



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

*Working Together to Make a Difference*

547 Charles Bancroft Hwy.

Litchfield, NH 03052

[www.nhafc.org](http://www.nhafc.org)

Email: [nhfirechiefs@gmail.com](mailto:nhfirechiefs@gmail.com)

## Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, August 13, 2020 (Online)

Called to order at 1600 hours by Chief Jones.

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

Chief Ken Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Members were introduced by the Executive Director.

NOTE: ALL VOTES AT THIS MEETING WERE TAKEN BY ROLL CALL.

**Special Guests:** n/a

**Minutes** of the July 9 meeting have been posted. A MOTION (Buxton/Sitar) to accept carried unanimously (by roll call vote).

**Financial Reports:**

**Communications:** n/a

**Applications for membership:** Chief Daryl Gearhart of Easton and Capt. Scott Merrill of Manchester.

**Life Membership:** n/a

**President's Report: (Jones) –**

- BOD members met w/ Lobbyist on 7/15. Extension of contract for 2021
- Request support from all Chiefs w/ Federal Legislation – Heroes Act, 500 mil for AFG & Safer. Unaware if this was in President Trump's Executive Order
- Submitted Chief James Beaudoin to G & C for Trauma Medical Review Board
- Five Family Mtg. 7/21 1<sup>st</sup> Vice & myself attended issues discussed;
  - Fire Marshall's Office Budget Reduction;
    - 25% Budget Reduction

- Staff Reduction
  - Limited Code Assistance
- HB 1234 Omnibus Bill which was vetoed by Gov. Sununu, Ratification of Building & State Fire Code (Chief Toomey). Chief Toomey stated that they have been working with the Building Officials to deal with the issue.
- Fire Academy – Director Pendergast
  - Budget reduce a million
  - 30 to 40 % Reduction in Services
  - FF I & II will not be effective, currently under way
  - Recruit School reduce to 16
  - 5 positions opened
  - State Reporting axed
  - Propane Torch on Memorial not burning
  - Air Craft Nozzle currently out of service
  - Physicals (2) Vendors being looked at hoping for Sept/Oct time frame, 195 from retirement system. Funding Deadline 6/31/21
- State Firefighters Asso – Glenn Davis & Tom Green
  - Dues increase of \$8/Member
  - 2020 Memorial Service possible virtual, last weekend in Sept.
  - Recruitment & Retention
  - FF Stipend
  - PFAs update Report @ Academy
    - ❖ Turnout Gear – Held up Currently
- PFFNH – Bill McQuillen
  - Contracted new Lobbyist
  - Peer Support Team .27 cents increase to Dues
  - Employee Retirement Rates increasing 15 to 20% July 21
- A National Coalition of Special Districts request support w/Federal Legislation under the Heroes Act, never received the support letter
- Granite State College asking offering assistance w/Chiefs Credentialing (Chris Johnson, 966-7905)
- Request for a seat at the Table for a 6-year term, NH Drug Overdose Fatality Review Commission – need to advertise if no BOD is interested
- NH Municipal Asso. Conf. – Virtual, do we want to present. Communicated w/Marshall Parisi, possible Contemporary Fire Service Issues. Ideas..... Need to respond today. ED Lemire to contact NHMA for additional details.
- 8/18 Scheduled to mtg. w/Governor Sununu
- Appointed Chief Bud Chapman as Special Liaison to the North Country to the

**Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –**

- We are continuing with virtual meetings as you can see, to ensure the health and safety of our members and to demonstrate compliance with recommendations.
- We are still planning some type of Candidate's Forum for October 8. We are planning for various alternatives at this point
- The Red Jacket has been reserved for our 2020 Professional Enhancement Weekend on Nov. 6-8. At this point, we are feeling that it would be prudent to cancel for this year and will do so.
- The final paperwork for our IRS non-profit status was filed in June. Hopefully it works this time.
- Reminding everyone that dues notices are sent via the email you signed up with on our website. Please remit dues in a timely manner.
- The board filled the vacancy on the Trauma Medical Review Board by recommending Chief James Beaudoin of Alton. Commissioner Quinn has accepted that an appointed him as of Tuesday.
- Proposed by-law changes are intended to update our Active member eligibility; provide for virtual meetings and add a section to comply with IRS regulations regarding non-profits and account for the merger of the NE Chiefs Associations. They will be read later in the meeting and are due for a vote if members so wish.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report (Sitar) –**

