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

*Working Together to Make a Difference*

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Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors – January 3, 2024

Go To Meeting Platform

Called to order by Chief Emanuel at 0838 hours

**Members present:** Chiefs Emanuel, Watkins, Hunter, Chamberlain, Thomas, Murray, S. Buxton, Carrier, McShane, Jones, Sitar and ED Lemire. Also present was Adam Schmidt, our Government Relations representative.

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

**Financial Reports:** Distributed via email. A MOTION (Thomas/Buxton) to approve the December reports, carried unanimously. Chief Carrier suggested that we begin process of assessing a dues increase to be presented to the membership this year.

**Correspondence:** **n/a**

**Life Membership: n/a**

**Government Relations – (Schmidt)**

Legislature starts meeting today. It will be chaotic for the next few weeks as they deal with last session’s bills as well as current session proposals.

Chief Emanuel reported that he, Adam and Chief Watkins met with the PFFNH government affairs people and had a productive dialogue with them on legislation.

**Report of the President (Emanuel)**

CFSI 2024

* The Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) will host the 34th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner in Washington, DC in April.  ED Lemire is working on finances and determining how many can attend.   <https://www.cfsi.org/34th-annual-national-fire-and-emergency-services-symposium-and-dinner/>

Recruitment & Retention:

* EO/PFF Career Development - education funding group met on December 12th with a plan to open funding applications in  January for the NH Community College System tuition and fee reimbursement program for first responders.

*Program posting:*

* Law enforcement officers and current full-time, career, part-time, on-call or volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians qualify for reimbursements through the program.  The program covers tuition and fees for one course per semester and is subject to eligibility, available funding and successful completion with a grade of C or better.  Participating employees will be certified as eligible by their employers.

[https://www.ccsnh.edu/newly-launched-program-will-offer-tuition-fee-reimbursements-to-new-hampshires-first-responders/](http://nhafc.memberclicks.net/message2/link/856043d3-87e7-4b71-9c51-46f99cd678ea/1)

Lithium Ion Battery/EV State Workgroup:

* The group cancelled the December meeting because there had not been any new information or recommendations presented. There is pending legislation to establish a State level commission to work on this project.

* The Seacoast Chief Fire Officer Mutual Aid District annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 4, 2024 in Kittery.

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

* The January 11 meeting will be virtual.
* The February 8 breakfast meeting will be at the NHFA in Concord with a special seminar on cybersecurity.
* The CFSI event this year is scheduled during an off- week for Congress.
* March meeting – after discussion, it was suggested that we try Alan’s again.
* We have booked space for the April Annual Meeting. The Common Man in Plymouth is able to offer the space needed for the seminar, vendor showcase, meeting and dinner on April 11.
* For May, we will partner again with Primex for our meeting during their annual conference in February.
* Ad book proceeds to date: Total: $1600.00, Vendor: $1120.00, Assn: $480.00.
* Report from the Professional Development Committee. Justin was elected Chair. The initial steps they decided on were to survey the membership on their needs first.  They will get that to me soon for dissemination. They will meet remotely on Thursday's at 12:30, dates to be set still. The starting points that Justin suggested were:
* *Elect a Chair*
* *Define/Develop the schedule the BOD proposed as key dates and times to fill with content first*
* *Brainstorm vision of group/ideas for content & concepts/existing prof. devel. documents or papers in Fire & EMS/other professional occupation programs to compare & contrast with*
* *Define tasks for each member to work on*
* *Set schedule for future meetings*

**1st Vice President’s Report (Watkins) –**

1. 12/19/23 - Chief Emanuel, Chief Hunter and I met w/ Adam along with Director Buxton and Marshal Toomey to discuss upcoming legislation. We determined which bills we would watch, support or oppose.
2. 12/28/23 – Chief Emanuel, Adam Schmidt and myself met w/ Representatives from the Professional Firefighters of NH to discuss certain bills that they were pushing.
   1. HB 1352 – PFAS in uniforms
   2. HB 1451 – Mandatory overtime compensation for retirement
   3. HB 1647 – Calculation of Group II retirement
   4. SB 309 – Vested period
   5. SB 350 – Gap Health Insurance
   6. SB 352 – Early Detection Cancer screening
3. SB 367 – Reestablishing the Commission to study the incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress disorder in First Responders – Commission has not met since October.

**2nd Vice President’s Report (Hunter) – n/r**

**Sgt. At Arms Report (Chamberlain) – n/r**

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

* They attended a board meeting in December. The conference provided proceeds of $47,000. They booked Mohegan Sun for 2024 again.
* President Bradley from RI would like to attend our Annual Meeting.
* Our International Director has hit the ground running and wants to get the NE Division name out there.

**New Business:**

**Old Business**: Chief Tom Blanchette has been appointed to the Manufactured Housing Standard Board representing the NHAFC by the Governor and Council.

Appointment of a Combination Chief to the Board of Directors. Chiefs Ben LaRoche of Bristol; David Bengston of Moultonborough; Chief Tom Blanchette of Loudon and Chief Michael Sitar of Tilton/Northfield have applied.

A MOTION (Buxton/Thomas) to nominate Chief Ben LaRoche to the board to fill the Combination position, carried unanimously.

**Good and Welfare –**

* He asked that the members of the board be available on short notice to testify on bills that may affect the Association as there are almost 1100 bills that have been filed.
* Chief Buxton reminded everyone of the Mental Health seminar Jan. 17-18,

**Upcoming Events –**

Regular Meeting – January 11 – Virtual

Board Meeting – February 7, 2024 – Primex

Regular Meeting – February 8, 2024 – NHFA (breakfast)

Board Meeting – March 6, 2024 – Virtual

Regular Meeting – March 14, 2024 – TBD

Board Meeting – April 3, 2024 – Primex

Annual Meeting/Vendor Showcase/Seminar – April 11, 2024 at the Common Man complex in Plymouth, NH

Motion to adjourn carried at 0942 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent T. Lemire, MPA

Executive Director

January 3, 2024