



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

547 Charles Bancroft Hwy.

Litchfield, NH 03052

www.nhafc.org

Email: nhfirechiefs@gmail.com

Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, February 13, 2020 – Gunstock Mt. Resort, Gilford, NH

Called to order at 1845 hours by Chief Buxton.

After a salute to the flag, a moment of silence was requested for departed members.

Chief Stephen Carrier welcomed all to Gilford.

Advocate Members present – Stephen Vowels of Kingfisher and Susan McCarthy, Joseph Carroll and Rob Short of Mammoth Fire Alarms.

Members were asked to introduce themselves and share where they were from.

Special Guests: n/a

Minutes of the January meeting will be deferred to March.

Financial Reports: n/a

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: n/a

Life Membership: n/a

President's Report: (Buxton) –

- FF 1 Visiting Committee – He attended the meeting in Keene and summarized the discussions. They are working through the issues. HazMat and Forestry issues were important subjects. Modularization was discussed and it was stated that that is possible now through the Academy.
- Suspension and Revocation Rules – He summarized the intention of these rules which appeared to be exclusive to career firefighters. Problems with personnel convicted of arson related crimes that are still associated with departments. Call and volunteer firefighters are exempt.

- Fire Marshal Appointment – We have notified the Commissioner and the Governor of our support of the reappointment of Marshal Parisi.
- Board of Fire Control - He spoke to the Governor our recommendation to fill the vacancies on the Board of Fire Control. Chief Michael Gagnon of Derry and Chief Todd Germain of Portsmouth have expressed interest. The Governor has asked for two names and these will be forwarded.
- Extractor Money – He discussed moving money from the employee physicals appropriation to the purchase of extractors for fire departments.
- Merger Association/Division 2/20 - He discussed this meeting that will happen at the NH Fire Academy. Chief Christopoulos stated that the IAFC will agree to a phase in for dues payment if approved. Chris also mentioned the process for hiring a new Executive Director. There have also been two more leadership resignations. Chief Jones mentioned the issue of non-career, smaller departments may not be able to afford the dues.
- Physical pre 1996 – He mentioned the struggle in determining reimbursements. It was suggested that LifeScan Systems be contracted to conduct physicals. Blood work and extraneous tests would be on an a la carte basis.
- SB113 Amendments to Fire and Building Codes – He attended a work session on the bill. He is encouraged by the progress in defining the language. Local code amendments will have to be discussed by governing body before approval. Approval shall be sent to SFMO.
- First Responder Suicide HB 1122 – This will allow approval for firefighters and police officers events to be a line of duty cause of death. Issues with this need to be vetted.
- Tax Exemption for Call/Volunteer FF – He mentioned that we had signed in favor of this.
- Legislative Breakfast 2/20 – Dress uniforms optional. Please sign up on the website for a count.
- Financial Planning – He will be meeting with Chris to formulate a financial plan for the Association.
- Public Safety Leaders Academy - Will be meeting to discuss this option.
- Nomination Committee – Chief Lyon will again head the nominating committee.
- Manchester Firefighters will be bringing back their Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner. More info will follow.

Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –

- The Legislative Breakfast is Thursday, February 20. Please sign up on the website if you're attending.
- March meeting will be on the 12th with a Corned Beef dinner at Alan's of Boscawen.
- Moving ahead with the Annual Meeting/Vendor Showcase again at the same location on Thursday the 9th. Kirk and I have been discussing professional development. He will detail.

- CFSI will be April 29-May 1, 2020. Members of your board will be attending.
- We have committed to partnering with Primex again on their Mt. Washington conference. The days are different this year and will be Tuesday and Wednesday, May 19 and 20. Our meeting will be on Wednesday the 20th. Details are final and sign-up for rooms will be open March 1.
- The Red Jacket has been reserved for our 2020 Professional Enhancement Weekend November 6, 7 and 8.

1st Vice President Report (Jones) –

- He presented the two names being submitted for the Board of Fire Control vacancy. Chiefs Germain (Portsmouth) and Gagnon (Derry) will be recommended.

2nd Vice President Report (Rhodes) – n/a

Sgt. At Arms (Sitar) –

- He spoke of the new credentialing program. Applications will be available on the website shortly.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey) – No report

Division Reports

State Fire Marshal –Fire Marshal Parisi submitted his report separately.

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Pendergast)

Logistics-

The ladder truck is back in service.

The drill yard pump house has been repaired and is back in service.

Programs-

We now have Recruit School 2020 dates planned (7/27-10/2) , however registration is not yet open.

We are holding an EMR program in Bethlehem beginning March 9, with two other classes scheduled for Cheshire Medical Center and Epping.

We have now begun another Instructor I program which is being teleconferenced to Seabrook with a total of 34 students.

We are working with NAMI NH and NHSP to schedule the CIT classes for 2020. The first class will be held at the concord Fire/EMS Academy March 9-13. This class is now full with a wait list.

Our spring semester of FF I programs have begun. We have classes scheduled daytime in Concord (LRCC), evenings and weekends in Concord and eves and weekends in Keene.

Our FF II programs are scheduled daytime in Concord (LRCC) and eves and weekends in Epping.

