



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, March 12, 2020 – Alan’s Restaurant, Boscawen, NH

Called to order at 1838 hours by Chief Buxton.

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

Chief Robert Buxton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Advocate Members present – Tom Green of Green Associates and Gary McCarraher of AT&T First Net;

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

Special Guests: Commissioners Quinn and Barthelmes were introduced and welcomed.

Minutes of the January and February meetings have been posted. A MOTION (Fraitzl/Parisi) to accept them carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: n/a

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Four new members were introduced: Dep. Chief Keith Folsom of Bedford; Asst. Chief Deborah Black of Belmont; Thatcher Plante of Bedford and Ret. Chief John Lacasse of Berlin.

Life Membership: n/a

President’s Report: (Buxton) –

- He spoke of the efforts to contain the Covid 19 virus and the ripple effects that it is causing.
- He mentioned that Kevin LaChapelle will be retiring at the end of the month.

- Jo Scanlon is the new NH EMS Medical Director at FST/EMS. She is from the Elliot.
- FF I curriculum is almost complete. Some reduction in hours based on relevance. More info will be released later. The committee will be addressing it then on to the Commission.
- He mentioned that the Nominating Committee should be reporting shortly. He solicited interest.
- He mentioned that 3 of our members will be attending CFSI if it still is held.
- He stated that the ambulance billing legislation is heading for study committee.

Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –

- The Legislative Breakfast was a success. Over 20 of our members attended. Legislators enjoyed the interaction.
- The Annual Meeting/Vendor Showcase will occur again at the same location in Manchester on Thursday the 9th. Kirk and I have been discussing professional development.
- CFSI will be April 29-May 1, 2020. The NHAFC will have representation there.
- 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.
- The Red Jacket has been reserved for our 2020 Professional Enhancement Weekend on Nov. 6-8

1st Vice President Report (Jones) – No report

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

Sgt. At Arms (Sitar) –

- He spoke of the new credentialing program. Applications are available on the website.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey) – Applications available shortly

Division Reports

State Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Parisi reported on the following:

ADMINISTRATION:

- ***Recovery Residences:*** Recovery residences (Sober Houses) continue to be challenge on the forefront of our agenda. HB 311 was retained by the House. A subcommittee has been established and is meeting to discuss how to move forward in 2020. A statewide solution is needed. We will continue to engage the fire service, the building officials, NH

Coalition for Recovery Residences (NHCORR) and the Attorney General's office in proposed solutions. We are working on an Informational Bulletin for Recovery Residences to include a process for accommodations.

- ***Short-term rental housing:*** Short-term rentals (Air BnB, Home Away, etc.), and the proper application of the fire code is an issue across our state. SB 458 was filed by Senator Jeb Bradley (r-wolfeboro) regarding the definition of a STR, and some fire safety and zoning requirements. We have worked with Senator Bradley, some affected Chiefs, and the Chiefs Association to strengthen the fire safety language. An amendment will be submitted March 11 that addresses fire inspections, defines proper egress, defines 1&2 family dwelling, and gives the Chief the authority to take action if violations are found to be dangerous to life and health. In the meantime, bear in mind the following:
 - Each multi-unit dwelling and rental unit shall be equipped with automatic fire warning devices in accordance with the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code and the NFPA 72 National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code and carbon monoxide detection devices in accordance with the NFPA 720 Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detection and Warning Equipment; provided that a carbon monoxide detection device shall not be required in a multi-unit dwelling or rental unit that does not have an attached garage and does not contain an appliance or device that uses a combustion method of burning solid, liquid, or gas fuel. If a garage or combustion fuel appliance or device is later added to the dwelling or rental unit, a carbon monoxide detection device shall be required.
 - IX-a. "Rental unit" means any residential unit in a building or single family dwelling which provides permanent or transient living facilities for one or more persons, which is occupied by tenants on a rental basis. This term shall include but not be limited to: hotels, motels, dormitories, apartments, duplex units, rooms rented out of the home of another, and single family dwellings, so long as they are rented.
- ***2020 Legislation:***

