

CHESTER COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
May, 2010

President Joel Gramling called the meeting of the Chester County Fire Police Association to order at 2:02 PM on May 2, 2010. Charlie Lobb gave the invocation. The President led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Recording Secretary took a roll call of Officers. Ruthann Sciandra, Art Daggett, Bill Best and Barb Yagle were absent.

Jim Ploumis made the motion, seconded by Ron Miller, to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Stan Heist reported we had \$3660.10 in the checking account as of the end of April.

Directors' Report(s): None

Fire Police Commissioner's report: None.

Executive Board report: None

Committee(s)' reports:

Banquet Committee: Picnic immediately following the meeting.

Fire Chiefs' Assn: John Neff reported that all the meetings went as normal re: training facility, rebanding has started, new paging, etc. Beau will give more details. There is a handout for the fire police to give suggestions for the new voice radio system. Please fill them out so we can bring them back to the committee.

LED SOG: None.

Report from the County: Beau Crowding again thanked the Fire Police for inviting him and his wife to the picnic. He also said there is a lot going on in the County.

The new radio system is scheduled for completion in 2016 and rebanding by 2013. Metropolitan is making appointments with the chiefs to survey the existing equipment. It's important that they see everything during the survey, including any Kenwood radios. All equipment needs to be accounted for. County wanted to skip the rebanding effort and go to the new radio system but the FCC said no. Reband in 2013 and three years later a new radio system.

The new Pager System must be ready for 2013. Must be changed to narrow band.

Training Facility – County has washed their hands of E. Fallowfield. The County may go directly to Mittal Steel for the S. Coatesville property.

Last weekend Beau attended the Statewide Advisory Board meeting in Williamsport. They worked on questions for the gubernatorial candidates regarding volunteer incentives, tax cuts and fire police LOD. He also attended a seminar in Washington, D.C. Joe Pitts, Arlen Spector and Jim Gerlack are pushing the Justice Department in the fire police LOD issue. Possibly may need a basic 8 – 16 hour fire fighter course for the fire police. They discussed the Safer grant funding. There was an arson presentation and ATF Chief Joe Reel mentioned the Coatesville arson fires and how well everyone worked together. We are fortunate that our County Fire Marshalls are certified fire investigators like the ATF officers are, and the Feds all thought it was great how the County all worked together with no one trying to take over.

Legislative Federation: Jim Ploumis attended the meeting on 3/20. They suggested going to the pesla.org website and sign up to send messages to our legislators which may help to remind them that we're out here. On 4/10 Jim attended the PA Fireman's Assn. meeting where Ed Mann said his budget was cut \$150,000 so there is no RIT certification or Officer I or II this year. It was also stated that the Dept. of Justice said the fire police don't qualify for federal LOD benefits. Ed Mann suggested that the fire police put in their SOG's that fire police are capable of fire suppression and back that up with an extinguisher and fire chemistry classes as a start. If all else fails to get fire police LOD benefits from the Feds, Ed Mann, will ask for the Public Service Officers law to be reopened as it was after 9/11 to retroactively give chaplains coverage. Ed Mann was looking for a grant for \$1000 for the instructors who teach the Fallen Firefighters courses for hotel bills. The Assn. gave him the grant. They then heard a presentation from their lobbyist who submitted a contract to the Assn.

Motion to pay bills: Linda Gramling made the motion to pay seconded by Bruce Harlan Motion carried. Bills paid: Larry Nuse - \$1800 food, Eileen Amatrudo - \$106.43, stationary and domain name reregistration, Joel Gramling - \$91.52 travel expenses for funeral, Jim Ploumis - \$138.50 travel expenses, Joel Gramling - \$414.92 gifts, postage, and tolls. Stan stated that Belfor had donated money for the certification pins and PECO had donated money for the picnic.

Correspondence: None.

New Membership Applications: None.

Old business: None

New business:

Our next meeting is September 12 back at Station 52, Good Will Fire Company in West Chester. Nomination of officers will take place at the next meeting, all positions except three Directors. The Recording Secretary is not rerunning.

We then heard a very informative presentation from our guest speaker, Joseph Carroll, Chester County District Attorney. (He was accompanied by his wife, Barbara). He's been our DA for 8 years. Joe has a staff of 42 lawyers in his office and they handle about 10,000 cases a year. Their main jobs are to help victims to get the services they need to get back to a normal life. He expressed his appreciation for the all the fire police' important services, especially at crime scenes.

The DA's office has 22 county detectives that are specialists in different areas and they support the local police when needed. The DA is the chief law enforcement officer in the County.

Joe was happy to report that Chester County has the lowest crime rate for third-class counties in the state. He also mentioned that he'd like to see some alternative punishments in the County since there is a problem with just jailing people and it is very expensive.

President Joel Gramling then awarded the Chester County Fire Police of the year 2009 to Ron Miller for all his contributions to the organization during the year, including the Preplanning presentation and his offer to any fire police with this effort. Senator Andy Dinniman gave a Senate citation to Ron, and Representative Chris Ross gave a House of Representatives award to Ron also.

50/50 winners: No drawing.

President Joel Gramling thanked Larry Nuse and company for preparing the picnic.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 PM. There were 14 guests and 54 members representing 22 stations present. The group then went outside for our annual picnic.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Amatrudo, Recording Secretary