

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

"In Union For The Safety Of All"



May 19, 2021

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association was called to order at 20:00 on May 19, 2021 at the Bayview Volunteer Fire Company by President Charles E. "Chick" Kisby III. The meeting was opened with a flag salute followed by an Invocation by the Chaplain of the Association, Deacon Rich Maxwell. President Kisby then pointed out the fire exits and asked that all electronic devices be silenced. President Kisby thanked everyone for coming out to the first in person meeting in a long time and reported that he is looking forward to the end of the public health emergency. President Kisby thanked the Bayview Fire Company for hosting the meeting and asked that everyone pray for the firefighters lost to COVID.

Introduction of Host Chief

President Kisby introduced Chief Kolby Rundio of the Bayview Volunteer Fire Company. Chief Rundio welcomed all to Bayview and remarked on how good it is to see everyone together again.

In Attendance

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

Total Chief/Delegate Attendance – 25 of 176 Total Member Departments/Companies Represented – 12 of 43

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2021 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.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Chairman Howard Berchtold reported that the meeting of the Executive Committee held on May 7, 2021 at the Longport Volunteer Fire Company was the first in person meeting held since last year. Howard thanked the Association Officers, the Executive Committee members, the Director of Training, the Fire Instructors, the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association, and all the Atlantic County Fire Service for getting the required work done over the past year without the ability to meet in large groups. Howard reminded everyone that the Executive Committee and Officers have been meeting on the first Friday of every month, mostly via conference call, since the declaration of the public health emergency. This was done to ensure association business was still getting done while the ability to be together was restricted. Howard thanked Secretary Robert Mellon for keeping the everyone informed on a regular basis via email. Howard then summarized the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held on May 7th in Longport. Tim Kreischer, Shared Services Coordinator for Atlantic County was in attendance. Tim provided an overview of his assigned task to study, report, and recommend sharing services within Atlantic County. They are currently working on the multiple municipal court systems

within the county and how shared services may benefit them. Tim is also looking into starting discussion about central dispatch and looking to access the interest if it were to start with only fire and EMS. There was a very enlightening discussion lasting approximately fifty minutes about the feasibility and best options with proceeding to reopen the process of moving towards a county central dispatch. It was agreed that a committee should be formed with representatives from the Atlantic County Firefighters' Association, the ACFFA Executive Committee, and the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association. It was during the Executive Committee meeting that confirmation was received from Bayview that they would host the first in person regular association meeting in over a year. Howard thanked Bayview for agreeing to start the process of returning to normalcy. The audit committee is scheduled to meet with the Treasurer on May 26th. It was reported that the Atlantic County 4H Fair Association will host a shorter 4H Fair this year. It has not yet been determined if that will allow for the annual Firefighter Competition. Secretary Robert Mellon reported that the 1st draw PPP loan forgiveness application has been approved and that the deposit for a 2nd draw PPP loan has also been received. A loan forgiveness application for the 2nd draw PPP loan will be submitted after the July payroll. So far, the association has received a \$10,000 Economic Injury Disaster Grant (EIDG), a \$10,383 1st draw PPP loan that has been forgiven, and a \$10,383 2nd draw PPP loan for a total of \$30,766. Howard thanked Secretary Mellon and noted that the total received has, and will continue, to go a long way towards keeping the association solvent during the reduced training schedule during the public health emergency. Howard asked for a round of applause for the effort of Secretary Mellon. The Executive Committee recommend that the association set aside the bylaws, for this one time, and dispense with the 2021 nominations and elections, due to the health emergency that has delayed them several months, and instead carry the 2020 slate of officers and Executive Committee members through 2021. This will allow for the concentration of effort to be focused on the continued transition out of the health emergency and move on to the 2022 nominations and elections that will commence in October. There will still be a need to seek a candidate willing to fill the Executive Committee position left vacant by the death of Jim Garth in 2020.

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association – Butch Kienzle reported that the next meeting of the Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association will be 8:00 PM on June 9, 2021 at the Collings Lakes Volunteer Fire Company, Buena Vista Township.

Training – Director of Training Mike Corbo reported that the current semester has been running well and only a Wednesday night live burn has been cancelled due to low enrollment. Mike reported that the summer Firefighter I class is scheduled to start on June 2nd. Currently only two are enrolled and a minimum of six is required. The summer Firefighter II class already has sixteen enrolled. Mike reported that the Ocean City Fire Department recruit class is still running during the day through June and that the Atlantic City and Margate Fire Departments have been out conducting live burns. Mike reported that the Police Academy is still utilizing the engine bay for a recruit class of forty-eight students. The engines are still being stored in the annex. Mike reported that the engineer study on the burn building has been completed and submitted to the county. The county will put out a single project bid specification for both the remedial work and the panel installation. The ballpark estimate for the project is approximately one million dollars with the expectation that ten years of service will be added to the twenty-six-year-old structure. Mike reported that he has requested that the county look into replacing the audio-visual system at the training center. It will not happen in 2021 but may be an option in 2022. Mike reported that the county has not had security posted at the training center since the Spring of 2020 and that they are unlikely to bring them back. Mike reported on the issues this has caused with access to the training center and our instructors being left to ensure it is properly secured at the end of the night. The alarm system is now set to auto activate at night. Mike reported that the Police Academy has used the parking lot for driver training and directed parking to be in the grass areas when they were saturated. This has caused much damage and rutting to the grass areas which are now a muddy mess. Mike reported that he, and Marianne, are working on catching up on training certificate distribution.