- Still accepting applications for credentialing. As soon as they can meet, they will process the applications. He has contacted Ty Gagne and Margaret Byrnes to assist in reviewing the applications

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report (Beattie) –**

- Veto Day:
  - House: Wednesday September 16 at 1000
  - Senate: TBD
- Monitoring HB 1234 which was vetoed by Governor Sununu
  - Omnibus bill with 41 unrelated items
  - Included amendments to the State Building and fire Codes and regulations on recovery housing
  - Marshal Parisi and President connected with the Governor's staff, concern does not seem to be with the portions of bill we are interested in
- On July 15<sup>th</sup> we had a meeting with our lobbyists (Adam and Jodi), to discuss moving through the end of this year's legislative session and preparing for next year
  - Highlights from this meeting
    - They will be active with us in meeting new candidates, and making sure we have a strong presence with those running for office, and ones already in
    - Suggested we continue to grow relationship with NHMA, as we have been doing

- We will be continuing with the legislative breakfast in 2021, and Jodi and Adam will take a participatory role in us preparing for it
- They will be setting up contacts for us to participate in events hosted by the House and Senate, Republican and Democrat (4 events) as “meet and greets”

**Sgt. At Arms (Emanuel)** – n/r

### ***Committee Reports***

**Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey)** – Two applications have been received and the committee awarded both a scholarship. The successful candidates are Mariah Chamberlain and Ethan Carrier. They will be notified shortly.

### ***Division Reports***

**State Fire Marshal** – Deputy Fire Marshal Shultz reported on the following:

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

The State of NH is preparing for the possibility of a significant revenue shortfall for the 2021 fiscal year. These plans will impact all facets of state government, the State Fire Marshal’s Office being no exception. In order to facilitate what is going to be a 25% reduction in force for us, we have reorganized our bureaus to focus our resources on what we are required to do by statute. Unless the situation changes, we will not be filling the following full time positions: Fire Investigator, Hazardous Materials Coordinator, and Building Safety and Construction Supervisor. Also, we will not be filling the following part time positions: Public Educational Specialist, Hazardous Materials Specialist, and three (3) inspectors in Building Safety. In other words, four of the eight positions that have been defunded are from the Bureau of Building Safety and Construction. The significance of the shift in resources will be felt by the Bureau of Planning and Support Services which is taking over responsibility of the Mechanical Safety and Licensing Unit. In addition, the Aerial Tramway unit has been reassigned to the Assistant Director. A reduction in our ability to offer services and our resources to municipalities will be impacted, but we will do our best. Fire and death investigation requests will be responded to immediately, within our existing protocols. Areas that we will have a reduced capacity in will be public education, hazardous materials, routine state building inspection program, and fireworks. We will do our best to answer municipal inquiries as they come in, but please understand that they may be delayed. We appreciate your patience and understanding. If you have any questions or are running into a problem, please do not hesitate to contact FM Parisi directly at (603) 931-9538.

The FMO continues with its COVID-19 Reconstitution Plan. The plan provides an ongoing, carefully planned, return to normal operations with employee and customer safety considerations addressed. Deputy Rodenhiser remained assigned to the state emergency operations center to oversee the health and safety branch for the

Department of Safety for the month of July. Starting in August, he returns to his position in the Bureau of Investigations and District Chief Stacey Dubois will be able to return to her field supervisor assignment. Deputy Danielle Cole has been continuing to oversee SEOC ESF-4 desk operations. This emergency support function is dedicated to supporting first responders in providing the most up to date unprotected exposure information, member testing location information, transportation of specimens, alternative lodging requests and inquiries of specimens at the Public Health Lab.