We have several ice rescue technician programs scheduled so far for January, February and early March, as well as Swiftwater rescue classes scheduled for the spring. On March 17, we have an instructor enhancement and Con. Ed. Class scheduled in Concord.

SAVE THE DATE-

We have several seminars planned to include Mental Health First Aid for Fire and EMS on April 30 and, Responder Mental Health Summit on April 22 and 23. This is in conjunction with NHAFC and Chiefs of Police as well as Primex, and the Stroke Conference on May 8.

Finally, we are hosting an NFPA 1033, JPRs for Fire Investigators Seminar on May 12-14.

Communications-

Myself and senior staff had several interactions and meetings with our stakeholders over the last several weeks:

-Senator Giuda's office is aware of our spring Stroke conference and our work with the Brain Injury group in NH.

-Attended EMS Board meetings- Medical Control Board, Trauma Coordinating Board and Trauma Medical Review Committee-We met with the NH Hospital association to discuss the representative on the Coordinating Board with the retirement of Grant Turpin as the chair.

-I met with new fire Chief Dubriske of Fitzwilliam and Chief Yianuzzi of Newport and with Wolfboro Chief Skantze, and Chief Knutsen of Plaistow in the last few weeks.

-We held a trauma planning meeting to discuss the future of the Trauma Plan in NH. We discussed the new position of Trauma Coordinator, Medical Director as well as a new plan for hospital designation categories through the American College of Surgeons. The future of the Trauma system was discussed at the TMRC meeting.

Challenges-

We are looking at space challenges in our administration building and are working to optimize office space for all fulltime and part time employees.

Other News-

We have offered the position of State Medical Director to an applicant and they are currently going through the hiring process.

We have completed interviews for the position of Statewide Trauma coordinator position and will be announcing the candidate in the coming weeks.

Senior Staff presented our Five year Strategic Plan to our staff at the February briefing.

We also hosted Commissioner Quinn at briefing where he got to meet all of our full time and some part time employees as well as have a question and answer forum.

Captains and Chiefs continue outreach efforts making contact with fire and EMS agencies on a regular basis and documenting their contacts including challenges and successes.

EMS Operations - Bureau Chief Justin Romanello

- NREMT Remote Testing Site for Cognitive Exam
 - **Awaiting hiring of program coordinator**
- **2,500 provider renewals this cycle**

- Open Positions -
 - Licensing Coordinator – **Full-Time – Position Posted**
 - Ambulance Inspector – **Part-Time – Position Posted**
 - NREMT Remote Testing Coordinator– **Part-Time – Position Posted**

Clinical Systems

- Protocols 8.0 estimated to be released after certification/licensing cycle complete
 - Working on rollout with Education Technology group
- Open Positions -
 - Trauma Coordinator – **Full-Time – Candidates selected and in the process of making an offer**
 - PIFT/Critical Care Program Coordinator – **Part-Time – Budget Approved**
 - MIH Program Coordinator – **Part-Time – Budget Approved**

Data Systems

- DERMIS – User Management System
 - Ongoing System Integration occurring
 - 76-80k to enter
- Open Positions -
 - TEMSIS Elite Support Specialist Coordinator – **Part-Time – Position filled**

EMS Training

- Continuing Education
 - Remote Delivery - Teleconferencing
 - Hospital Sites – 10 Sites and 2 upcoming
 - Weekend Quarterly Training
 - 0830 – 1230 Saturdays
 - 28 March 2020
- Initial Programs
 - EMR Course – North Country (Bethlehem) – 3/4 to 4/4 Wed and Sat
 - EMR Course – West (Cheshire Medical Center) – 4/25 to 6/6 Saturdays
- Open Positions
 - Staff Instructor – In process

Special Projects

- Educational Training Agencies – Ongoing development

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) –

- They need pictures of former representatives for a history.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Harper) - n/a

EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Allard) – no report

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) –

We are in the process of hiring a 10th forest ranger for the state. This is a newly created position for the department. We will be creating a new district in the southwest corner of the state. This will mean some restructuring of all of the district, but will also each district to be reduced by 3 or 4 towns.

He mentioned the “Everyone goes home from the Wildland” program upcoming in March.

We have set the dates and locations of our Spring Warden Trainings. Topics will include Agency updates, Fire permit laws/rules, On-line fire permit discussion, Prevention Guidelines, RX fire use, Stress 1st aid, and Fire weather/Fire danger.

Building Code Review Board – (Chiefs Powers/Tetreault)

- No report

Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (Chief Powers)

- No report

Board of Fire Control – (Chief /Chief Clark)

- No report

Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle) - n/r

E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – n/r

New England Division of the IAFC – (Chief Rhodes) – n/a

New England Association of Fire Chiefs – Chief Jones deferred to Chief Carrier, who reported that they are moving forward with the merger. The lawyers are working at the process now and the vote will take place at NHFA on Thursday, February 20. The June conference will be in Worcester in June.

Recruitment and Retention Committee – (Chief Beattie) – (no report)

Old Business –

New Business –

Good and Welfare – Chief Klose reported that there was another firefighter suicide reported last night.

The raffle was held. \$225 was collected counted by Chiefs Jones and Sitar. \$125 was given out in prizes

A MOTION to adjourn, carried at 1941 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Brent T. Lemire, Ret.
Executive Director/Secretary, NHAFC

February 13, 2020