

CHESTER COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

September, 2010

Vice President Ron Miller called the meeting of the Chester County Fire Police Association to order at 2:02 PM on September 12, 2010. Linda Gramling gave the invocation. The Vice President led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recording Secretary took roll call of Officers. Joel Gramling, Stan Heist, and Art Daggett were absent.

Jim Ploumis was our presenter. In speaking of correct hand signals, Jim suggested we pretend we had a broken wrist and it was in a cast. Be sure your hands are above your shoulder, high enough to be seen, and using your flashlights, even in daylight, increases visibility.

Jim updated us on the LODD issue: the Feds are still not on board with extending the benefits to those directing traffic. Jack Earling met with Ed Mann and Steve Austin. They should talk traffic control, not fire police, to the Feds since only 13 states have fire police. They can take away the Safety Officers' bill from the Justice Department and move it to the Department of Workers' Compensation. The State will take care of our families. We want our just compensation as First Responders from the Federal government.

Jim also spoke about certification: IFSAC made the decision to take it away from Bucks. They feel it should go to the highest state agency, the State Fire Academy. The Academy has agreed to take on the Fire Police Certification and is reviewing the classes. Jim is part of the review committee. Don't expect many changes. Due to the Amish fire police membership, they cannot require EVOC as part of the certification, but it is a recommended class

The PA State Assn. has recommended to Ed Mann that Jim Ploumis be part of NFPA for traffic control standards. Jim Ploumis stated that now there are people in the PA State Assn. who are finally fighting for the Fire Police.

Classes are available in Luzerne County the beginning of October.

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

Treasurer's Report: None.

Directors' Report(s): None.

Fire Police Commissioner's report: None.

Executive Board report: None

Committee(s)' reports:

Banquet Committee: None.

LED SOG: Did not meet over the summer. They will meet before the next CCFPA. Ron Miller will put out SOG's and he will email everyone. The Route 30 Task Force is working along the same lines. We all agree that communication is our biggest problem.

Fire Chiefs' Assn: John Neff reported the school will most likely be in South Coatesville, with paperwork signed in October. Rebanding has been halted due to problems with the radios. Radios put into two large police departments had problems. New paging system must be in place by 12/31/2012. It will likely be similar to the current paging system. New radio system to be in place by 2016. Could not get the FCC to agree to allow the County to not reband. Through the courtesy of the County, Beau Crowding has been a big force in getting traffic trailers for the Fire Police. There are eight ten-foot trailers that can be stored outside. Also there are eight message board trailers which should be housed inside. The money came from Homeland Security and we should have them in 4 – 5 months. We need homes for the 16 trailers. There will be a meeting at Thorndale Fire Company on October 5 to discuss this. The trailers will be donated to the fire companies and will become the property of the fire companies. Kennett Square also has offered to donate a 35 foot trailer, complete with air conditioning and port-a-potties. John has handouts about the equipment for whoever is interested. Ron Miller stated the purpose of the meeting at

Thorndale will be to divide the equipment into four main regions. Also that this equipment should be made available if there is a large-event dispatch even if it doesn't involve your company.

Report from the County: Russ Kilmer from the County Fire Marshall's office stated that in 2011 there will be some grants from the Federal government so if you think of anything you need, make it known to Beau. The County has received \$750,000 from the Department of Transportation for the new training facility. Raised over \$18 million already. The kickoff for the new paging system will be Sept. 1 and it will now be in the evenings so there could be more participants. Beau Crowding is the lead person for the Regional Fire Task Force and which will handle all Homeland Security funding. From the Fire Marshalls' point of view, we all appreciate the work the fire police do.

PA Fireman's Assn.: Jim Ploumis said he had attended the meetings held on July 9 and 10. They have over \$1 million in the treasury. 1376 individual members, 1157 company memberships. \$30,000 for scholarship with 28 applicants. Tracey Wiggeroth, the lobbyist, reported on current nothing much was going on. Essington is interested in hosting the State convention in 2012. The next meeting is in September in Phillipsburg.

Motion to pay bills: Bills on hold until next meeting.

Correspondence: None.

New Membership Applications: None.

Old business: Get on the DES email list to stay informed. Jim Ploumis mentioned that DES is also on facebook. Ron reminded everyone to sign in with your phone number and email. Jim Skymba reminded us that Station 5 will have the Car and Cycle show in October. There will be a category and three trophies for traffic units.

New business: Ron Miller mentioned that we need a meeting place for 2011. Richard Hedrick, station 62, will check with his trustees, and station 54, Goshen, stated that it was possible. This will be finalized next meeting.

Nomination of Officers: elections in November. Motions to close the nominations and the seconds are in parenthesis. All motions carried.

President – Joel Gramling	(Jim Ploumis, Kim Colkett)
Vice President – Ron Miller	(John Sciandra, John Neff)
Recording Secretary – open	
Treasurer – Stan Heist	(Jim Ploumis, John Sciandra)
Chaplin – Charlie Lobb	(Linda Gramling, Barb Yagle)
Asst. Chaplin – Eileen Amatrudo	(Jim Ploumis, John Sciandra)
Membership Secretary – Ruthann Sciandra	(Jim Ploumis, John Sciandra)
Fire Police Commissioner – Bob Massey	(Jim Ploumis, John Neff)
Directors (2) -- Jim Ploumis and Bob Massey	(John Neff, John Sciandra)
Delegates to PA Fire Police Assn (2) – Bill Best	(Jim Ploumis, Barb Yagle)
Joel Gramling	(Linda Gramling, John Sciandra)
Alternates to PA Fire Police Assn (2) – Barb Yagle	(Jim Ploumis, Beth Lytle)
Ron Miller	(Eileen Amatrudo, John Neff)
Delegate to PA Firemen's Assn. – Jim McVeigh	(Jim Ploumis, Jim Skymba)
Alternate to PA Firemen's Assn (1) – John Sciandra,	(Barb Yagle, RuthAnn Sciandra)
Jim Ploumis	(Jim Skymba, John Neff)

Charlie Lobb made a motion that there should be a Nominating Committee of three people for next year. Seconded by Barb Yagle. Motion carried.

Our next meeting is November 7.

Larry Nuse said there were two folding chairs left at the picnic in May.

50/50 winners: Linda Gramling, Siggie Perna, Tom Cole

Vice President Ron Miller thanked the Host Company and Bill Best.

A motion was made by Jim Ploumis to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Beth Lytle. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 PM. There were 35 members representing 20 stations, and one guest present.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Amatrudo, Recording Secretary