



## **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 the Virtual Annual Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, April 8, 2021 (Virtual via “Go To Meeting”)

The meeting was called to order at 1606 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 CONSENSUS.

**Special Guests:** Adam Schmidt from our lobbying firm.

**Minutes** of the March 11 meeting have been posted. A MOTION (Fraitzl/Beattie) to accept carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** February and March, 2021 reports have been submitted. Approval deferred to next meeting as they have not been posted yet.

**Communications:** n/a

**Applications for membership:** Paul Gagnon, Fire Chief in Pembroke and Peter Donovan, Asst. Chief in Berlin have been approved as Active members. Kyle Jacobson of Patriot Fleet Group has been approved as an Advocate member.

**Life Membership:** n/a

**President’s Report: (Jones) –**

- Bi-Weekly Covid -19 virtual meetings with Comm. Quinn
- Bi Weekly with Marshall Parisi, current covid-19 numbers, legislation Decision HB 111

- NED-IAFC Mtg tomorrow in Concord, possible annual meeting, and two days of seminars in Worcester MA. FRI Charlotte, NC July 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

- The dues have increased and will be reflected in dues notices.
- Our November weekend is on for the Red Jacket in North Conway, November 12-14.
- Our Vendor Showcase will be held with our September meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> at the Falls Event Center in Manchester.
- We should have information about in-person meetings in the upcoming months.
- I have received the information regarding casino fundraising and will be reviewing it.
- I should be hearing something about our IRS application this week.
- We will be also sponsoring a golf tournament in August I believe.

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

- **State Interoperable Executive Committee (SIEC):** Just a reminder that for those departments that received a radio reprogramming grant that they have until August of 2022 to complete the grant process. Next Meeting of the SIEC in on May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **State Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (SDMAC):** Last Meeting was on February 19<sup>th</sup> where members of the Committee gave guidance to the Governor's Office on the use of the J&J vaccine. No new meeting date has been set.
- **New Hampshire Chief Fire Officer (NHCFO):** I currently have 7 applications for consideration. Applications are still being accepted. The application can be found on the web site under the "Fire Chief Credentialing" tab.

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

#### ***HB 111 – Qualified Immunity***

- Bill was heard by the House Judiciary Committee. They voted 19-2 to pass the bill. It will be on the House floor this week during their session in Bedford.
- NHAFC did not testify at the initial hearing. Once the bill was flagged by members, a letter was prepared to House Judiciary Committee outlining the Association's concerns. The letter was copied to the House Speaker, House Majority Leader, House Minority Leader, and Senate Judiciary Committee.
- NHAFC has focused on the potential impact of the bill on recruiting and retention. We have also shown support to police and NHMA through our actions.
- On Friday, April 2, NHAFC participated in a legislative forum on the bill. Along with NH Association of Chiefs of Police, we explained our concerns to about 25-30 House members who participated via Zoom. Our comments reflected

concerns regarding recruitment and retention as well as financial hardships of lawsuits when members are acting in good faith and under presumed lawful actions.

- The meeting was successful, and although its only a fraction of the full house, it was certainly in our favor (for those in attendance).
- **Next steps:** If the House passes the bill, it will head to the Senate. NHAFC members will need to contact their respective Senators to share the Association's concerns. We will present testimony at the hearing in opposition as well. NHAFC continues to coordinate actions with both NHMA and Police Chiefs.

### ***HB 343 – Ambulance Billing/Balance Billing***

- The bill was heard by the House Commerce Committee. They voted to retain the bill back in February. It will remain in the House Commerce Committee for the rest of the calendar year. The Committee will likely hold work sessions later this year. They will vote in the later fall on whether to pass/amend/kill/study the bill.
- NHAFC testified in opposition to the bill. The Association highlighted that while consumer protections were important, the bill did not consider the revenue side for communities. These concerns were shared with the Prime Sponsor, Rep. Joyce Weston, prior to the hearing.
- Since the bill was retained, a NHAFC subcommittee has been reviewing the issue in greater detail.
- Chief Jones coordinated a Zoom meeting with a Chief Flynn from Suffield CT to learn about their laws on reimbursement for ambulance transports.
  - Representative Weston is very interested in the CT model.
  - CT uses a statewide negotiated rate, adjusted as needed for individual communities
  - Any adjustment for this would need to be addressed by multiple groups including NHAFC and DOS.
- Chief Morrison has developed a good working relationship with Rep. Weston and has provided her with details regarding insurance reimbursement reductions by carriers.
- **Next steps:** The subcommittee would like to schedule a time to connect with Rep. Weston. It is worth discussing with her various proposals to help increase payments to ambulance providers. We want to develop arguments to rebut the bill in its current form and potentially move the needle to help with the revenue side for ambulance services.

### **Meeting with Adam and Jodi for new President, First and Second VP, and Sergeant at Arms.**

- Will schedule early May

**Sgt. At Arms (Emanuel) – No report**

### **Committee Reports**

**Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey)** – Announcement will be made at the May meeting. Deadline will be in July.

