



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, July 11, 2019 – Atlantic Grill, Rye, NH

Called to order at 1832 hours by Chief Buxton.

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

Chief Mark Cotreau welcomed all to Rye and thanked members for attending.

Advocate Members present – Don Chambers of Dube Construction; Jeff Spencer of Medical Business Services, LLC.

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

Special Guests: Commissioner of Safety Robert Quinn, Ty Gagne, CEO of Primex and Margaret Byrnes, Executive Director of the NHMA. Chief Buxton presented Mr. Gagne and Ms. Byrnes with tokens of appreciation from the NHAFC for their support.

Minutes of the June meeting: A MOTION (Christopoulos/Rhodes) to accept them carried unanimously.

Financial Report for the month of June have been posted. A MOTION (Sitar/Thomas) to accept them carried unanimously.

Communications: (n/a)

Applications for membership: Active Members: Asst. Chief Matthew Duke of Merrimack; Dep. Chief David Hall of Franklin; Chief Todd Germain of Portsmouth. Also, Dep. Chief Daniel Cronin Retired of Nashua.

Life Membership: Stephen Allen, Lebanon; Carl Roediger, Newcastle and Douglas Aiken, Lakes Region Fire Mutual Aid and Scott Wiggan of Bedford.

President's Report: (Buxton) –

- He spoke of the visiting committee for the Fire Academy for FFI and FFII programs.
- The board will be participating in the NHMA conference in November.
- He spoke of the website change and the onboarding of the new website which will happen around September 1.
- The Facebook page will be up and running next week.
- He congratulated Chief Steve Carrier on his election as president of the NEAFC.
- He spoke of the continuing resolution due to the veto of the budget.
- He also spoke of the passage of the State Fire Code 2015 edition and congratulated the Fire Marshal for his efforts in getting this done.
- He spoke of the legislative successes and the partnerships we've been able to formulate. He presented Ty Gagne (CEO of Primex) and Margaret Byrnes Execti

Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –

- The August 15 meeting will be hosted by Berlin and held at the Town and Country Resort in Shelburne. Discounted rates for overnight stays are available. Golf opportunities available for both July and August.
- September 12 will be back at the Academy for a breakfast meeting and October 10 will be in Hudson.
- Work is done on the Professional Enhancement Weekend for members, spouses and guests. It will be at the Red Jacket Mountain View in North Conway on Veteran's Day weekend, November 8-10, 2019. Plan ahead because we need a minimum of 50 participants.
- Work is being done on the conversion to the new AMS program. Exec. Director and webmaster worked with MemberClicks. Chiefs Murray, Powers, Christopoulos and Lemire participated in a conference call to start the onboarding process which should be completed by September.
- RFP done for lobbyist. Chief Rhodes and I will be meeting with prospective firms

1st Vice President Report (Jones) –

- No report

2nd Vice President Report (Rhodes) –

- No report

Sgt. At Arms (Sitar) –

- No report

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey)

- Applications closed July 1, 2019 and they will be processing the ones received.

Division Reports

State Fire Marshal – Asst. Fire Marshal Shultz reported:

Bureau of Administration:

SB 49 – Fire Code – SB 49 was signed on July 9 by Governor Sununu; it shall day effect in approximately 60 days (exact date will be released shortly). HB 562 – Building Code – HB 562 has been enrolled, waiting on Governor’s signature. We are working to do a ceremonial public bill signing for both of these bills, including all the fire service partners, building code officials, etc. We will keep everyone updated. HB 710 – BCRB changes – HB 710 has been enrolled, waiting on Governor’s signature. HB 259 – Violation Notices – This bill amends RSA 155-A:7 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph: V. Any notice of violation issued by an enforcement authority as described in paragraph I shall include the relevant section of the state or local building or fire code. We will put a bulletin out on it, but please make sure your code officials are aware of it. Recovery residences (Sober Houses) continue to be a challenge on the forefront of our agenda. HB 311 was retained by the House, but other legislation may need to be promulgated for the 2020 legislative session. 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. The Attorney General’s Office has suggested that accommodations be filtered through the FMO in the form of a variance until the state law can be changed. More to come..... We are in a holdover status with the state budget. Governor Sununu has signed a continuing resolution for the next three months to operate. Therefore, all divisions within the Department of Safety are in “status-quo”; no new large purchases are authorized and no new positions can be filled. We are continuing to work with Kidde on the “Get Alarmed” grant project in replacing the defective fire alarms across the state. Fire Chiefs that have questions or concerns are encouraged to contact District Chief Stacey Dubois at Stacey.Dubois@dos.nh.gov. The NH Fire Mobilization plan is being updated and training programs are being rolled out across the state. Questions regarding the plan or training can be directed to Plans Examiner Buddy Thibeault at Brian.Thibeault@dos.nh.gov .

