

CHESTER COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

March, 2010

We were welcomed to Good Will Fire Company in West Chester by their Fire Police Captain, Bill Best. Bill said the fire police come from all three West Chester fire companies and they operate as one fire police unit.

Vice President Ron Miller called the meeting of the Chester County Fire Police Association to order at 2:00 PM on March 7, 2010. Chaplin Art Daggett gave the invocation. The Vice President led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Justin DiMedio and Rob Gilbert accident Reconstructionists from the West Goshen Police Dept. explained to the membership the steps involved when they are called to an accident and why it takes so long.

Recording Secretary took roll call of Officers. Stan Heist, Jim Ploumis, and Jack Smith were absent.

Charlie Lobb made the motion, seconded by Al Cunningham, to dispense with the reading and to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Checking account, \$4063.29 sent in by Stan Heist, read by Eileen Amatrudo.

Directors' Report(s): None.

Fire Police Commissioner's report: None.

Executive Board report: None

Committee(s)' reports:

Banquet Committee: Larry Nuse has confirmed the reservation of the Myrick Conservation Center and he has the cooks and help lined up. He just needs a count. Linda Gramling said she needs help getting door prizes and there is a letter for you to take. Please wear your uniform if possible when soliciting donations.

LED SOG: Dan Delaney reported that he will get information up on our website. Jim Metzger had attended the Route 30 Task Force meeting. Spoke with Beau about 202 and the County gave him sample map and mile markers. There will be a meeting in April. Ron Miller will be part of the committee along with Jim Metzger since Dan's work responsibilities have changed. Anyone else interested, contact Dan. They are doing pre-planning of major highways for large-scale events.

Fire Chiefs' Assn: Beau Crowding reported the Assn. wished John Neff well. There isn't much going on. There is a new vendor in the County called Hoods- they clean grill hoods. A division of Belfor.

Report from the County: Beau Crowding spoke at the Municipal Authority meeting yesterday and explained how much time volunteers spend doing training – 34,000 hours a year, not including fire police. The dispatch center handled 22,139 phone calls last month which is 171 per day and with an average dispatch time of 1 minute 22 seconds. Quality reviews were at 99%.

Training Facility Task Force – Judge Nagle overturned all the east Fallowfield objections except the 9 AM start time. This is an issue. The Task Force voted to move forward with the South Coatesville area and is waiting for the developer to purchase Mittal property. The Federal Grant money is getting ready to expire so they have to move.

Rebanding –Sprint/Nextel finally came to an agreement with the County. The FCC said no to just giving us the money so rebanding is on. It will take 34 months for rebanding of the 800 radios – until late Spring, 2013.

Replacement Radios – the Project Team has been chosen. Then they have to look for new radios. John Neff is representing the fire police on this committee. Every fire police officer needs radios and every firefighter. This is the time to put that message out. Every cop on the street has one and all other responders need radios, too. Looking at February, 2016 with a \$90 million price tag for completion.

The paging system will be replaced by January, 2013. Have to move to narrow band and the current pagers are not capable to do this. Both the backbone and pagers need replacement. County has an RFP for a project engineering firm. Looking as some intuitive pagers where you can hit a button and it lets Chester know you're responding. \$3 million project. Will be able to know how many fire police are responding.

Ed Atkins has a System Continuity Plan with all these projects listed so the Chester County Commissioners can plan ahead for the next ten years.

Grant Funding – Fire Police put in for traffic trailers, sign boards, etc. That's been put through the system. Bucks County is backing out of the funding business and the County is looking for a fiduciary agent to take over.

Firemen's Legislative Federation of PA: Jim Ploumis attended the meeting on January 9, 2010. Discussed hiring a lobbyist for fire related bills. Decided to not hire one. PA Fireman's meeting followed. Discussed bylaw changes regarding the number of people in a quorum and the next convention. Mentioned there was no Volunteer Tax Refund this year.

Motion to pay bills: Amelia Miller made the motion to pay bills and John Sciandra seconded. Motion carried. Bill Best for food - \$257.00; Joel Gramling for postage - \$31.67; Jim Ploumis for travel expenses - \$66.00; Stanley Heist for new Treasurer's briefcase - \$91.15; Pa. Fireman's Federation dues - \$40.00; Pa. State Fire Police dues - \$15.00

Correspondence: None.

New Membership Applications: Marie Anderson – Berwyn, Maurice Reynolds – Avondale, Michael Keiter – Avondale, Jim McVeigh – East Whiteland, Kevin McCarthy – East Whiteland, Jeffrey Jordan - West Chester. A motion to accept the applicants was made by Beth Lytle, seconded by John Sciandra. Motion carried.

Old business: None.

New business:

Berwyn Fire Police Captain Michael Baskin announced that they had 100% Fire Police Officer I certification at their station. In October, 2006 he had made it a requirement, upheld by the Chief and Board, that all the Berwyn fire police be certified within two years, and they have attained this accomplishment. Only two fire police had resigned due to this requirement. Mike presented Certification Pins to Earl Stahl, Beth Lytle, and Dave Staats. Also attaining this certification but not in attendance were Chris Natale, Dawn Ausburn, Cathy Stead, Jill Wentzl, Jonas Bombsback and Marie Anderson. (Mike also earned his certification pin).

Jim Skymba thanked Ridge fire police and West Chester fire police for help with Pat Coleman's funeral and honor guard. He also asked that we save the date of Sunday, October 10 for a car/motorcycle show. There will be judging of traffic units also.

Larry Nuse told everyone that Lifetime Movie Channel would be broadcasting a movie, Amish Grace, about the Nichol Mine shooting on March 28 at 5 PM.

Ron Miller told everyone that Bob Lee's radio had once again been cancelled due to weather and it will be rescheduled when we finally have green grass. Ron also said that Tony Riccardi had a Book 7, Fire Police Review, class that would first be taught at Somerset and then at Thorndale Fire Company on May 6, 13, 20, 27 6:30-10 PM. There is no fee for the class, just a \$10 charge for the book. It's through BCCC.

Our next meeting May 2, 2010 at Myrick Center.

50/50 winners: Kenny Furlong, John Neff and Larry Nuse

Vice President Ron Miller thanked the Host Company.

A motion was made by Charlie Lobb, seconded by Bob Massey to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM. There were 47 members representing 24 stations present.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Amatrudo, Recording Secretary