



## NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

*Working Together to Make a Difference*

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### Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors – January 7, 2026

Meeting held virtually.

The meeting was called to order by Chief Watkins at 0832 hours.

**Members present:** Chiefs Watkins, LaRoche, D. Chamberlain, Carrier, J. Chamberlain, Buxton, Fraitzl, Cotreau, Sitar, Jones and ED Lemire. Adam Schmidt joined us also.

**Minutes of previous meetings:** A MOTION (Buxton/LaRoche) to approve the December minutes carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** The December reports were not available due to bank changes and will be reviewed next month.

**Correspondence:** n/a

**Life Membership:** n/a

**Government Relations: (Schmidt)**

- Discussion ensued on the thought of a work group to discuss the ambulance billing issues. Chris Stawacz has asked that we ensure that the data collection is complete and standardized. Chief Sitar added that the data collection will be the most important and we need to insure that the person reviewing costs is experienced in the issue.
- He also asked about producing an info sheet on lithium ion batteries.
- **Legislative Calendar** – We have included an updated legislative calendar below. The calendar includes the hearings which have been published in the most recent Senate calendar. It also includes the House hearing which are listed on the House website, but have not yet appeared in a printed House calendar. If there are changes to the House hearings, once they are included in a printed House calendar, we will let you know. There are several hearings I wanted to flag. None of the hearings happen prior to the Board call scheduled for 1/8. It may make sense to discuss options at that time. **SB 634** is similar to bills the Legislature has considered in the past. Generally, the bill enables communities to adopt a \$2 per occupancy (think hotel/motel/short term rental), per 24 hour

period that would be placed in a fund to support local services. The bill will likely be opposed by the hospitality industry and other groups. NHMA will likely support it and we may be asked if NHAFC has a position. **SB 429** is a bill sponsored by Senator Prentiss. It requires trauma kits to be placed in public schools and provides funding for the kits. If there is consensus that this is a good idea, I can sign NHAFC in as supporting the bill. If you prefer we stay out of it, that is also fine. Finally, **HB 1602** is scheduled for a hearing 1/20. This is the battery recycling bill. If NHAFC wanted to weigh in, we could provide testimony that details the challenges associated with fire created by lithium ion batteries, without taking a position on the rest of the specifics. Again, we can discuss further during the Board call next week.

- **Note:** Calendar printed in NHAFC Meeting minutes.

#### **Report of the President: (Watkins)**

- He attended Chief Murray's retirement reception.
- He will be attending a meeting of the Five Families on January 16<sup>th</sup>, as well as the Traffic Safety Commission, which is scheduled for later that day.

#### **Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)**

- The January 8, 2026 meeting will be virtual.
- The February 12 meeting will be at the NHFA for breakfast and seminar.
- The March 12 meeting will be hosted by the Barnstead Fire Department and feature a home-cooked corned beef and cabbage dinner.
- The April Annual Meeting will be at the Common Man in Plymouth on the 9th.
- The Scholarship Committee will meet virtually Monday, January 12 at 1300 hours.
- REMINDER – The NHAFC will be the beneficiary of activities at the NASH January 23-27.
- Discussion ensued on our attendance at CFSI. Congress will not be in session at the time and questions were raised as to the benefits.
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$23,565.50 ; Vendor: \$16,495.50; Assn: \$7,069.50.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report (LaRoche) –**

- The Professional Development Committee met December 18. It was a very productive meeting with homework for each member. They will be working over the next month with a final budget request being presented.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report – (D. Chamberlain) –**

- The Scholarship Committee will meet virtually Monday, January 12 at 1300 hours.

#### **Sgt. At Arms Report – (Fraitzl) –**

- He will be continuing to work with Chief Guarnera on saleables.
- The FST Commission will be meeting tomorrow morning at the NHFA

#### **IAFC – NED – (Jones/S. Murray) –**

- He met with the group administering the SAFER grant. They would like to meet with us at our annual meeting to explain the process.
- He would like to move on their Officer Development program.

#### **New Business –**

#### **Old Business –**

- Chief Buxton reminded all of the Mental Health Seminar January 13-14, 2026 and informed everyone that the Cancer Screening contract had been signed and they'll be starting the process soon.

#### **Good and Welfare –**

Motion to adjourn carried at 0922 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brent T. Lemire, MPA  
Executive Director

January 7, 2026

#### **\*\*Addendum to the minutes:**

Subsequent to the meeting adjourning, members were made aware Chief Clough's term on the Trauma Medical Review Board was expiring in March. Chief Watkins authorized an email poll to recommend Dep. Chief Craig Clough of Loudon to the Commissioner for another term. A MOTION (Fraitzl/Wheatley) to affirm carried unanimously.

ALSO: Subsequent to the membership meeting on January 8, 2026, the board conducted a virtual meeting for the purpose of discussing a proposal to the Fire Standards and Training Commission that would eliminate ProBoard certification requirements for some programs. A MOTION (Cotreau/D. Chamberlain) that the NHAFC Board of Directors express to the Commission that it does NOT support the elimination of any requirements for ProBoard certification on any program, carried unanimously.