Since the beginning of the state of emergency, the ESF-4 (Firefighting) desk has:

- Answered 716 calls for assistance
- Assisted 255 front line workers with alternative lodging accommodations
  
- Provided 773 front line workers with exposure/quarantine/testing guidance
- Documented 1490 activities performed in WebEOC. These activities include, fulfilling requests for PPE from first responders, answering questions related to exposures, quarantine, housing, code related questions and more
- Produced and distributed (16) first responder informational documents

On July 20, an updated protocol was rolled out regarding Covid specimen testing due to high wait times through the private laboratories contracted by Convenient MD and ClearChoice. The NH Public Health Lab (PHL) agreed to once again provide testing for first responder specimens collected from private health care facilities. Two important changes to this protocol include using the correct PHL requisition form (with Dr. Joey Scollon from the NH Department of Safety listed as the primary physician) and providing our own transportation from the facility to the PHL (they no longer have a courier service). Guidance for this protocol, including step-by-step instructions and a map (with pictures) can be found in WebEOC.

**Don't forget: the ESF-4 desk phone number is (603) 223-3718 and is answered 24/7/365 by a Deputy State Fire Marshal during the State of Emergency. Please call with ANY questions.**

### **2020 Legislation:**

**HB 1234** was vetoed by Governor Sununu on July 28<sup>th</sup>. HB 1234 was one of the omnibus bills that included the following:

- Ratifies certain amendments to the state building code and state fire code. (HB 1714)
- Allows alcohol and drug free recovery houses to be granted an exemption by the state fire marshal for requirements of the state fire code and local amendments.

(HB 311)

**HB 1245** was signed by Governor Sununu on July 29<sup>th</sup>. HB 1245 was one of the omnibus bills that included the following:

- Permits a municipality that has a local enforcement mechanism for the state building code to request that the state fire marshal issue the building permit, conduct the inspection, and issue the certificate of occupancy, for a project that requires the specialized knowledge of the fire marshal or due to staffing limitations of the municipality. (SB 632)
- Provides that, under the state board of fire control and for purposes of enforcement of the state fire code, a health care facility means a facility licensed under RSA 151 (SB 740)
- This bill replaces references to "alcohol and drug free housing" with "recovery housing." The bill also requires the department of health and human services to adopt rules relative to the voluntary certification of recovery housing. This bill also establishes a committee to study state and municipal authority governing recovery housing. (SB 633)
- This bill amends the membership and duties of the child fatality review committee and removes the exemption of the child fatality review committee from RSA 91-A:3, relative to nonpublic sessions of public bodies. (SB 430)

**Personnel:**

**Open positions:**

Public Education Specialist Sheryl Nielsen has tendered her resignation after 8 years at the FMO to pursue a full time position with DHHS. We appreciate all of her work in providing fire safety education in NH, especially with youth fire setters and developing age appropriate fire safety curriculum.

As earlier indicated, all open positions have been defunded and will not be filled in the foreseeable future until/unless the budget crisis is averted.

**BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:**

*New/Active cases:* 19 Calls for Service in the month of July; our 6 investigators and 2 district chiefs are actively working 25 Criminal Cases.

- On 7/21/20, an investigator assisted the Pembroke Police Department with processing a vehicle that had been involved in a fire. We aided in sifting through fire debris in an attempt to locate evidence, not related to the crime of arson.
- During the month of July, investigators assisted the Lebanon Fire Department with fire and life safety inspections, and code enforcement, of several properties controlled by the same person.

**Court Action:** All court proceedings have been interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of our cases had hearings scheduled for this month; however, all of these hearings have been rescheduled. The BOI has begun meeting with prosecutors in preparation for when Grand Juries start to sit again.

