

# Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

*"In Union For The Safety Of All"*



November 20, 2019

## **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on November 20, 2019 at the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2 by President Charles E. "Chick" Kisby III. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of all fallen firefighters and military personnel. President Kisby then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced.

## **Introduction of Host Chief**

President Kisby introduced Chief Jim Somers of the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Somers welcomed all to Somers Point, wished all a Happy Thanksgiving, and then introduced Somers Point Mayor, Jack Glasser. Mayor Glasser thanked all firefighters for their service to their respective communities and reported that Somers Point just approved the purchase of three new Pierce trucks for the Fire Department. Mayor Glasser then introduced Councilman Kirk Gerety whom also welcomed all to Somers Point and thanked all for serving their community.

## **In Attendance**

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 43 of 176      Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 19 of 44

## **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2019 meeting, as sent to the member companies.

## **Report of Treasurer**

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the report of the Treasurer as read by Treasurer Jaime C. Mellon.

## **Special Presentation**

Lefty Clayton introduced Sylvester "Sly" Brown from the ALPHA Critical Incident Stress Management Team located in Ocean County. Lefty reported that he emailed all county fire chiefs the contact information to reach this team through the Ocean County Sheriff and reported that the team will respond anywhere in New Jersey when requested. Mr. Brown provided some information about his background that included thirty-three years in law enforcement. Mr. Brown provided some history on the team and reported that they were just at the Pleasantville Highschool following the shooting at a football game. Mr. Brown provided information about how the team works and invited those from Atlantic County to join their team. There is a two-day training course for those that join the team and a refresher class every two to three years. Mr. Brown distributed an information sheet about the crisis reaction to a critical incident. Lefty reported that he would like all those interested to contact him and hopefully a local class can be arranged late winter or early spring. Lefty will reach out to Vince Jones to invite local police personnel to join also and to make sure all Atlantic County dispatch centers have the contact information for the team.

## Committee Reports

**Executive Committee** – Vice Chairman Lefty Clayton reported that Chairman Howard Berchtold is in Washington D.C. and was unable to attend the meeting. Lefty summarized the meeting of the Executive Committee held on November 1, 2019 in South Egg Harbor. Charles Mackintosh is working on collecting information about local fitness center discounts for first responders. Charles reported that Tilton Fitness has a discount along with waiver of the sign-up fee. Lefty reported that the accountant had recommended instructor payroll be moved to direct deposit and that an account would be required at OceanFirst Bank. The Executive Committee is recommending that the association approve a resolution to open an account at OceanFirst Bank. Lefty reported that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for January 3, 2020 in Pomona at 19:30 and will be the reorganizational meeting for 2020.

**Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board** – The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for January 13, 2020 at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center. Mike Corbo reported that the discussion will include the probable replacement of the burn building. The current building is now twenty-six years old and the estimate for maintenance of the outside layer of masonry is \$200,000. There may be an allocation of \$2.4 million for a new building. Ideally it would still be a concrete/brick building for straw burning. Mike also reported that the county will put out a request for bids to replace the audio-visual equipment at the training center.

**Training** – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported the weather has caused the cancellation of many Firefighter I classes, but they have been making them up. Twenty-eight students should complete the course on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Firefighter II just completed with eleven students sitting for the test. Mike reviewed the list of upcoming classes and reported that invoices for training have been sent out and certificates will follow when payment has been received. Mike reported on the NFPA Fire Protection Research Foundation "Fire and Emergency Service Personnel Knowledge and Skills Proficiency" study on continuing education (CE) for firefighter certifications. Mike reported that he is looking into reviving his "Nozzle" newsletter via a monthly email.

**Fire Marshal** – Fire Marshal Dave Buzby wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

**NJ State Firemen's Assn.** – Executive Committeewoman Cindy Badger reported on several changes. Any applications for special or supplemental relief will need to be received at the state office by December 2<sup>nd</sup> to be processed for 2019. Cindy reminded all that supplemental relief is not to be paid by a local until state association approval has been received. Several locals in the state are being reviewed for improper supplemental relief payments. None are in Atlantic County. Cindy reminded all local relief officers to contact the state office if there are any issues encountered accessing online reports. Cindy reviewed the due dates for various reports. Cindy reported that the platoon system for qualifying has been eliminated and the requirement is now 25% of fires and drills starting with 2019 reporting. Cindy reported on increases in relief and home health care reimbursement that start in 2020 and reminded all that only the new membership application will be accepted starting January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association** – Butch Kienzle reported on the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association held in Linwood. Butch reported that a GoFundMe page was set up for Elwood Firefighter Titherington and his family after the loss of their house to fire. The Fire Chiefs Association is sending a \$200 VISA gift card to assist them. Butch reported that he has been researching and discussing the possibility of requesting that the county, through direct purchase or a regional grant, seek to obtain a Mobile Ventilation Unit (MVU). Butch reported that his interest started with the fire at the Dollar General in Egg Harbor City in August. Ventilation of the structure was extremely difficult and the hovercraft from Scullville Fire Company was requested in order to utilize the fan. Unfortunately, the hovercraft was no available due to the company being involved with a structure fire in Egg Harbor Township at the same time. Butch reported that he has seen the news reports about Camden County MVU, run out of the Wesmont Fire Company, being utilized for larger ventilation operations throughout Camden County. The MVU they have is a large-diameter positive-pressure ventilation fan used for emergency ventilation of large structures such as box stores, high-rise buildings, tunnels, warehouses or ships. It is mounted to a skid on a Ford F550 tilt bed with a hydraulic hook lift system. It can be operated on the truck itself, hydraulically raised or lowered to the ground, moved by forklift to a specific location and raised by a crane and placed on a barge, a ship, a railcar, or wherever needed to deal with an emergency situation. This vehicle also has the ability to "mist" an area to enable rehabilitation after the heat of an incident. Butch reported that he has inquired about the cost of a trailer mounted system to minimize both upfront and maintenance costs. The cost for a trailer mounted system is approximately \$200,000. Butch reported that he has been discussing this with Chief Dan Adams, Margate, and the high cost has led them to start looking at a regional grant to obtain one. Chief Adams reported that he has discussed a regional grant with Deputy Chief Thomas Cullen, Atlantic City, since he was the lead on a successful regional grant proposal to obtain SCBA for the departments on the island. Chief Adams reported that the next window for federal Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) application period is expected to open in December. Chief Adams noted that the more departments that sign