We are working with the NH Fire Prevention Society and the National Fire Sprinkler Association on procuring a side-by-side residential sprinkler prop for the state. When it becomes available we will let departments know.

Bureau of Building Safety and Construction:

We continue to deliver fire service educational seminars across the state. These include sessions on school inspections, fireworks, oil and gas fired appliances, tent inspections, places of assembly, hood and kitchen inspections, etc. If you are interested in requesting a regional delivery of these programs please contact Deputy Fire Marshal Sean Toomey at Sean.Toomey@dos.nh.gov.

We have hired Nate Antaya and Phil Biron as part-time inspectors in our Bureau of Building Safety & Construction. We welcome Nate and Phil to our team!

We provided training to DHHS Foster Care Staff on conducting fire safety inspections for foster care. We are also assisting DHHS with finalizing their Foster Care Inspection Form which will include a new Inspectors Guide for the Fire Chief/Fire Inspector.

We are working to update the egress windows Informational Bulletin and anticipate that it will be disseminated soon.

We will be rolling out training sessions on NFPA 1 and 101, 2015 editions in the fall. These will be co-hosted by the NH Municipal Association. We will have day and night sessions to accommodate all fire service members, and host them in Concord, as well as at the North Country Fire Academy. Dates are being set for October and will be released when they are confirmed by the academy and NFPA.

We have started work on the review and update to Saf-C 6000, the State Fire Code with an anticipated completion of December 2019. Anyone with comments or suggestions are encouraged to forward your information to our office through the fmo@dos.nh.gov email.

Bureau of Investigations:

There were 17 calls for service in the month of June

New Boston- A gas fitter was indicted on one charge of Negligent Homicide as the result of a house fire and explosion investigation where one fatality occurred in September 2017.

Franconia- A Conway woman, Grace Woodham was arrested and charged with Breach of Bail Conditions, Violation of a Restraining Order, Resisting Arrest and Possession of a Controlled

Drug. More Felony charges are anticipated as the investigation continues. She is being held on \$100,000 cash only bail.

Nottingham- A Concord man, Christopher Vincent was arrested and charged with Felony level Arson related to a 2016 fire that occurred at an abandoned building. He was released on Personal Recognizance bail.

PIO/Outreach -- 17 Twitter and Facebook Posts. These posts reached 31,457 people with 86 new followers.

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Dep. Director Mercuri)

Logistics- The 'A' building continues to be used for all evolutions with the exception of 'live fire'. We are awaiting word from FEMA on our 2018 AFG grant in which we requested funds to replace our lining system in the burn rooms.

Our ladder truck has now been repaired and is now on its way to Lakes Region Fire apparatus for the ladder testing and inspection. It will then have all tires replaced. The total cost of about \$20,000 will allow us to have a serviceable vehicle for the foreseeable future while we await funding for our new apparatus. The Capital budget has been approved and funding will be available to replace our aerial truck.

This is the time of the year where we perform preventative maintenance and testing. The North Country air trailer has been repaired and all air refill systems have undergone preventative maintenance. Hose is being tested as well as ground ladders.

We have taken delivery of our HazMat tanker rollover prop which was 85% AFG funded. We will be holding TtT for the new prop.

Reminder of two free prop usages per department. We can bring a prop to your location or you can bring your department or shift to use props and drill yard here or in Bethlehem. This also includes EMS props.

Programs-

Recruit school

We have a total of 27 students enrolled in the 2019 recruit school. Orientation was in June and they begin full time for 10 weeks starting on July 15.

We are hosting 18 young ladies for Camp Fully Involved this week. The cadets will graduate Friday evening.

We had 2 summer offerings of the IAFF Fireground survival Program. The field program in Chester was full and the Concord program in July will be starting soon. Summer classes also include Aircraft Firefighter, Concord FF I, Rescue Skills, Swiftwater Rescue Level I, and Confined Space technician, Instructor I, Instructor II and III, Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II coming this fall. In addition, we have several seminars with topics such as Fire investigation for First Responders, Youth Firesetter Programs, Stress Management and Self care and Human Trafficking.

The last CPAT- was June 11 and 12 with a 68% pass rate and the next scheduled dates for 2019 will be in September.

Budget-

July 1 began our new fiscal year, however we are in a 3 month continuing resolution.

Other news-

Administrative Assistant June Connor has announced her retirement.

Captain Laurie Miller has retired from full-time service, but will remain on as a part time Instructor.

Nominations for this year’s Committee of Merit have now closed. The Ceremony will take place Monday September 30 at the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord.

EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Allard)

- He shared a clinical bulletin in writing that was recently sent out. Next meeting is July 18.