Several bills have been filed (or carried over) that will be of interest to the fire service. They are as follows:

- SB 113 (relative to municipalities adopting amendments to the state fire and building codes.)
- HB 311 and SB 633 (relative to recovery residences)
- SB 432 (relative to the FMO's ability to issue POA permits)
- HB 1514 (relative to FD having a presence at display fireworks shows)
- SB 458 (relative to FD ability to inspect short-term rentals,)

- ***Administrative Rules:***

The Saf-C 6000 rules (formerly known as the state fire code rules and now known as the fire and life safety rules) are being updated. A public hearing was held on March 4th at the Department of Safety to address any public comment. There was no public comment so the next step is that written comments will be accepted until March 11th at 4 p.m.

The Saf-C 1200 rules (voluntary Certification of Fire Protection Equipment Technicians) are set to expire. We have contacted stakeholders and the consensus is to sunset them out. We will seek legislation either this term (through a non-germane amendment) or next to eliminate the statute that requires the commissioner to require rules for a program.

- ***Personnel:***

Planning and Support Services: We have hired Jessica Nichols as the part-time NFIRS Coordinator. Jessica will be working under the Community Risk Reduction Section coordinating with Public Education.

Building Safety and Construction: We have hired Cyndel Donoghue as Program Assistant II / Building Permit Coordinator. She will be working 29.5 hours per week in Concord.

Open positions:

Building Safety and Construction: We have a current opening for a full-time Building Inspection Program Supervisor/District Chief (Supervisor VI). The position is 37.5 hours per week in Concord. The position oversees inspections and plan review.

Building Safety and Construction: We have a current opening for a part-time Program Specialist III / Fire Protection Specialist. The position is 29.5 hours per week in Concord.

Building Safety and Construction: We have a current opening for a part-time Program Specialist III / State Building Inspector. The position is 29.5 hours per week in Concord.

Building Safety and Construction: We have a current opening for a part-time Program Specialist IV / Modular Housing Program Coordinator. The position is 29.5 hours per week in Concord.

Planning and Support Services: We have a current opening for a part-time Public Education Specialist. The position is 29.5 hours per week in Concord, as well as possible remote opportunities.

Bureau of Investigations: We have two investigator positions open. The BOI is currently recruiting for two (2) open Fire Investigator positions in the Northern Hillsborough, Eastern Merrimack, and Grafton County areas.

Building Safety and Construction - New Positions: We are in the process of finalizing job descriptions for two new positions for codes administration. These positions will be located in Concord. One is Administrative and will be responsible for Board communications, postings and website updates. The other position will be responsible for gathering information on local code amendments and other work for the Board and will assist with building/fire code inspections and issues as needed.

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:

- *New/Active cases:* 23 Calls for Service in the month of February; our 5 investigators and 2 district chiefs are actively working 23 Criminal Cases.
 - Investigators assisted the South Hampton FD with an explosives incident that caused serious bodily injury to an individual. A resident of the home discovered a device in his basement and brought it outside to set it off and it exploded in his hands, resulting in debilitating injuries to his hands and face.
 - Investigators responded to Nelson to assist the Nelson FD with an investigation into a motor vehicle fire. The fire occurred in a Ford E350 commercial work van that had been previously stolen out of Portland, ME and also used in a burglary in Keene, NH. The joint investigation is ongoing with members of the Nelson Fire Department and the Keene Police Department.
 - Investigators responded to the Hooksett Toll Booth to assist the NHSP with a single motor vehicle crash with fire. One fatality

was confirmed as a result of traumatic injuries received during the accident.

