear from three different manufacturers for wear testing. The approximate value of the donations is \$6,000. Mike reported that he purchased a new K-Tool at the show to replace a broken one at the training center. They will also try to repair the broken one. Mike reviewed the scheduled classes and the current enrollment for each class. The summer Firefighter I class will start at 08:30 on June 9th. Only eight students are enrolled, more are needed. Mike informed all of a new policy for the training center. All burn building doors and windows are to be closed and locked when use of the building has concluded.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported that Jerry DelRosso, Atlantic County Administrator, and Vince Jones, Atlantic County Director of Emergency Preparedness, were in attendance at the May 11th meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Assoc. to provide an update on the suspended central dispatch project. They informed the county chiefs that Atlantic County was fully committed to the plan and the suspension was strictly due to the loss of municipal support, both expressed and inferred. County Executive Denny Levinson has requested that Jerry and Vince visit Cape May County to research their plans for central dispatch and how it is that they are doing it with a fraction of the budget then what

was planned for Atlantic County. Butch also reported that he requested that Vince explain what has caused the Mays Landing radio tower site to shut down recently. The Mays Landing site had recently experienced some HVAC issues that allowed for high temperatures that caused some radio traffic interruptions. High temp alarms are being installed and the new equipment will allow for two different notification systems to inform two different dispatch centers that there is a high temp alert at one of the sites. Those with properly programmed radios would have had them switch automatically to the next available site. It has been discovered that some reprogramming of radios at the local level has disabled some of that functionality and a new policy will be in place with the P25 radio system requiring minimum programming standards in all radios utilizing the system. Butch noted that the meeting was very well attended and encouraged everyone to keep on their local leaders about central dispatch. Only three municipalities used resolutions to express their not wanting central dispatch, six replied to the county's request for additional data, and the remainder never responded. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be 8:00 PM on June 8, 2016 at the Collings Lakes Volunteer Fire Company.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that the May 10th Golf Tournament for the home went well and was well attended. They will be looking into moving the tournament to a course south of the Raritan River in the future. Oscar reported that the home's budget has been completed and has been written to allow for the new minimum wage if required. Seventy-seven employees would be affected if NJ approves an increased minimum wage. The current wage proposal does allow for a five year period to phase in the new minimum wage.

NJ State Firemen's Assn. – Cindy Badger thanked everyone for electing her to the position of Executive Committeewoman for Atlantic County. Cindy reported that she has been in touch with many of the local associations to assist in any way required. Cindy reminded all local officers that many required reports can be filed online and a confirmation that the report was received can also be found online. Cindy reported that the Estell Manor local is now back up and running. Cindy reported that she attended her first meeting of the NJSFA Executive Committee on May 14th in Wildwood. Cindy reported that she voted against the reappointment of the current association counsel but the vote to reappoint carried 13-7. Cindy also reported that she voted in favor of a motion to increase the age of acceptance for the association. The motion was defeated and the current age limits will remain. The next meeting of the NJSFA Executive Committee will be in July.

Communications

An invitation, and application to display, was received for the Tri-Counties Fire Association 25th Annual Antique Fire Apparatus Show to be held on June 26, 2016 at Thompson Park in Jamesburg, Middlesex County, NJ.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

There was no new business to act upon.

Bills

The bills, totaling \$12,060.60, were read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to pay the bills from the proper funds.

Bills ---Berkley Risk Administrators - \$1,688.00 (workers comp ins) / Atlanticare - \$160.00 (BLS cards) / Good Enoughs - \$1,050.00 (straw) / ICC - \$1,608.88 (fire inspector books) / Lowes - \$47.09 (equip maint) / South Jersey Welding - \$13.80 (equipment rental) / State of New Jersey Division of Employer Accounts - \$488.15 (assessments & interest 2008-2015) / This & That - \$607.49 (1-instructor shirt, 40-Firefighter I shirts) / Suburban Propane - \$948.61 (propane) / NJ Dept. of Community Affairs Div. of Fire Safety - \$1,300.00 (fire inspector books) / Staples - \$91.97 (training office supplies) / Walt's Primo Pizza - \$152.50 (ACHS ROTC cleanup detail) / Med-Tech Resource - \$364.42 (storz adapter) / Robert Mellon - \$94.00 (reimburse 2 rolls stamps) / Home Depot - \$30.28 (equip maint) / Good Enoughs - \$975.00 (straw) / Atlanticare - \$30.00 (BLS card) / Michael Corbo - \$134.00 (reimburse K-Tool purchase) / Michael Corbo - \$2,276.41 (reimburse FDIC expenses)

