



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 14, 2019 – New Hampshire Fire Academy – Concord.

Following a presentation on the FFI program by the coordinators, the meeting was called to order at 0948 hours by Chief Buxton.

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

Director Pendergast welcomed all to the Academy.

Chief Buxton asked all members to introduce themselves and share from where they come from.

Advocate Members Present: Willie Burk of Harrison Shrader; Don Chambers from 1-800-BOARDUP; Robert Duval of NFPA; Alex McCurdy of FDSS; Peter Hoekstra of Peniel Environmental; Jeff Spencer of Medical Business Services and Ralph Sanders of NE Marine and Industrial

Special Guests: (n/a)

Minutes of the January 10 meeting: A MOTION (Sitar/Howard) to accept them carried unanimously.

Financial Report for the month. A MOTION (Howard/Sitar) to accept the December and January financial reports, carried unanimously.

Communications: (none)

Applications for membership: Chief Nancy Carney of Fitzwilliam, Chief Mark Tetreault of Northwood, Deputy Chief Daryl Jeffers of Rochester, Chief Jeffrey Yale of Hopkinton and Asst. Chief Jay Ellingson of Laconia were introduced as new active members. Mr. Bruce Stone of Fire Control Innovations of Nashua was introduced as an Advocate member.

Life Membership: (none)

Interim President's Report: (Buxton) – Chief Buxton reported:

- He spoke on the Annual Meeting seminar presenter. Chief LaChapelle has committed a speaker on “Lean Manufacturing.” His name is Richard Eller and he travels world-wide presenting on lean processes.
- We will also be rolling out the Strategic Plan for the membership after the seminar.
- CFSI is being held when Congress is out of session. We have decided not to attend this year.
- The Sober Housing issue has been resolved.
- The two members of the Housing Code Review Board have offered to resign over the Sober Housing issue. He feels that we should not accept them now.
- He testified before the Board of Fire Control on the light weight wood construction waiver. The Realtors are having concerns with it.
- He reported on the FFI Visiting Committee in the spring. Chief Carrier will serve as Chair and it will consist of 2 career and 2 part time chief officers.
- He reported on their meeting with the “Five Families” and the outcomes. He attended another meeting at NHFA on EMS issues.
- He attended the “Hub & Spoke” presentation in Nashua. Not operational yet in the southern part of the state.
- Primex “Fire Service Symposium” planning will occur shortly. Any input on material is welcome.
- Committee assignments will be discussed. Charlie Corey from Brookline has expressed interest in being our second NVFC member. Members agreed to place his name in.
- We will be posting vacancies on the website due to the retirement of Chief O'Brien of Goffstown.
- He is looking for a volunteer to serve on a working group for a statewide MCI plan.
- He spoke of the retirement of Commissioner Barthelmes April 1. We will invite him to our March meeting and make a presentation.

Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –

- The March 14 meeting will include corned beef and cabbage dinner at Alan's of Boscawen (our breakfast caterer). The cost will be \$27 (all inclusive). Commissioner Barthelmes will be attending and we will recognize his years of service to the NH fire service as will Congresswoman Annie Kuster who would like to offer greetings and seek input from the fire chiefs.
- Work is continuing on our annual meeting/vendor display for April, 11, 2019. We will again be at the Falls Event Center in Manchester.
- The Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for the 3rd of April, but it turns out to be the last day of the NEDIAFC conference in Providence. We had no choice on the date.

- May meeting will again be at the Mt. Washington Hotel on May 16 (note change) in conjunction with Primex. We are working on sponsors and speakers.
- The NHAFC Professional Enhancement Weekend for members, spouses and guests is back! It will be at the Red Jacket Mountainview in North Conway on Veteran's Day weekend in November. Plan ahead because we need a minimum of 50 participants.
- The board will be discussing the August meeting schedule as it conflicts (again) with FRI in Atlanta.

Interim 1st Vice President Report - (Carrier) –

- He attended a meeting at HSEM to assess a Facility Site program

2nd Vice President Report/Legislative Committee (Jones) –

- Chief Jones described several bills of interest and their current status and listed which ones we are supporting.
- He reminded all of the NEAFC conference/expo at Foxwoods June 20-23. He noted that Chief Carrier will be sworn in as President.

Sgt. At Arms/Professional Development (LaChapelle) –

- He displayed the items for sale and spoke of the new ordering of material from the NHAFC store.
- He spoke with Kurt Bradley of Fire Grant programs on a potential partnership with the association to present a program to bolster grant acceptance.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Toomey) – No report

Division Reports

State Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Parisi reported:

- He spoke of the myriad of bills being followed and summarized some of the ones with the most impact to the fire service.

Fire Standards, Training and EMS – (Director Pendergast)

Logistics-

Our aerial truck is out of service, but repairs are underway currently .