**Accelerant Detection Canine Teams:** Our two Accelerant Detection Canine (ADC) Teams were deployed twice in the month of July. One demonstration was performed to the Stratford Fire Department while we assisted them at their fire scene. The three NH ADC teams conducted a group training at a location in Franklin, focusing on building and evidence sniffs.

**Training:** BOI members attended a virtual training on fire investigation safety sponsored by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). This is part of a live monthly training series that started in May and runs through November and touches upon various aspects of fire investigations to include: NFPA 921 updates, fire patterns, safety, cause determination/classification, physical evidence/K9 handler teams and basic methodology/basic fire science. If anybody is interested in attending these trainings the information can be found at [www.firearson.com](http://www.firearson.com). There is a nominal fee associated with each class and they can be taken as tested or untested. The modules that have already been delivered can be taken, just not in a live setting. Investigators also attended the following training: Video Surveillance Techniques, in-service/refresher training on Fire House software and Fire Scene Health and Safety Considerations in the Post-Fire Environment (NASP/IAAI).

## **BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY AND CONSTRUCTION:**

**State Building Permit System:** We processed 39 permit applications in the month of July.

**Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:** Our staff remains available for technical code assistance. We initiated 3 educational plan reviews and 6 healthcare plan reviews in the month of July.

**Variance Requests:** We processed 2 variance requests in the month of July.

**Rules Update:** The Saf-C 6000 rules have been approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR). The updated rules will be posted on our website shortly.

**Code Amendments:** The Board of Fire Control held a public hearing on the following code amendment petitions at their July meeting:

1. Add NFPA 855, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems to the referenced codes in NFPA 1- **TABLED**

2. Amend CSST requirements in NFPA 54- **DENIED**
3. Move and update oil burner inspection requirements from Saf-C 6000 to Saf-FMO 300- **APPROVED**

**BUREAU OF PLANNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:**

**Hazardous Materials:** Hazardous Materials coordination and coverage remains a priority despite the state of emergency and personnel are ready to deploy if needed and may be contacted through the on-call FMO supervisor for consultation purposes.

**North Country Hazardous Materials Coverage:** Our part time Hazardous Materials Coordinator will be available in a response capacity to advise the North Country area chiefs should there be an incident. In the event that an asset response is required in that area the FMO on-duty supervisor will contact an established team to respond. The FMO will cover the cost of the response. There is currently an MOU that is being prepared that addresses this.

**Public Education:** At this time and for the foreseeable future, we have suspended public education efforts and diverted those resources to other essential functions in the division.

**Fireworks:** Fireworks shows continue to be down substantially from last year in response to the restrictions on public gatherings. Some shows are beginning to be scheduled again and we have seen an increase in this as we get further into the summer season. Firework stores have been opened for a short time now and they have been seasonably busy as many customers are looking to enjoy fireworks during this time of year even if the usual events don't occur. The state also continues to see drought-like conditions recently and we remain concerned about the dangers in using fireworks in these dry times. Unsafe fireworks usage can result in injury, death, property damage and wildland fires. Be sure to check out our website where we have provided information and safety tips about fireworks usage.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to me at (603) 931-9538. Be careful out there.

**Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Pendergast)**

**Logistics-**

- We are still waiting for grant award information from our 2019 AFG (ladder truck funding) and 2020 PPE AFG. Award decisions are now being made through FEMA and will be fully awarded by mid-September.
- Engine 1 is currently OOS. It is being sent for diagnostic testing of the electrical components.
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• **Programs-**



- Our programs that were postponed are now underway. We have received our first order of PPE from the business office to get us started on our summer programs.
- Currently, we have 3 FF I in progress:
  - LRCC program
  - Southwest/Keene program
  - Concord evening program
- As well as 2 FF II:
  - Epping FF II – recently completed written and practical testing
  - LRCC FF II- in the final weeks of class, testing shortly
- Finally, we have filled the Fall recruit program class with 16 students and a wait list of 21.
  - They had their orientation day last week.
  - We have now completed several ARFF recertification classes, and have more scheduled for September.
  - The next summer CPAT testing dates begin August 31. That application period is now open.
  - We have 2 Instructor I programs scheduled, one beginning Aug. 31 and one on October 12 (registration is open for this class)
  - We are also now working with departments and have re-established our promotional testing program. Reach out to Matt LaMothe if you need further information.