Applications for Membership

Martin Basso, Michael Cocino, Matthew Debiase, Christopher Dowe, Cody Fletcher, Ross Gordon, Bryan Hofstetter, Michael Logan, Kirin Mackintosh, Lou Miranda III, Matthew Swartz, and Scott Tilton of the Bayview Volunteer Fire Company were accepted into membership.

Good of the Order

Butch Kienzle inquired if the new reduction valve had been installed at the training center. Mike Corbo reported it was just installed on May 13th.

Ed Vincent reported that an email invitation from the Atlantic City Int'l Airport Fire Department had been sent to him for a Promotional Ceremony and Special Retirement scheduled for 18:30 on May 26th. Chief Ed Conrow is retiring and Asst. Chief Nelson Wiest will be promoted to Chief. There are also several other promotions within the department.

Thank you to the Bayview Volunteer Fire Company 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 20:55. The next regular meeting is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on June 15, 2016 in Collings Lakes, Buena Vista Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sat. May 21, 2016	15:00	Laureldale Pub & Grill	Beef & Beer to Benefit Laureldale VFC (15:00 – 19:00)
Sat. May 21, 2016	16:00	Port Republic VFC	Roast Beef Dinner (16:00 - 19:00)
Sat. Jun. 4, 2016	12:00	Cologne VFC	Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 – 18:00)
Sat. Jun. 4, 2016	15:00	Hammonton VFC Sta. 1	Annual Pig Roast (15:00 – 19:00)
Sun. Jun. 5, 2016	12:00	Dorothy VFC	59th Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00)
Tues. Jun. 21, 2016	11:00	Nesco VFC	Italian Hoagie Sale (11:00 - 16:00)
Sun. Jun. 26, 2016	10:30	Tri-Counties Fire Assoc. @ Thompson Park	25th Annual Antique Fire Apparatus Show (Jamesburg, Middlesex Co.)
Sun. Jul. 17, 2016	14:00	Pitney Pub, Galloway	Beef & Beer to Benefit Bayview VFC (14:00 - 17:00)
Sat. Jul. 23, 2016	09:00	Mizpah VFC	3rd Annual Car Show & Family Day (09:00 - 15:00)
Tues. Aug. 9, 2016	19:30	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association - Atlantic County Caucus
Thurs. Aug. 11, 2016	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 12, 2016	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Fri. Aug. 12, 2016	19:00	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Firefighter Competition
Sat. Aug. 13, 2016	12:30	Atlantic County 4H Fairgrounds, Rt. 50	ACFFA at Atlantic County 4H Fair w/ Fire Prevention Booth & Apparatus Display
Sat. Aug. 27, 2016	08:00	Smithville Square	1st Annual Oceanville Volunteer Firefighter Classic Car Show (08:00 - 15:00)
Fri. Sep. 16, 2016	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 17, 2016	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Oct. 1, 2016	16:00	Germania VFC	Turkey Dinner (16:00 - 19:30)
Sat. Oct. 15, 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

ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. Jun. 15, 2016	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 20, 2016	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 17, 2016	20:00	Weymouth VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 21, 2016	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 19, 2016	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 16, 2016	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 21, 2016	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jan. 18, 2017	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 15, 2017	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. Jul. 1, 2016	19:30	Landisville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 2, 2016	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Nov. 4, 2016	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Jan. 6, 2017	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Mon. Jul. 11, 2016	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Sep. 12, 2016	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Nov. 14, 2016	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 9, 2017	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Jun. 8, 2016	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Jul. 13, 2016	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Aug. 10, 2016	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Sep. 14, 2016	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Oct. 12, 2016	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Nov. 9, 2016	19:30	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Wed. Dec. 14, 2016	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
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Jan. 11, 2017	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association
Feb. 8, 2017	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chief's Association

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Thurs. Jul. 28, 2016	19:30	Oceanville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 26, 2017	19:30	Bargaintown VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 27, 2017	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association