We have received all bids on our grant funded HazMat tanker rollover prop. It is now on order with an expected delivery of May 30, 2019

Programs-

We collaborated with NH State Police and NAMI NH to get grant funding to offer training for emergency responders. These programs include an 8 hour Psychological First Aid class and a 40 hour CIT (Crisis Intervention Training)

Our spring certification programs include:

-NHFA evening FF I program

-Wilton FF I

-Canaan FF I

-LRCC FF I

-LRCC FF II

-Seacoast (Lee) FF II

-2 Ice rescue programs- full with wait list (will add a third)

We will also be holding our summer full time recruit academy with orientation in June.

We are already receiving requests for application.

Budget-

This morning the Governor will be giving his budget presentation. We will have some idea of what will be brought forward.

We currently have 1 vacant full time position and we have tentatively filled the vacant PT cleaning position.

Other news-

Our Administrative Assistant June Connor will tentatively return mid-March on a part time basis and continue to work on the fire department mandatory reporting project. To date 85% of NH Fire Departments have reported their membership rosters (These were due by December 31st)

The 2018-19 Legislative season has begun and bills are starting to be filed. Chief Mercuri is reviewing each piece that may affect our Division in any way and will report out to the Boards.

Our Division is working with Primex, NH Chiefs, PFFNH and other stakeholders to update the Fire Service Cancer Legislation. We are finalizing the draft of an article that will go into the NH Municipal Association magazine.

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board (O'Brien)

- He spoke of his impending retirement and hopes someone steps up to fill his position on this very important board. He thanked the organization for the opportunity to have served.

NVFC – (Chief Fraitzl) – (No report)

Advisory Council on Emergency Preparedness and Security (ACEPS) – (Chief Christopoulos) – (No report)

Homeland Security & Emergency Management – (Director Plummer) – (Asst. Director Harper submitted this report in writing for the Director)

Warm Zone – Equipment/Training

- o Working with NHFA & GMU to change program to make it easier for communities to get training to the fire service, get everyone awareness and operations for those that FC deem appropriate.
- o We are working to get more law enforcement instructors as well as facilities to conduct the training

- Self Assessment (security) for Houses of Worship – Chief Carrier sat on workgroup last week – good input – thanks.
- Swiftwater Rescue RFP – Proposals are due 3/8; presentations 3/18 then the G&C process. Draft plan has to be submitted within 6 mos of contract and 9 mos for final plan
- School Taskforce Recommendations – hired Michelle Clarke to coordinate recommendations for us
 - o Anonymous tip line – 24/7 tip line to report anything that concerns or threatens someone, their friends and family. Modeled after Colorado’s Safe 2 Tell Program; most tips are submitted via text/social media.
 - o School Resource Center – roll out March 7 +/- timeframe one stop shopping for anything to do with schools for teachers, principals, SAUs, parents – plans, SOPs, templates, etc. Send us anything that would help to populate the site – websites, policies, trainings, etc.
- Exercises – Reminder that we can do games and tabletop exercises with your officers/select board – 2-3 hours
- We have had quite a few changes in staff over the past couple of months
 - o New EMPG Coordinator starting 3/1
 - o New Asst Chief Field Services starting 2/15
 - o 2 REP Planner promotions
- See Something, Say Something – we have lots of materials and would like to see them in all public buildings – call us for them.

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) –

- We will be swearing in our new District 12 (Grafton County) Forest Ranger on February 15 th . Luc Perreault is from Berlin and has worked for the state for the past four years with the Dept. of Corrections. We look forward to having him on.
- Training dates for our Spring Warden/Deputy Warden trainings are out. There are some changes, such as, new fire permits, definition of structure and other important information. We ask that Wardens/Chiefs encourage their Deputy Wardens and Issuing Agents attend.
- SPRING TRAINING DAYTIME SESSIONS 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- March 12 th - Loudon FD March 26 th - Hanover FD April 3 rd - Rochester FD
- EVENING SESSIONS 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
- March 19 th – Rumney (Russell Elem. School) March 20 th – Keene (SWMA) March 21 st – Wilmot FD
- March 21 st – Woodsville (Cliff. Mem. Bldg) March 22 nd – Conway Village FD March 25 th – Mont Vernon FD

- March 27 th – Auburn FD March 28 th – Lancaster HQ March 28 th – Plainfield FD
- April 1 st – Colebrook FD April 3 rd – Bow FD April 4 th – Brentwood FD
- April 4 th – Lempster FD April 5 th – Wolfeboro (Abenali Ski Area)
- This month we will be rolling out the application process for a new grant. This is the Hazardous Wildfire Fuels Reduction Grant and will be available to municipalities. The intent of this grant is to identify town owned conservation lands which would benefit from prescribed fire and to help municipalities through the process of identifying lands, writing burn plans, and implementing burns. The deadline for grant submissions will be June 01, 2019.
- ☐ The application period is open for Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, which will be held this first Saturday in May (the 4 th in 2019). Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is a national campaign that encourages people to come together on a single day to take action to reduce their wildfire risk. The application period for one of one hundred fifty \$500 awards will close March 1 at midnight EST. Winners will be announced March 22. The link will be available on NFPA’s Prep Day page. <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Campaigns/National-Wildfire-Community-Preparedness-Day>.