### **Communications-**

- We continue to take part in weekly Directors conference calls with the Commissioner's office, as well as Wednesday noon conference calls with HSEM and local EMDs.
- The 2020 annual Roster project (602.01) letters have gone out. There is a new process where the form can be easily accessed online by each department. Nearly half of the departments have responded so far. The deadline is December 31, 2020.

### **Challenges-**

- We are currently still the host site for the Press Conferences for Governor Sununu.
- A few of our full time staff continue to telework from home or are out on Covid leave with small children. The Dept. of Safety HR is encouraging employees to telework when appropriate; about 50% of our full time staff will work at home on a part time basis.
- We are having lengthy budget discussions with our business office as well as the Commissioner's Office. We have submitted a greatly reduced (20% less) budget per the Commissioner and we are awaiting further direction from the Governor's office. We also have edited and submitted our 22/23 budget to the business office.

- In the last 30 days, NH has experienced three firefighter suicide deaths. She feels the great need to have conversations on this.

### **EMS Bureau Report – Justin Romanello**

- HB1234 - “Omni-Bill” which incorporates the wording from SB540 (the repeal of REPLICA) - VETOED

### **COVID-19 Summary**

- **Emergency Protocols**
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) v.1 - **Released 7 July 2020**
  - COVID-19 v.1 – **Released 17 March 2020**
  - COVID-19 v.2 – **Released 17 April 2020**
  - COVID-19 v.3 – **Released 7 July 2020**
  - COVID-19 Testing v.1 – **Released 26 March 2020**
  - COVID-19 Testing v.2 – **Released 7 July 2020**
  - COVID-19 Destination Determination v.1 – **Released 26 March 2020**
  - COVID-19 Destination Determination v.2 – **Released 7 July 2020**
  - COVID-19 Temporary MIH – **Released 17 April 2020**
- **Emergency Rules**
  1. # of Providers Required for Patient Transport – **Released 19 March 2020 (Expires 19 September 2020)**
  2. Expiration Extension of Currently Licensed EMS Providers – **Released 19 March 2020 (Expires 19 September 2020)**
- **Emergency Waivers**
  - Provisional Certification and Partial Background Checks - **Released 7 April 2020 (Expires 1 October 2020)**
- **Executive Orders**
  - Alternate Vehicle Use and Waiver of Required Equipment – **Drafted NOT Issued**

### **EMS Operations**

- **Provider Renewals - 30 July 2020 Expiration**
  - **509 providers to failed to relicense and were deactivated on 31 July 2020**
- **Practical Exam Program – Up and running as of 13 July 2020**
- **Ambulance Inspections Program – Up and running as of 13 July 2020**
- **EMS Training and I/C Program – Exploring options for future support**
- **Open Positions -**

- Licensing Coordinator – **Full-Time – Offer Extended/Accepted – ON HOLD**
- Ambulance Inspector – **Part-Time – Position Posted – ON HOLD**
- NREMT Remote Testing Coordinator – **Part-Time – Position Posted – ON HOLD**

### **Clinical Systems**

- Protocols 8.0 - **Estimated to be released within the next few weeks.**
- Trauma Program – **Site Visits – Extension for all programs 1-year**
- MIH Program – **Continued support of COVID and Non-COVID MIH Programs**
  - New Programs – Merrimack, Bedford, Milford and Transformative (Stewarts)
- Open Positions -
  - PIFT/Critical Care Program Coordinator – **Part-Time – ON HOLD**
  - MIH Program Coordinator – **Part-Time – ON HOLD**

### **Data Systems**

- Respond NH – User Management System
  - Moving along, on schedule.
    - Services - Entered
    - Vehicles – Entered
    - Personnel – In-Process
- Open Positions -
  - Records Management Coordinator – **Full-Time – ON HOLD**