NJ Firemen's Home – Oscar Dutch reported that it has been a tough sixteen months at the home. Oscar thanked those in Atlantic County that came through with supply donations for the home. Twenty guests have passed during the health emergency. Four new guests have been welcomed to the home. There are currently fifty-one guests at the home. The new memory care unit is now set to open in July. They are still trying to get the inspections completed. Oscar reported that the new superintendent, John Veras, has been doing a great job. Oscar reported he has completed his twenty-first year on the board and that he is seeking reelection to represent Atlantic County on the home's Board of Managers. Oscar reported on what the board sees as the pros and cons of the proposed legislation that would affect both the home and the NJSFA. Oscar reported on discussions about a home, or other accommodations, for firefighters wishing to remain in southern New Jersey. Oscar reported that the Antique Fire Association Of New Jersey will host their Antique Fire Truck Show at the home on September 25th. Oscar reported that the guests are once again enjoying weekly BBQs at the home. Oscar noted that it is great that this association is meeting in person again.

NJ State Firemen's Assn. – Kenny Badger reported that the NJSFA convention in Wildwood will be a one day walk through event for voting on Friday September 17th.

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Deferred Business

There was no deferred business to act upon.

New Business

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee and approve that the association set aside the bylaws, for this one time, and dispense with the 2021 nominations and elections, due to the health emergency that has delayed them several months, and instead carry the 2020 slate of officers and Executive Committee members through 2021.

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.

Good of the Order

Howard Berchtold reported that discussion about scheduling the missed memorial service and valor awards ceremonies is on the agenda for the July 2nd meeting of the Executive Committee.

Rich Maxwell invited all Atlantic County first responders to send apparatus to the Galloway July 4th Parade. Rich requested that the American Flag be displayed on all apparatus attending and reported that registration information has been emailed.

Thank you to the Bayview Volunteer Fire Company for hosting the evening.

Adjournment

Benediction was conducted by Chaplain Dcn. Rich Maxwell. 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 16, 2021 in Richland, Buena Vista Township.

Attested:

Robert A. Mellon, Secretary

Fire Department/Company/Association Events

Sun. Jun. 6, 2021	12:00	Dorothy VFC	64th Annual Chicken BBQ (12:00 - 18:00) *TAKE OUT ONLY
Thurs. Jun. 10, 2021	18:00	Smithville Inn (tents out back), Smithville	Beef & Beer to Benefit Oceanville VFC
Sat. Nov. 13, 2021	16:00	Oceanville VFC	Baked Ham & Fried Oyster Dinner - HamAndOysterDinner.com

ACFFA Meetings

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association

Wed. Jun. 16, 2021	20:00	Richland VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Jul. 21, 2021	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Aug. 18, 2021	20:00	Weymouth VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Sep. 15, 2021	20:00	Hammonton VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Oct. 20, 2021	20:00	Dorothy VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Nov. 17, 2021	20:00	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
Wed. Dec. 15, 2021	20:00	Scullville VFC	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting
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Wed. Jan. 19, 2022	20:00	Egg Harbor City VFD	Hosting ACFFA Annual Reorganization Meeting and Annual Memorial Service
Wed. Feb. 17, 2022	20:00	Longport VFD	Hosting ACFFA Monthly Meeting

Atlantic County Firefighters' Association - Executive Committee

Fri. Jul. 2, 2021	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 1	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Sep. 3, 2021	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
Fri. Oct. 29, 2021	19:30	South Egg Harbor VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting
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Fri. Jan. 7, 2022	19:30	Pomona VFC	Hosting ACFFA Executive Committee Meeting (Annual Reorganization)

Other Atlantic County Organization Meetings

Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Mon. Jul. 12, 2021	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
Mon. Oct. 18, 2021	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board
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Mon. Jan. 10, 2022	19:00	Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center	Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Training Advisory Board

Atlantic County Fire Chiefs' Association

Wed. Jun. 9, 2021	20:00	Collings Lakes VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Jul. 14, 2021	20:00	Estell Manor VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Aug. 11, 2021	20:00	Laureldale VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Sep. 8, 2021	20:00	Nesco VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Oct. 13, 2021	20:00	East Vineland VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Nov. 10, 2021	20:00	Linwood VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
Wed. Dec. 8, 2021	20:00	Sweetwater VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
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Tues. Jan. 25, 2022	20:00	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atlantic County Fire Chiefs Association
February 2022-----	-----	-----	NO MEETING-----

Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Assoc.

Thurs. Jul. 22, 2021	19:30	Somers Point VFD Sta. 2	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
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Thurs. Jan. 27, 2022	19:30	Absecon VFD	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association
Thurs. Jul. 28, 2022	19:30	Oceanville VFC	Hosting Meeting of Atl. Co. Firefighters' Death Benefit Fund Association