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) –

- He spoke of the membership drive for NH Volunteer/Call departments.
- He still has the pallet of water for departments in need for incidents

Advisory Council on Emergency Preparedness – (Chief Christopoulos)

- No report

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Harper)

- Interviews for the HSEM Assistant Director are scheduled for Wednesday, July 17th
 - Ideally, we would like to have someone on board by September/October
- She thanked the first responders in Randolph, Jefferson and Gorham for their assistance in the Ride for the Fallen motorcyclists. She also described the efforts to coordinate the ride and support it by many entities.
- FEMA Integration Team (FIT) – The FIT program allows FEMA to co-locate staff at HSEM using a phased implementation approach to assist in navigating FEMA’s programs and policies to deliver quicker, more tailored assistance directly where it is needed. We have 2 FEMA staff starting next week to focus on Recovery and Planning efforts with us.
- Threat and Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)/Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR)
 - Workshops on July 30, August 28 and September 10 @ NHFA – We welcome your participation in these workshops; email went out June 20 to
- This year HSEM will be holding 1 Stakeholder workshop to address **THIRA Step 2 – Determining the Estimated Impacts of Identified Threats and Hazards** and 2 State and local level Stakeholder workshops to address **THIRA Step 3 – Determining Targets/Goals for all five of the National Response Framework Mission Areas**. We highly recommend that the same people attend all the workshops in order to provide a continuity of input across the board. Use the following links to register:

<p>Date: July 30, 2019 Time: 9 am to 12 pm Location: Fire Academy</p>	<p>THIRA Step 2 – State-level Workshop</p>	<p>Deadline to Register: July 23, 2019</p>
<p>Date: August, 28 2019</p>	<p>THIRA Step 3 – Prevention, Protection, Mitigation</p>	<p>Deadline to Register: August 21, 2019</p>

Time: 1 pm to 4 pm Location: Fire Academy		
Date: September, 10 2019 Time: 1 pm to 4 pm Location: Fire Academy	THIRA Step 3 – Response & Recovery	Deadline to Register: September 3, 2019

- For more information on the THIRA/SPR process click on our [HSEM Resource Center](#)
- School Taskforce Recommendations Working Groups continue to meet on monthly basis
 - School Resource Center – ‘one stop’ for anything to do with schools for teachers, principals, SAUs, parents – plans, SOPs, templates, etc. Please send us anything that would help to populate this site.
 - As of July 10th
 - Total Visitors: 7,103
 - Total Reads: 21,608
 - Top 3 Searches: Suicide, Bomb, Gun
 - Top 3 Visited Pages: Training & Exercise, Students, Task Force Summary
 - Top 3 Visited Categories: Training & Exercise, Task Force Summary, Mental Health
- Disaster Update – 2017/2018 5 Disasters: continue to work 3 disasters; 2 have awarded all applicants.
- See Something, Say Something (aka S4) – we still have a lot of materials and would like to see them in all public buildings – let your F.Rep know if you want them.
 - We have school specific posters if you want them for your schools
 - You will soon be hearing an increase in S4 messaging as we have partnered with US DHS to specifically increase the messaging to gauge the public’s attention to the messaging and if there is a correlation to an increase in calls to law enforcement on reporting suspicious activity
- Hurricane Season started June 1st
 - 2019 New Hampshire Hurricane Safety Awareness Week is July 15 to July 19
 - NWS will be providing the Hurricane Forecast to us on July 18 in the SEOC and FEMA will be providing the annual Hurrevac training.
 - HSEM will be tracking any developments of depressions, storms, hurricanes as we proceed through hurricane season and disseminate info as applicable.
 - Please share with your membership the following that we received from the NH Retail Association:
 - As part of Home Depot’s commitment to disaster preparedness, *The Home Depot will be hosting Hurricane Preparedness workshops at 526 stores*

across the Gulf Coast and Eastern seaboard on Saturday, July 20. These free workshops will provide attendees with information for pre- and post-storm activities such as how to put together an emergency supply kit, develop a family communication plan, minimize damage to a home, access resources for relief organizations, and learn how to repair damage. NH Home Depot locations include:

Street Address	City
451 WASHINGTON ST	CLAREMONT
42 D'AMANTE DRIVE	CONCORD
300 QUALITY DRIVE	HOOKSETT
22 ASHBROOK ROAD	KEENE
895 MEADOW ST	LITTLETON
41 NASHUA RD	LONDONDERRY
129 MARCH AVENUE	MANCHESTER
721 MILFORD ROAD	MERRIMACK
288 DANIEL WEBSTER HWY	NASHUA
12 COLISEUM DRIVE	NASHUA
53 BARNES ROAD	NORTH CONWAY
35 LAFAYETTE RD	NORTH HAMPTON
58 PLAISTOW ROAD	PLAISTOW
100 ARTHUR BRADY DRIVE	PORTSMOUTH
280 N MAIN STREET	ROCHESTER
289 SOUTH BROADWAY	SALEM
240 LAFAYETTE RD	SEABROOK
12 COMMERCIAL DRIVE	SOMERSWORTH
160 LACONIA RD	TILTON
296 PLAINFIELD RD	WEST LEBANON

Forests and Lands – Chief Sherman (no report)

Building Code Review Board – (Chiefs Powers/Ober)

- There has been no activity to report on.