Board of Fire Control – (Chief Andrus) – Chief Andrus reported that:

- The Board of Fire Control met on January 17th to conduct a public hearing on an amendment to the Life Safety Code to provide “opt out language” from floor protection. Testimony was received from representatives of the New Hampshire Fire Prevention Society, New Hampshire Home Builders, and the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs. Following the receipt of public testimony, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amendment.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CODE ENFORCEMENT

- The committee met on January 10th and discussed the amendment on floor protection. The committee also discussed several pieces of legislation relating to sober living facilities and foster homes, as well as legislation on properly citing code provisions when issuing notices of violation. The committee also received an update from Fire Marshal Parisi on activities and assignments in the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

Chief Clark gave an update of the Sober Housing issue whereas they are considered single family homes. They are working to reach a compromise as to the fire protection levels required. HB 311 is a compromise bill that is being supported. He recognized Chief Andrus for his efforts in making the Board of Fire Control visible.

Building Code Review Board – (Chief Ober/Chief Powers) –

- Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board
 - I missed the last meeting on the 12th. The agenda was to review four applicants applying to be licensed to install these homes, and they had one

complaint to review. Nothing pressing for the membership that I am aware of

- **Building Code Review Board**
 - I also missed the last meeting on the 8th. According to an email received while I was on vacation, it doesn't appear Chief Ober was able to make the meeting either.
 - Unfortunately, we missed an opportunity during the meeting to engage in a joint discussion with representative and stakeholders relative to HB 247 and HB 562.
 - Chief Emanuel and I have already discussed coordinating a meeting with our Durham legislative representatives to urge their support of adopting the 2015 ICC building codes, as well as discourage any support for legislation that would prohibit local jurisdictions from being allowed to adopt equal or more stringent requirements.
 - I would strongly recommend that our membership reach out to their respective legislative representatives to encourage the same. If some of them are allowed to pick up momentum, it could significantly and negatively affect our ability to maintain or improve the level of safety we currently enjoy.
 - In previous meetings, the board has reviewed and processed multiple amendments to the 2015 ICC codes in preparation for adoption by the legislature. Two more proposed amendments to the 2015 ICC codes were presented to the board for consideration at the last meeting. Most of these amendments were to make sure each code book and section matched previously approved amendments.

Manufactured Housing Standards Board – (Chief Powers)
(Above)

Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)

- 1/8: Met with members of the Governor's Task Force on School Preparedness to discuss action items/Recommendations assigned to the Division of Emergency Services and their status;
- • 1/9: Delivery of P25 Radio equipment and associated components to the IPOC / Laconia PSAP / & Radio Maintenance (approx.. 600 cases). On-schedule for the project timeline for winter and spring 2019;
- • 1/9: Organized an Infrastructure Advisory Group of Communications stakeholders, including Fish & Game, DOT, Liquor Commission, State Police and Division of Emergency Communications folks to discuss current state and future planning of communications assets throughout the state;
- • Two New Hampshire 9-1-1 Telecommunicators were recognized on the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED) (<https://www.emergencydispatch.org/>) Facebook page for their role in providing

emergency medical dispatch instructions and helping 9-1-1 callers to deliver two healthy baby boys!

- • Telecommunicator Val Shean and Telecommunicator Marti Dennerly were officially inducted into the IAED Stork Club.

NH Information and Analysis Center – (Corey Clark)

- He explained his position responsibilities and several programs coming forward on human trafficking, security and analysis.

E 911 Commission – (Chief O'Brien) – (See Director Doyle's report above)

New England Division of the IAFC – Chief Achilles – (No report)

New England Association of Fire Chiefs – Chief Jones reported that the 2019 conference will be at Foxwoods June 20-23, 2019 and in 2020 it will be in Worcester.

SAMHSA Committee – (no report)

Old Business – (n/a)

New Business –

- Bob Duval of NFPA reported on a poll they conducted concerning code enforcement. He summarized the results which overwhelmingly affirmed that state and local governments should be keeping codes and standards up to date.
- He spoke of the school security issue and shared a summary sheet of the code concerning door locking. It will be uploaded to our website.
- He is doing a piece for their magazine on the Merrimack Valley gas explosions and asked members if they had any personal experiences concerning that to contact him.
- Don Bliss will retire in June.

Good and Welfare –

- Chief D'Angelis reported that a legislative committee will be discussing ambulance billing again on March 5.
- Chief Klose reported that his firefighter who contracted cancer is now in remission and back to work.
- Don Chambers reported that at the April 11 meeting, they will be collecting in a boot for the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial.
- Chief Howard asked for input on the interpretation of mandatory physicals based on the current standards and who pays the bills.
- Director Harper spoke of the Emergency Management Conference in June held in Manchester.

The raffle was held with a \$151 collected and \$75 returned as prizes, counted by Chiefs LaChapelle and Jones.

Following the raffle, a MOTION to adjourn, carried at 1110 hours.

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

February 14, 2019