- *Fatal CO incident/CO incidents:* Investigators responded to a residence in Candia for a single fatality related to carbon monoxide. A neighbor discovered the resident of the home deceased in the garage after a power outage in the area the night prior and a generator in close proximity to the victim that appeared to have been recently operating in the garage. Investigators were also notified of two near misses in Nashua and Salem. In all instances, no working CO alarms were discovered by responding personnel.
- *Court Action:* The individual that had been arrested in January 2020 for Unlicensed Gas Fitting (Class B Misdemeanor) has pled guilty and has been ordered to pay a fine of \$1000 with \$500 suspended on condition of one year of good behavior. This case was from an explosion that occurred in a rental unit at a Henniker campground in May 2019 where two individuals sustained injuries.
- *Accelerant Detection Canine Teams:* Our two Accelerant Detection Canine Teams conducted three canine demonstrations throughout the state at various schools and fire departments.
- *Training:* During the month of February one of our fire investigators attended the ten-day Fire Investigation: Essentials training at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Command staff attended a Department of Safety day long training at Primex in Concord on Creating & Maintaining a Positive Workplace Culture. Investigators provided educational training in conjunction with the Maine FMO and the ATF on fire flow paths, case studies and Line of Duty Death Investigations at the Seacoast Fire Chief's monthly training.

BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY AND CONSTRUCTION:

- *One and Two Family Dwellings:* There has been some question recently regarding the application of NFPA 1 on one and two family dwellings. We are, in conjunction with the NH Department of Justice, Attorney General's Office, conducting a legislative review of this issue to clarify our authority. We will keep you updated as this process moves forward.
- *Training:* Gas inspection training is being held at the Hopkinton Fire Department on April 15, 2020 at 6:00 pm. Lakes Region is hosting an inspector training series at the New Hampton Fire Department on March 26th and April 23rd from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The topics will be tents and fireworks. We will be scheduling trainings on the Seacoast in the near future.

BUREAU OF PLANNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

- *Hazardous Materials:* We are continuing to meet with the all the NH stakeholders regarding the FMO Hazmat Coordinator Position. We will be compiling this feedback in an effort to evaluate the state's current needs and future direction.
- *North Country Hazardous Materials Coverage:* Our part time Hazardous Materials Coordinator will be available in a response capacity to advise the North Country area chiefs should there be an incident. In the event that an asset response is required in that area the FMO on-duty supervisor will contact an established team to respond. The FMO will cover the cost of the response.
- *Side-by-side Sprinkler Prop:* We have procured the side-by-side residential sprinkler prop for the state from the NH Fire Prevention Society. This educational display will be available to reserve in the Spring of 2020. There is a process involved to both reserve and then utilize the prop for the public.
- *FMO Public Education Videos:* The public education section has created a YouTube Channel and has been filming short educational videos. If your department would like to partner with the FMO about a specific safety topic, please contact our Public Education Section.

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Pendergast was unavailable so Asst. Dir. Mercuri presented.

Logistics-

The ladder truck is back in service. We are moving forward with the FEMA grant application for the new aerial, this will be submitted before the deadline of 3/13/20. 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) and registration will be open soon.

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

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

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 had 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-Jeremy LaPlante is the new Chair of the Coordinating Board.

-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.

Several members of the Division and Bureau of EMS are involved daily with communications from HSEM, Public Health, CDC and local hospitals as we react to, and plan for the effects of the Corona Virus.

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 EMS State Medical Director to Dr. Joey Scollan and she begins her position on March 13.

We have hired a new fulltime State Trauma Coordinator, Walter Trachim and he will be starting on March 13.

We continue to hire probationary staff instructors who have completed the Instructor training, to meet the needs of our course schedule.

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. The Strategic Plan 2020-2025 can be found on our website.

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) – no report

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Asst. Director LaChapelle) –

- He thanked everyone for their support in his career efforts over the last 8 months.
- He was proud of the efforts to connect with the fire service especially in the North Country.

- They are fully involved in the Covid 19 containment/treatment efforts. The joint information center is operating and he expects the EOC may open shortly to deal with this. Calls to local EMD's will start tomorrow M-W-F to communicate better.
- He is very happy with the response to the EMS Warm Zone grant requests and the training components. More needs to be done and funding is still available.
- Continuity of operations planning is ongoing to address possibilities due to Covid 19.

