



## **NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.**

*Working Together to Make a Difference*

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### Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors – November 6, 2024

#### Virtual

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

**Members present:** Chiefs Emanuel, Watkins, Hunter, Jones, Buxton, Chamberlain, LaRoche, Murray and ED Lemire. Adam Schmidt joined us also.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Distributed via email. A MOTION (Hunter/Buxton) to accept the October meeting minutes carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** Distributed via email. A MOTION (Buxton/Watkins) to approve the October financials carried unanimously.

**Correspondence:** Letter of thanks for a scholarship award from Avery Noyes.

**Life Membership:** n/a

#### **Government Relations: (Schmidt)**

- Adam shared a list of currently filed bills. He expects many more and they'll have a better handle on which bills to follow closer to the end of the year.
- Chief Hunter asked the NHAFC position on NH retirement lawsuit and pertinent communications. The consensus was to maintain our middle lane position and monitor bills that may be submitted.

#### **Report of the President (Emanuel)**

- Chief Emanuel noted that he had represented the NHAFC and contributed to the Interim Report- EV & Lithium-Ion Battery Study Council (SB 430), which has been submitted to the Governor.
- Chief Emanuel noted that he had represented the NHAFC and contributed to the LEO/PFF/EMT Career Development Committee- Final Report, which has been issued from the Commissioner to the Governor.

- Emergency Communications Director Mark Doyle has request for a letter of support to the governor from the NHAFC. Recommendation to address under new business.
- The NHAFC issued a letter of thanks to Senator Sue Prentis for her efforts to address challenges that the NHAFC supports. Thank you Brent for support.
- He had a telephone conversation with PFFNH President Brian Ryll regarding actions being taken by PFFNH regarding the NH Retirement System.
- He has been corresponding with Manchester’s Chief Cashin regarding questions about the NHAFC's position on the Londonderry Fire Department. Emanuel noted that the NHAFC has not been asked for comment regarding Londonderry and have not engaged in the dialogue as an Association. That he has not connected with Bo Butler or anyone from Londonderry and that neither the department or the chief, are not members of the NHAFC.
- He reported that he was pleased to represent the NHAFC at the IAFC NED conference and expo with a number of members to support Chief Jones being sworn in as the NED president.
- He reported that the 83rd NHMA Annual Conference was well attended and that he had received positive feedback from NHAFC members who presented the following programs:
  1. A Fire Chief’s Perspective on Contemporary Leadership and Personnel Challenges - Speaker(s): Dave Emanuel, Steve Buxton, Scott Hunter, and Hank Thomas
  2. Strategic Planning for Emergency Services in 2024 - Speaker(s): Dave Emanuel, Scott Hunter
  3. Transition from Department Head to Municipal Manager/Administrator - Speaker: Kirk Beattie, City Manager, City of Laconia
- He reported that the delivery of the Elephant-in-the-Room Series Aftermath by Tim Barretto at UNH on October 23 was well attended by over 100 people and generated a robust discussion about PTS in first responders and validation of the challenge. From <<https://www.visitnh.gov/things-to-do/events-calendar/events/elephant-in-the-room-series%20%ae-presents-aftermath-by>>
- He shared a Training Opportunity from the Seacoast Chief Fire Officer Mutual Aid District on November 21, 2024 – “The Art of Go/No-Go” Captain Mark Gagliano (retired)

- He also reported that retired NHFMO Fire Investigator Chris Wyman is interested in speaking with the NHAFC membership about documentation and cancer exposure for our members to ensure that they are entitled to available benefits.

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

- Happy Birthday to Chief Carrier!
- Obviously we're disappointed that we had to cancel the Professional Enhancement Weekend at Waterville Valley. Our November meeting will now be virtual next Thursday, the 14<sup>th</sup> at 0900.
- The December BOD meeting will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> at the Primex facility at 0830 hours.
- The December 12 meeting will now be a dinner meeting, possibly in Nashua.
- Our application for 501 c3 has been approved, but before we file the paperwork for charity gaming, we had to fill out additional paperwork to amend our Articles of Incorporation. They have been filed and the fee paid. Waiting to hear back.
- I've met with East Coast Emergency Outfitters and we will be meeting again to restart our options for shirts, vests, etc. with Assn. logo.
- I attended the NHMA Conference in Manchester October 30/31.
- I attended the New England Association of Fire Chiefs' conference where Chief Jones was installed as President.
- Primex reps, Brian Ryll (PFFNH), Justin Cutting (?) and myself are meeting at 1100 November 14 to discuss means to insure that all reports on employee injuries are completed timely and accurately.
- Our contract with Grimblas Associates for next year has been approved and signed.
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$32,250; Vendor: \$22,575; Assn: \$9,675.

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

- The PTSD Committee will be meeting Friday, November 8 at 1300 hours.

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

- He mentioned that

### **Sgt. At Arms Report – (Chamberlain) – No report**

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

- Chief Murray stated that the IAFC is going to a once a year membership renewal.
- He mentioned that they were still looking at the numbers for the conference. They were lower but still a good conference.
- Next year's conference will be at Mohegan but at the Sky venue, saving up to \$30,000.
- The Division is also forming a committee to research other venues for the conference.

- Division former President Bradley wanted to thank us for our contribution to the conference.
- Chief Jones reiterated the need to downsize and find a new venue for the conference.

### **New Business:**

- Vacancy created by Chief McShane's retirement – position to be advertised.
- Chief Jones reported that it also created a vacancy on the ICC Council.
- Contract with Golden Eagle – deferred to December meeting.
- Letter of support for Dir. Doyle's reappointment. A MOTION (Hunter/Watkins) to draft a letter of support.
- BOD Commission for Recruitment and retention. Chief Hunter intends to make the following motion:

“Motion (Hunter/Watkins) to establish a Recruitment and Retention Committee for the purpose of planning and proposing recruitment and retention efforts through the NHAFC and execution of projects sanctioned by NHAFC BOD. The committee chair is assigned to Tom Blanchette with up to 4 additional members selected from candidates that present themselves in a call to our membership to participate. Committee members to be appointed by this board. This committee to remain in effect until its expiration December 1, 2026 or upon further action of the BOD.” The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Murray mentioned that the IAFC has submitted a grant request to fund a program for recruitment and retention available to all members.

Chief Jones mentioned that there are several applicants in jurisdictions that passed everything except the CPAT and wondered if it's counterproductive to require it.

- Chief Buxton stated that a representative from the propane industry approached him about electric vehicles vs. propane carrying ones and any legislation that may involve both. It was suggested that he approach Marshal Toomey.

### **Old Business:**

- Chief Buxton reported that the Cancer Screening group met last week to work on branding, etc.
- He also reminded members of the Behavioral Health seminar will be January 7 and 8, 2025.

### **Good and Welfare –**

Motion to adjourn carried at 1007 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brent T. Lemire, MPA  
Executive Director

November 6, 2024