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

### **Division Reports**

#### **Fire Marshal – (Marshal Parisi)**

##### **ADMINISTRATION:**

*Good day fellow Chiefs, officers, members, and partners in fire and life safety,*

*After much thought and reflection, I have submitted my intent to retire from the position of State Fire Marshal to Governor Sununu effective close of business May 1, 2021. It has been the opportunity of a lifetime to serve the state and the NH fire service in this capacity. I am proud of the accomplishments we have achieved together, and will cherish the relationships we have built. I thank you for your help and support during my tenure. I have no doubt that this incredible organization will continue to grow and thrive in the years to come. My personal cell is (603) 231-1102; please do not hesitate to reach out in the future. Please take care of yourselves and each other.*

*Respectfully,  
Paul*

##### **Personnel:**

We have filled several positions within the division, including:

Part time Building Code Review Board Administrative Support – Emily Stevenson

Part time Modular Building Program Coordinator – Mike Stanhope

Fulltime Hazardous Materials/Pyrotechnics Coordinator – Matt Tarr (starts 4/23)

The following positions are in the process of being filled:

Fulltime Fire Investigator

Fulltime Supervisor VI – Building Safety and Construction (under consideration for re-class)

##### **2021 Legislation:**

The 2021 legislative session is in full swing. We are following a number of bills, including:

**HB 72** – Ratifying the amendments to the 2015 fire code by the BFC (Passed House amended; at Senate ED&A)

**SB 15** - Ratifying the amendments to the 2015 fire code by the BFC (Passed Senate; at House ED&A (needs to be amended to include BFC recent adoptions))

**HB 208** – Repealing the lightning rod program (Passed both Houses – awaiting enrollment)

**SB 106** – Establishing a committee to study the adoption of the 2018 fire code (Passed Senate, at House ED&A; no issues at PH)

**SB 106** – Repealing the voluntary fire equipment certification program (Passed Senate, at House ED&A; no issues at PH)

**HB 377** – Relative to the FMO issuing variances to recovery residences (Passed House and Senate; on Senate consent calendar today for adoption)

**SB 133** – Relative to the FMO issuing POA permits (Passed Senate, at House ED&A)

**Website:** The State Fire Marshal’s Office has a new website. The URL is [www.nh.gov/firemarshal](http://www.nh.gov/firemarshal). We were able to accelerate our website upgrade from a COVID-19 related microsite to an entirely new website with a tremendous improvement over the old website in regards to the overall modern look of the new site and ease of use on mobile devices. Please take the next opportunity to navigate to our new website where you will find that our information to help you is much easier to locate and access on any device. We are still in the process of changing all of the pages over to the new site, so you will have some links to pages on the old website while we transition.

**BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS:** (Deputy Keith Rodenhiser)

- **New/Active cases:** 24 calls for service in the month of March; our 6 investigators and 2 district chiefs are actively working 17 criminal cases.
  - \* On March 4, 2021, investigators responded to 9 Penacook Circle in Webster to assist the Webster FD and PD with a fire investigation. A fire occurred in a town owned house that was being inhabited by an individual and several of her dogs. The cause remains under investigation at this time.
  - \* On March 6, 2021, an investigator and an IGL K9 responded to 501 Rollercoaster Rd. in Laconia to assist the Laconia FD and PD with a fire investigation. The fire occurred at a vacant house on the porch. The fire remains under investigation and there are criminal indicators.
  - \* On March 9, 2021, investigators and a K9 team responded to 6 Adams Hill Rd. in Greenville to assist the Greenville FD and Greenville-Temple PD with a fire investigation at a single family residence. There was a disturbance between the residents just before the fire occurred. One individual was arrested for arson by the local police department.
  - \* On March 19, 2021, an investigator assisted the NH State Police and the Concord Police at the NH State House during a “Burn Your Face Diaper” demonstration. Approximately 20 people gathered on the State House Plaza

which is City of Concord property and burned face masks in a pail without having permission from the city or acquiring a permit for having outside fires. After educating the demonstrators on the requirements, they eventually extinguished the fire without any further issues. The investigation continues to identify the individuals involved.

\* On March 31, 2021, investigators responded to 602 Turnpike Rd. in New Ipswich to assist the New Ipswich FD and PD with a fire investigation at a single family residence. One person was seriously injured during the fire and was flown to a Boston area hospital for treatment. The fire is still under investigation; however, there are no criminal indicators at this time.

- Fatal Fires: On March 6, 2021, investigators and an IGL K9 team responded to 8 Meadow Brook Rd. in Nashua for a fire in a single family residence. A victim was removed from the house by firefighters and sent to the hospital but ultimately died from his injuries. An autopsy conducted revealed that his cause of death was smoke inhalation and the manner of death was accidental. The fire is still under investigation; however, there are no criminal indicators at this time.

On March 10, 2021, investigators responded to 21 Spruce Ct. in Seabrook for a structure fire. One resident was transported to a Boston area hospital for treatment of serious bodily injuries and remains in the hospital currently. Another resident passed away at the scene. An autopsy conducted revealed that her cause of death was smoke inhalation and the manner of death was accidental. The fire is still under investigation; however, there are no criminal indicators at this time.