Director Doyle shared that protocols have been revised at the PSAPs to ask additional pertinent questions.

Chief Fraitzl asked if mobility plans drafted prior can be used without being in conflict with state law. Marshal Parisi doesn't think so at this point.

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

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – (report submitted in writing)

We are in the process of conducting the background investigation for our 10th forest ranger. 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.

Forest Ranger Matt Apgar has left state service to join the private sector. We are in the process of filling this vacancy and are currently conducted the background investigation for our new ranger.

We presented our Division recommendation for the Forestry portion of the FFT1 curriculum to the Visiting Committee. All of our recommendations reduce the number of hours for the Forestry portion while maintaining the training need. I have attached our letter to the Visiting Committee and the outline of our recommendation for the Forestry portion of FFT1.

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)

- Chief Clark reported that they will hold a meeting next week.

Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle) –

Representatives from NH Enhanced 9-1-1, NH State Police, NH EAP and NAMI New Hampshire completed the first NH Peer Support Team certified counselor training program. Graduates were recognized at an IPOC ceremony. The mission of the team is to ensure the long-term emotional health and well-being of staff by providing confidential peer support. The team and its initiative is cutting edge and one of the first statewide programs in the country.

DESC hosted it's Bi-annual LMR (Land Mobile Radio) Advisory Group meeting to discuss OS P25 Radio buildout; DNCR, DOT, F&G, NHLC and FMO needs from a communications perspective.

Director Doyle, Asst. Director Lussier and IT Manager Tim Scott Met with HSEM and NHSP Communications personnel re: the new FEMA IPAWS ad Emergency Alerts testing and system maintenance process.

DESC has achieved and received the APCO International Agency Training Program Certificate (<https://psc.apcointl.org/2020/02/20/new-hampshire-bureau-of-emergency-communications-receives-apco-agency-training-program-certification/>). NH 9-1-1 is one of two certified agencies in NH. The certification ensures our training programs meet APCO American National Standards (ANS). Initial and continuing training for public safety Telecommunicators is important as they provide essential services to the public in an expanding and rapidly changing environment. NH will be recognized at the national APCO conference and expo in August. NH 9-1-1 continues to set high standards to keep NH one of the safest states in the US.

SIEC Meeting and AT&T FirstNet event at the Fire Academy to update on the FirstNet partnership with the state and ongoing buildout– well attended by DESC staff, stakeholders, Governor Sununu, Commissioner Quinn and SIEC membership.

E9-1-1 presented to a diverse group of Public Safety Leadership (Police, Fire, EMS, Emergency Dispatch) from around the state regarding 9-1-1 call processing and transfers. The Focus group was brought together to identify operational efficiencies in the 9-1-1 call reception / transfer process and listen to the needs of our Public Safety partners.

Representatives from [“Hero Pups”](#) met with our Division employees to accept a donation from the employees at the Division of Emergency Services and Communications (\$500.00) for their efforts to provide comfort animals to first responders & veterans throughout the state.

Director Doyle will meet with Max Puyanic, CEO of Convenient MD and Chief Medical officer of AMR to discuss diversion to alternative sites of care and medical transport services throughout the state and the role of 9-1-1 as it pertains to medical call transfers.

E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) –

He reiterated information presented by Director Doyle.

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

New England Association of Fire Chiefs –

Chief Jones stated that the NEDIAFC conference is still on in Mystic in April. He also congratulated Chief Carrier on the merger vote February 20. The Expo in June is also still slated to occur June 24 – 27. He shared the brochure for the conference.

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

Old Business –

New Business –

Good and Welfare – Marshal Parisi thanked the group for their support in his re-nomination which was approved yesterday by the Governor and Council.

The raffle was held. \$240 was collected counted by Chiefs Jones and Sitar. \$120 was given out in prizes

A MOTION to adjourn, carried at 1938 hours.

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

March 12, 2020