onto a regional application, the greater the probability of it being awarded. An email will be sent out informing all county fire chiefs and requesting that they sign onto the regional application. It was noted that all departments joining the application need to meet the federal requirements for grants including having all NFIRS data filed and up to date. Butch reported that a committee will be formed and should meet soon after the New Year. The next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association is scheduled to be held at 20:00 on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 in Sweetwater. Nominations and election of officers will be conducted.

**Harold J. "Whitey" Swartz Valor Awards and Service Recognition** – Billy Merola reported that there are currently no nominations submitted and that a couple may soon be submitted. Billy reminded all that if an incident rising to the level for a valor award occurs, the fire chief should consider submitting a valor nomination as soon as possible. This will allow for nominations to be written down when the details are still fresh in everyone's minds and the nomination will not be forgotten later. The application is available on the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association website. A committee meeting will be scheduled after the start of the New Year.

**Fire Coordinator** – Fire Coordinator Levon "Lefty" Clayton reported the he, Margate Chief Dan Adams, and Pleasantville Deputy Chief Gene Wellington recently attended one of the NJ Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM) courses. The state is reviewing and updating all procedures utilizing incident management and acknowledging that the bulk of personnel for rescue teams will come from the fire and EMS services. The NJ Attorney General is working on a statewide protocol for active shooter incidents that will require incident management, unified command, and involve local fire and EMS services. Chief Adams reported that school districts are working on having staff trained to utilize bleeding control kits and several kits will be distributed to schools. Deputy Chief Wellington reported that schools are now required to conduct total evacuation drills as well as lockdown drills.

**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 to authorize the Treasurer to open a checking account at OceanFirst Bank for payroll and adopt a resolution authorizing the new account.

**Bills**

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

**Nomination of Officers**

The second of two rounds of nominations was held. The seats on the Executive Committee are contested. All nominees have accepted their nomination to office. Those nominated are as follows:

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| President (1)                      | Charles E. "Chick" Kisby |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President (1) | Dennis Sharpe            |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (1) | Charles J. Mackintosh    |
| Secretary (1)                      | Robert A. Mellon         |
| Treasurer (1)                      | Jaime C. Mellon          |
| Asst. Sec./Trea. (1)               | Sandra L. Walczak        |
| Chaplain (1)                       | Dcn. Rich Maxwell        |

Sgt.-at-Arms (3)

Wayne Dilks, William Donath, Charles Harlan

Executive Comm. (9)

Howard Berchtold Jr., Levon "Lefty" Clayton, James A. Garth Sr.,  
Marylynn Graham, Walter R. "Butch" Kienzle III, Christopher Kislow,  
William L. Merola Jr., Eugene M. Sharpe, John Sullivan, C. Robert Winkler III

**Good of the Order**

Pleasantville Deputy Chief Gene Wellington thanked all that reached out after the shooting incident at the high school football game. Deputy Chief Wellington reported that unfortunately the ten-year-old that was shot had just passed. Deputy Chief Wellington reported that excellent work was done by the responding firefighters along with some retired firefighters assisting and that the police department was outstanding with making quick apprehensions of the suspects involved. It was noted that this was gang violence and not an active shooter type of incident.

Thank you to the Somers Point Volunteer Fire Company Sta. 2 for hosting the evening and providing the refreshments.

**Adjournment**

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 18, 2019 at the Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company. Election of officers for 2020 will be conducted.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

**Fire Department/Company/Association Events**

Sat. Nov. 23, 2019	11:00	Minotola VFC	Hot Roast Beef Sandwich Sale (11:00 - 14:00)
Sat. Nov. 23, 2019	16:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Spaghetti Dinner
Nov. 8 - Dec. 15, 2019		Hammonton VFD Sta. 2	Letters to Santa Drop Off
Sat. Dec. 14, 2019	19:00	Hammonton VFD	Hammonton VFD Christmas Parade (lineup 18:00 & parade 19:00)
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Sat. Apr. 4, 2020	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com
Sat. Jun. 13, 2020		Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	100th Anniversary
Aug. (TBD), 2020	19:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	New Jersey Firemen's Association Atlantic County Caucus
Fri. Sep. 18, 2020	13:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Sep. 19, 2020	10:00	Wildwood Convention Center	New Jersey Firemen's Association Annual Convention
Sat. Nov. 14, 2020	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

**ACFFA Meetings****Atlantic County Firefighters' Association**

Wed. Dec. 18, 2019	20:00	Cardiff VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 15, 2020	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 19, 2020	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

**Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee**

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Fri. Jan. 4, 2020	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

**Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings****Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board**

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Mon. Jan. 13, 2020	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

**Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association**

Wed. Dec. 11, 2019	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
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Tues. Jan. 28, 2020	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
February 2020	-----	-----	NO MEETING

**Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.**

Thurs. Jan. 23, 2020	19:30	Bargaintown VFC Sta. 1	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 23, 2020	19:30	Linwood FD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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