



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

547 Charles Bancroft Hwy.
Litchfield, NH 03052 www.nhafe.org
Email: nhfirechiefs@gmail.com

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors – July 10, 2024

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

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

Minutes of previous meeting: Distributed and posted for meeting. A MOTION (Buxton/Fraitzl) to accept the minutes carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: Distributed via email and posted. A MOTION (Hunter/Fraitzl) to approve the June financials carried unanimously.

Also, he is requesting approval to act on the current CD which is expiring. He suggests reinvesting it at 5%. A MOTION (Hunter/Watkins) to reinvest carried unanimously.

Correspondence: Note from Maurice Paquette requesting reappointment to the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board. A MOTION (Chamberlain/Buxton) to reappoint him carried unanimously.

Also received was a note from Manchester Fire Marshal Peter Lennon who is retiring and will be relinquishing his position on the State Building Code Review Board. The Executive Director will post the vacancy.

Life Membership:

Report of the President (Emanuel)

- The DOS Leadership group (formerly 5 families) met last week and discussed several issues.
- They spoke about Line of Duty Death instances.
- Director Buxton noted that the Homeland Security funding has been approved and several programs will be forthcoming.
- They also spoke of the legislation signed to upgrade the Burton facility.

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- The July 11 meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the NHFA. The vendor has lowered their prices so we're back to \$16.00.
- Our August 7 BOD meeting will be Virtual.
- On August 8, we'll join our North Country brethren at the Town and Country in Gorham (Shelburne) where we'll have a seminar being developed by the Professional Development Committee.
- August 12 will be the Golf Tournament at Lochmere in Tilton.
- SAVE THE DATES: November 15-17 for Professional Enhancement Weekend at Waterville Valley.
- Our application for 501 c3 has been submitted to the IRS and the fee paid! We have found out that it may take 191 days for action.
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$24,450; Vendor: \$17,115; Assn: \$7,335.

1st Vice President's Report (Watkins) –

- The Commission to study PTSD has been renewed and he would like to remain as the representative.

Government Relations: (Schmidt)

The New Hampshire House and Senate have completed their work for the 2024 regular session. The chart includes all the bills we followed for the NH Association of Fire Chiefs. The bill numbers provide a link to the text of each bill. At this point, a number of bills have passed the Legislature, but have not yet been acted upon by the Governor. You will note that some bills were sent to "Interim Study". Interim Study means that the bills will not move forward in the 2024 session. House policy committees will meet in the late summer and fall to further examine these bills. By Friday, October 25, House Committees must issue non-binding recommendations whether similar legislation should be re-introduced in 2025. There will be a calendar issued in the fall with written reports detailing the recommendations. The Senate will likely use a far less formal process.

For legislation in 2025, the House has set the initial filing period for incumbents running for re-election in the 2024 election for September 3 through September 13. There will be another filing period after the election from November 6 through November 22. The Senate will set deadlines for filing legislation for 2025 at a later date. Governor Sununu has vetoed several bills thus far. A veto session day will likely be scheduled for the fall at which time the House and Senate will vote whether to override the vetoes or not.

There were several updates on key issues we wanted to provide:

HB 1081 (Direct Pay for Ambulance Services) - Governor Sununu recently signed the bill into law. It will go into effect in early September. The law will require private health insurance carriers to pay ambulance providers directly, regardless of whether or not they are in network.

SB 352 (Retired and Full Time Firefighter Cancer Screening Program) – Governor Sununu signed the bill into law last week. It creates a \$5 million fund from which re-imbursements to retired and full-time fight fighters could seek re-imbursement when specific documentation is provided. NHAFC, PPFNH, and Fire Standards and Training would be responsible for development of an initial plan to implement the screenings. The plan would be submitted to the Governor and Commissioner of the Department of Safety.

NH DOI Ambulance Cost RFP – As a follow up from SB 407 earlier this year, the NH Department of Insurance recently issued an RFP which stated goal is “...Completion of a New Hampshire ground ambulance cost study and development of an illustrative, cost-based default reimbursement rate schedule for ground ambulance services in the state.” Proposals from interested potential vendors are due by July 23 with a potential selection by July 26. The RFP states that selected vendor would be expected to start their efforts after SB 407 is signed by Governor Sununu. The results of the study would serve as the basis for legislation in 2025 that would “...prohibit ground ambulance balance billing and set a universal default rate schedule at least for all commercial, fully-insured payers and that would be sufficient to cover the costs of ground ambulance services if all payers (public and commercial included) used that same reimbursement rate schedule. The schedule is considered a default schedule because it is envisioned that providers and payers would still be free to contract for different rates with the default rates applying only when services are provided by an out of network provider. The illustrative, default rate schedule should be so designed that, with little modification, it could be used by the state in support of a federal waiver to establish an All-Payer Model Agreement under §1115A of the Social Security Act to implement an all-payer model system for reimbursing ground ambulance services in the state. It should also be so designed that it could be compared to the current Medicare fee schedule.” Once a vendor is selected the RFP includes suggestions regarding a stakeholder working group and efforts to collect information. NHAFC may be approached about participating in the process.

A link to the entire RFO can be found here: [2024-0621-RFP Ground Ambulance Cost Study Final.pdf \(nhhp.org\)](https://www.nh.gov/DOI/ambulance-cost-study-final.pdf)

2nd Vice President’s Report – (Hunter) –

- He is concerned that the Lithium Battery Committee representative from our organization be sent with a message from our board when the time comes.
- He spoke of the new Retirement System changes on Tier B people and feels it should be shared with our members.
- The Board of Fire Control is reviewing the Fire Code as it relates to camps and cabins at summer camps.

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

IAFC – NED – (Jones/S. Murray) –

- The planning for the conference is moving forward.
- Chief Steve Locke was successful in his run for 2nd Vice President of the IAFC
- They will be attending FRI in Dallas in August.

New Business: Appointment of an NVFC representative.

- Three candidates applied: Chief Scott Cathy of New Hampton; Chief James Reinert of Alton and Chief Erik Thomas of Atkinson.
- A MOTION (Fraitzl/Buxton) to appoint Chief Thomas as representative and Chief Cathy as Alternate, carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- Chief Carrier spoke of the Golf Tournament and invited more to participate.

Good and Welfare –

- The Larry Dingee funeral arrangements were discussed.
- Chief Buxton reported that the Line of Duty Death benefit for Jess Wyman has been approved and also the Cancer Screening group has met and he shared details.
- Chief Emanuel reported that the Explorer Academy was grateful for our donation and the Memorial is being cleaned up for the upcoming services

Motion to adjourn carried at 0910 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Brent T. Lemire, MPA
Executive Director

July 10, 2024