Board of Fire Control – Chief Andrus (report in writing) and Chief Clark

The Board of Fire Control met on June 19, 2019 at the Marine Patrol Headquarters in Gilford. Most of the meeting was devoted to a discussion on the adoption of codes and specifically being prepared for upcoming code adoption by having the Board actively participate in a review of proposed codes in order to formulate an informed recommendation on code adoption. Fire Marshal Parisi has sent out

information which has been forwarded to the Board on the changes from the 2015 to the 2018 editions of the codes.

The Joint Committee on Code Enforcement has not met since my last report to the Association.

Emergency Services and Communications – Director Doyle

- Division members attended and staffed an informational booth at the Emergency Preparedness conference – promoted our ENS and Sup Ali systems to local communities;
- 6/7: Attending the CPM Graduation for several of our Division’s employees;
- 6/9-6/15: Preparations for “Bike Week”, including deploying Communications Trailer / Command Post to assist Law Enforcement & First Responders during the event;
- 6/13-6/19: Director Doyle attended the NASNA (National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators) and NENA (National Emergency Number Association) conferences;
- 6/20: We held our quarterly LMR (Land Mobil Radio) advisory group meeting with reps from DOC, NHSP, DNCR, NHDOT to collaborate further on common approaches to maintenance, coverage, efficiencies;
- 6/21: E9-1-1 Commission meeting held at the Fire Academy was well-attended. Updates of our operations; projects and budget were provided;
- 6/25: The Division / SWIC hosted the AT&T quarterly update meeting on FirstNet progress across New Hampshire;
- 6/27: Director met with DNCR and NHPBS to discuss equipment needs for the BTOP Microwave network;
- 6/27: Review of Department of Safety Emergency Alert System/IPAWS protocols in the wake of the Bedford PD alert. Discussion with AC Bailey, Dir. Harper (HSEM); Dir. Doyle (DESC); AD DeNutte (DESC); Capt. Jeff Ladiou (NHSP); IT Mgr. Tim Scott (DESC); and , Lt. Mary Bonilla (NHSP); EAS / SECC Meeting scheduled for
- 6/28: DESC/HSEM Team met to discuss the Anonymous Tip Line project (Recommendation from the Governor’s Task Force on School Safety);
- 6/29: Members of the Division: Jeannie Cadarette; Darren Lescarbeau; and John Wynne participated in the Wolfeboro Public Safety Day with our Incident Management Vehicle;
- Division members participated in the NASCAR Pre-Race planning & coordination session at HSEM;
- Division members staffed the EOC Communications ESF #2 and deployed the IMV with support personnel for the M/C Memorial ride for the “Randolph 7”

Manufactured Housing Standards Board – (Chief Powers) – (no report)

E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – (no report)

State MCI Coordination Plan Committee – (Dep. Chief Tice) – in writing.

The draft plan is 99% complete. It has been sent out to the committee with ten to fifteen questions that the project manager needs answered by various stakeholders before it is 100% complete. I expect it will be approved by the agencies that commissioned the plan after it is complete.

The plan is meant to provide a means for local responders to access state and federal level resources and notify the SEOC to monitor the situation. I believe it will be an asset to local responders in the event of a large scale MCI.

From different conversations throughout this process I would expect training will be provided once the plan is approved. This training should include the Mobilization Plan as the MCI plan will be initiated through the Mobilization Plan.

The committee does not have any meeting scheduled at this point. I expect the plan to be completed in the very near future.

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

Chief Christopoulos informed the members of the fiscal issues at the IAFC. They are showing a \$1.9M loss, although the organization is solvent.

New England Association of Fire Chiefs – Chief Jones' reported that the final numbers are not in but it seemed successful. They are happy to be going to Worcester in 2020 and they hope to increase attendance. 19 NH attendees for the installation of Chief Carrier as President. He mentioned the merger activities.

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

SAMSHA Committee – (Chief Rhodes) – no report

Old Business – Chief Buxton brought forth the board approved 2020 budget (posted on the website). A MOTION (Sitar/Kerrigan) to approve carried unanimously.

New Business –

Good and Welfare – Don Chambers mentioned the 1-800 Board Up fund raising golf tournament for the National Fallen Firefighters' Assn. July 22.

The next meeting will be held at the Town and Country Resort in Shelburne (Berlin) on Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 1700 hours. NOTE DATE CHANGE DUE TO FRI.

Following the raffle, (proceeds of \$195 counted by Chiefs Christopoulos and Sitar) a MOTION (Klose/Christopoulos) to adjourn, carried at 1940 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

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

July 11, 2019