



# Pennsylvania Fire Police Association

"Safety Unit of the Volunteer Firemen"

4050 Mulberry Lane, Dover, Pa 17315

FOUNDED 1948 (717) 292-3154

CHARTERED 1949

Pennsylvania Fire Police Association  
Bi Monthly Meeting  
Eagle Hose Co.  
Berwick, Pa. Columbia County  
March 20, 2011

The March 20, 2011 Bi Monthly meeting was brought to order by the First Vice President John Johnston at 1:00pm. President Ralph Robison was absent due to illness. First Vice President John Johnston appointed Gary Mowery, and Beth Casacdi Sgt-At-Arms. He announced the Smoking Lamp was out, Hats are to be off, and no eating or drinking.

Chaplain Nelson Brenneman gave the Invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance followed with all members participating.

First Vice President John Johnston called upon Irvin Martenas of Columbia Co.. Irvin introduced Tom O'Connell who introduced the officers of Berwick Boro Fire Police. Irvin Martenas introduced the Columbia Co. Fire Police.

Irvin Martenas also introduced the speakers who included Bill Coolbaugh, Berwick fire chief; Shane Pepe, Boro Manager; and Dave Millard, State Representative. These speakers were very informative, and spoke of some first hand knowledge of some fire police duties.

They felt fire police do a great, and much needed service both on, and off duty. David Millard spoke on grants fire police can obtain through their fire companies. He spoke on the Sprinkler bill 377 which can remove the mandate for sprinklers.

William Coolbaugh spoke of the time, and effort it took to obtain equipment, and recognition for fire police in his area. They now have a good used vehicle, and a trailer for fire police equipment, signs, and etc. He asked all fire police to continue to keep the firemen, and EMS personnel safe.

Shane Pepe stated that anything given to fire police comes back to the boro in things like safety at parades, and boro functions. He felt communities could donate to fire police also to help pay for their gas, equipment, and etc.

Recording Secretary Helen Thomas took the roll call of officers, and counties. There were eleven officers present. Helen also read the January Executive Board Meeting minutes, and they were accepted as read. There was a motion, and a second to dispense with the reading of the November Bi Monthly Meeting minutes. M/C Robert Hill questioned part of the November Bi Monthly Meeting minutes that stated a black billed hat was legal. He said black billed hats were not acceptable. The minutes were accepted by a request of the First Vice President as long as this correction was made. The correction is that black billed caps are not acceptable for fire police proper attire. Other than the approved eight point hat, round white hat, and campaign hat, a billed hat should be lime green. This should also have Special Fire Police embroidered on it.

Helen Thomas read, and made available, a newspaper article about Republican Representative Tina Pickett. Representative Pickett is voting to repeal the requirement of automatic sprinkler systems in new home construction. Discussion against this followed, and some were in favor, and some were not. Jim Ploumis was not in favor of the repeal. Irvin Martenas was for, and against it. He stated not having large water supplies available was one of his reasons for being against it, and some people losing their water supply.

Financial Secretary Harold Crosby read Irvin Martenas's final report as Financial Secretary of \$120.50 worth of supplies sold, and \$120.50 remitted to the Treasurer. Harold's report stated he sold \$95.00 worth of supplies, and a check for this amount was also remitted to the Treasurer. Both reports were accepted as read.

Commissioner Dave Maze read his report of 2,253 fires reported, 66 false alarms, with 5,262 fire police on duty for 14,301 hours. He reported 8,741 special duty hours, with no prosecutions and warnings, with 9 counties reporting. Dave said he felt it was a shame that there are 67 counties in Pennsylvania, and only 9 counties reported.

Bi Law Chairman Nelson Brenneman read the bi law changes. John Bronson's bi law change that a Past President could not be re-elected was rejected by the bi law committee. The changes will be read again, and voted on at the May Convention Bi Monthly meeting.

Chaplain Nelson Brenneman said he received seven death notices, and asked to have these Spread Across These Minutes. We now have a total for the year so far of twenty six.

Delegate to the State Firemen Jim Ploumis gave his report of the Firemen's Assoc. meeting on January 15, 2011 that was held at the Radison Penn Harris Hotel in Camp Hill. He stated that in Legislation, Representative Payne is recommending background checks for new, and possible all firefighter. If it was mandated to check all firemen, that maybe Homeland Security funding could be used. Jim said Bob Timko stated there could be liability issues if the sprinkler legislation is revoked. Jim stated the Legislative Federation was having an issue with memberships, and the small attendance at the meetings. The Federation spends \$10,000.00 per quarter on the PESLA, and cannot afford to do it alone. Some felt the FASP should make the PESLA pay part of their annual budget. His report was accepted as read.

Alternate Delegate to the State Firemen Miles Dooley spoke about the sprinkler system bill, and its benefits. In Pennsylvania, from 1/4/2011 to 3/8/2011 there were 33 known deaths in fires where there were none, or insufficient sprinklers. He noted a fire in Center City Phila. where there was loss of 3 fire fighters. The blaze was fought for 11 hours until it reached the part of the building where there were sprinklers, and was manageable, and extinguished by 10 sprinklers. "Will we ever learn our lesson." Miles spoke on other bills including HB 142 about health and safety providing for incentives for Municipal Vol. fire co. and EMS consolidated statutes: HB174 about tax reform, and HB687 which provides for re-imbursement to certain emergency service providers for the cost of responding to a request for fire service on certain State owned lands. He spoke on several other bills including the Right to Know Law SB551

The Convention Committee stated the Convention was progressing just fine, and they were holding another meeting following this meeting. It was noted that anyone who plans to attend the Convention, or Bi Monthly Meeting, should let the Hosting fire company know so they know how many people to cook for.

Roy Burton of the Registration Committee gave his report of 63 members, and 23 guests present representing 20 counties. His report was accepted as read.

Per Jack Urling Ed Mann appointed Steve Austin to contact Washington Congressmen, Senators, and etc. to get as many people on board with fire police so we are included in the Line of Duty Death Benefit.

Robert Hill noted upcoming training in Luzerne County, and could obtain more information by going on their website [luzernecountyfirepolice.org](http://luzernecountyfirepolice.org)

Treasurer Margaret Stare gave the Treasurers report, and it was accepted as read.

Assist. Treasurer Ruth Hoffman gave the membership report of 3,365 insured members, 400 un-insured members for a total of 3,765 members. Ruth also noted that membership dues was needed by 3/31/2011. She asked to please make all writing legible. Ruth noted that the Convention tickets were available for \$15.00 from the Office, Lycoming Co., and the Financial Secretary Harold Crosby. The deadline to purchase a ticket is May First.

Audit Chairperson Gary Eline gave the January 16, 2011 Audit report. His report was accepted as read.

It was noted that the place of the Convention and Bi Monthly Meeting would be held at the Hepburn Twsp. Vol. Fire Co. 615 Rt. 973, Cogan Station, Pennsylvania in Lycoming Co. on May 14 and 15, 2011.

For the Good of the Assoc. it was noted that Ed Mann would be the guest speaker at the May Convention.

Second Vice President Jack Urling thanked the Host Company, and County for accommodating us.

Assist. Chaplain Charles Hull gave a Moment of Silence for the Departed, and gave the Benediction.

Through a motion, and a second, the meeting adjourned at 3:10pm. A buffet dinner, and raffle followed.

Recording Secretary  
Helen J Thomas