### **EMS Training**

- Continuing Education – **Exploring options to increase virtual offerings beginning in Fall.**
- EMR Programs – **Up and running as of 5 August 2020**
- EMR Programs – **Exploring options for future programs.**
- Simulation Program – **Up and running in limited capacity as of 1 August 2020**
- Open Positions
  - Staff Instructor – Ongoing Hiring – **ON HOLD**

### **Special Projects**

- Educational Training Agencies – **Planning on virtual meeting August.**

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

**Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Harper) –**

- Assistant Director position was reposted and closes on 8/31.
- COVID-19 Update: Today marks 5 months that the State EOC has been activated. The State EOC continues to be at full activation level to monitor and respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic, to protect the public health, safety, and economic viability of New Hampshire.
- Few things the SEOC is working on and/or continues to work on includes:
  - COVID Presidential Disaster Declaration received April 3<sup>rd</sup>. We just made the first 2 payments to towns yesterday for COVID related expenses. We appreciate your patience with the FEMA process, it is different than regular disasters you've been involved in previously. We are doing our best to streamline it and get the paperwork submitted in a timely manner so you can get funds back into your community.
  - Continue to procure PPE for the State for surge this fall/winter. We want to be prepared for a potential surge that may come into play when school opening and flu season mix with COVID.
  - DHHS has made improvements to the COVID-19 Summary Dashboard - <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/dashboard/summary.htm> its a one stop shop with a lot of data.
    - Link to testing sites statewide also includes a map and details on how to get tested: [https://business.nh.gov/DOS\\_COVID19Testing/](https://business.nh.gov/DOS_COVID19Testing/)
      - I defer to FM Parisi to provide update on first responder testing.
  - Coordination with the Secretary of State's Office for delivery of PPE and other materials for the September and November elections; will be completed by 8/28.
  - Opened State vendor contracts for PPE for schools to purchase needed items for the school year; collaboration with the Dept of Education and Administrative Services.
    - The SEOC will continue to provide PPE to communities for 1<sup>st</sup> responders and healthcare entities.
- As always let me know if you need anything, my cell is 419-9179.

**EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Beaudoin) – no report**

**Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – (report submitted in writing)**

- We were able to fill one part-time Patrol position to operate out of our Lancaster Facility. John Accardi was hired to fill this position.
- Due to the current budget situation we have not been granted permission to fill our vacant forest ranger positions or the vacant part-time FEPP/FFP coordinator position. We are unsure if the budget reductions will result in a permanent loss of these positions. If that is the case it would be a **30% reduction of the Forest Ranger staff and combined with all of the vacant positions, a 21% reduction of the entire bureau staff**; which will require us to reduce services in an attempt to meet our statutory obligations. We will know more when the final budget numbers come in.
- We have sent limited resources on out of state assignments this fire season. Due to COVID-19 we are required to send only self-sufficient resources. This has reduced our ability to assist nationally since our fire crews are not self-sufficient. We have worked with the USFS to stage COVID-19 PPE at our Bear Brook warehouse for use by resources throughout the northeast who are deployed nationally.
- Over the past few months we have had some issues come up concerning fire permitting. Even with class 1 (Low) fire danger levels we are finding some communities that are refusing to issue fire permits. I wanted to remind Fire Wardens, Deputy Wardens and Issuing Agents that they are required to issue a fire permit if conditions are suitable. Denying a backyard campfire for unfavorable weather conditions on a class 1 day is usually not in line with the spirit of the laws and rules and requires a very unique set of circumstances. The purpose of the state fire permitting is to educate the public and allow for safe burning, not to provide blanket denial of burning. Without a town ordinance stating otherwise, communities need to follow the permitting rules.

#### **Building Code Review Board – (Chief Tetreault/Marshal Lennon)**

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#### **Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (Chief)**

- No report

#### **Board of Fire Control – (Chief Skantze/Chief Clark)**

The Board held a meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> and in addition to having a regular meeting held a Public Hearing on three amendments to the NH Fire Code and voted on the three after the Public Hearing. The proposed amendments were:

1. Adopting NFPA 855, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Systems to the NH Fire Code by reference. This came about as the Town of Littleton had a large electricity storage facility that utilize Ion Batteries and bought electricity off-peak, stored it and sold it back at peak times. The proposed facility was

subsequently withdrawn, but the Littleton Fire Chief had little information to be certain the installation was safe resulting in the proposed amendment. The Board was in favor of adopting, but there was some question of how to legally accomplish the intent. Accordingly, the Commission tabled the amendment to give time to make certain that the NFPA 855 Standard becomes part of the NH Fire Code.

2. Adopting an amendment to the State Fire Code as it related to NFPA 54 and CSST gas tubing and grounding requirements. The Amendment would essentially update the State Fire Code to portions of the most recent version of NFPA 54. The Board denied this request as they believed that it was an effort to circumvent the normal review and updating of NFPA standards into the State Fire Code.
3. The Marshal's office proposed changing the regulations related to Oil Burner inspections for new installations and moved them from Saf-C 6000 to Saf-FMO 300. This was approved, but there was some question why there is a Fire Department issued Oil Burner Permit, but no Gas Fired Heating Permit and if this would be best a function of the Building Official since gas fired appliances are the responsibility of the Building Official.

Under regular business the Board discussed reviewing NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 version 2018 in order to update the NH Fire Code to reference those standards. It was noted that NFPA-1 had 390 pages of changes between the 2015 version and the 2018 version and NFPA 101 had 327 pages of changes between the two versions.

It was agreed that the Marshal's Office would review the changes and identify the "material" changes and that a 3 member committee of the Board would review the substantive changes and report to the full Board for a vote to adopt the 2018 versions into the State Fire Code. This review may be hampered due to the Pandemic the Marshal's office has been asked to reduce their budget in anticipation of substantial shortfalls in the State's revenue. This could mean a significant reduction in staff and in particular from the Bureau of Building Safety and Construction. It is possible that the Board may have to perform much of the review itself as it does not want to delay the adopting of the 2018 versions of NFPA 1 and 101 in 2021.

### **Division of Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle) –**

- Assistant Director Pete DeNutte retired, effective July 30 2020 – held a small gathering with his family and co-workers, space permitting, at the IPOC on his last day;
- Telecommunicator positions have been approved by the Governor's office for hiring-recruitment is underway;
- Starting to see some of the highest call volume, ever, coming into the PSAP since the beginning of Summer;
- Scheduling is becoming a challenge with quarantined individuals coming back to work from travel in compliance with the recent CDC guidelines; Spun up a "third" PSAP / for Quarantined employees coming back from travel;

- Card #36 is still being monitored and those numbers that are being reported daily are fairly steady – approx. 20 +/- per 24-hour period;
- NASCAR Preparations and deployment to handle communications needs for NHSP, Loudon and various other First Responder agencies;
- Staffing at ESF #2 Desk continues while SEOC is activated;

**E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – n/r**

**New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Chief Jones)**

- Not sure if the NE Conference will be held in Mystic, CT. He will let us know what the status of it will be.

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

**Old Business** – A MOTION (Thomas/Whitehouse) to approve the changes to the by-laws, carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

Chief Clark stated that the August meeting of the Fire Standards and Training Commission was cancelled and re-scheduled. The reports of the curriculum changes on FF I and FF II and visiting committee will be voted on.

**New Business –**

**Good and Welfare** – Marshal Parisi shared that Deputy Marshal Max Shultz had suffered a heart attack and is recuperating at home.

Chief Emanuel reminded everyone that FRI will be held virtually beginning this month.

Congratulations were extended to Asst. Chief George Walker of Nashua on his impending retirement.

A MOTION to adjourn, carried at 1713 hours.

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

August 13, 2020