On March 18, 2021, an investigator responded to the area of 606 Sixth St. in Dover to assist Dover FD and PD with a single motor vehicle accident involving fire that resulted with two fatalities. Autopsies were conducted and revealed that one of the occupants died from inhalation of toxic products of combustion and the manner of his death was accidental. The other occupant passed away from non-fire related injuries. Speed was a factor in this accident.

- Ignitable Liquid Detection Canine Teams: Our two IGL Canine Teams were deployed four times in the month of March and Manchester FD's canine assisted the FMO with one other investigation of ours. The NHFMO and the Manchester FD conducted a joint-training day with the three dogs in the state where we worked on building sniffs at the NHFA training grounds.
- Public Outreach: Investigators are assisting with youth firesetter assessments in several communities throughout the state. The investigator/YFS coordinator is trying to form a partnership between the FMO and the state's mental health community for future mental health counselling resources for these youths.
- Training/Committees: One of the district chiefs attended the State's Child Fatality Review Committee.

- ESF-4: Due to the hours of the ESF-4 desk being reduced to 8-4 pm, the BOI has transitioned away from staffing this function and it is now primarily staffed by the PASS Bureau. BOI members will still occasionally fill in as needed.
- Candidates for the Open Fire Investigator position will complete their Physical Exam and Written Exam on April 5, 2021.

**BUREAU OF BUILDING SAFETY & CONSTRUCTION:** (Deputy Sean Toomey)

**State Building Permit System:** We processed 25 building permit applications in the month of March.

**Technical Assistance, Educational & Healthcare Reviews:** Our staff remains available for technical code assistance. We initiated 1 educational plan review and 3 healthcare plan reviews in the month of March.

**Variance Requests:** We processed 4 variance requests in the month of March.

**Joint Committee on Code Enforcement:** The Joint Committee on Code Enforcement established a sub-committee to review potential conflicts between the International Residential Code and the State Fire Code. A draft report has been presented to the full Joint Committee on Code Enforcement for review.

**BUREAU OF PLANNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:** (Deputy Danielle Cole)

**ESF-4:**

Deputy Danielle Cole has been continuing to oversee SEOC ESF-4 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 1628 calls for assistance
- Assisted 129 first responders with alternative lodging accommodations
- Tracked 2156 first responders through exposure/quarantine/testing status
- Documented 2,495 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
- Continue to produce and distribute numerous first responder informational documents statewide with the most up to date information

**The ESF-4 desk phone number is 223-3718 and is staffed M-F 0800-1600 hours, except state holidays, the same operational hours as the SEOC. If there is an emergency situation that can't wait until the next business day please call state police headquarters at 271-3636 and request a call back from the on-call FMO supervisor.**

**The hotel lodging program for first responders will be ending on 4/17/2021**

**Hazardous Materials:**

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

If you would like to virtually attend a one-hour training on the newly released suspicious unknown package protocol, please reach out to our Hazardous Materials Coordinator Jim Stone at [James.H.Stone@dos.nh.gov](mailto:James.H.Stone@dos.nh.gov). If you are from a smaller department please try to collaborate with a neighboring community for this training.

Tier II data can be made available at no cost to local fire departments through the web based PEAC-Web software. Contact Hazardous Materials Coordinator Jim Stone at [james.h.stone@dos.nh.gov](mailto:james.h.stone@dos.nh.gov) for more information on the use of PEAC-WEB.

The 2020 Emergency Response Guidebooks are available, please contact us for the coordination of delivery.

**Community Risk Reduction:**

**Fire and Risk Reduction Program Survey:**

The Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy, in partnership with Vision 20/20 and funding from FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety program, is assessing fire and risk reduction programming offered by U.S. Fire Departments with a 15-minute survey. You should have received the survey request, please check your inbox and junk email folder. If you did not receive a survey request, please email Amy Moloczniak ([amolocz1@jhu.edu](mailto:amolocz1@jhu.edu)) with Johns Hopkins to request a survey invitation.

All who complete the survey will be entered into a **raffle for a chance to win one of thirty \$100 Amazon Gift Cards.**





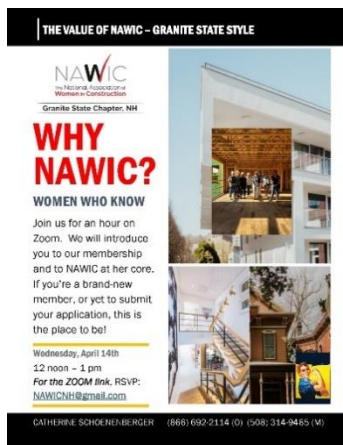
### **NFPA Training Opportunity:**

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) launched a new [Fire Prevention Program Manager Online Training Series](#) today to help the building industry understand and adopt the strategies defined in [NFPA 241, Standard for Safeguarding Construction, Alteration, and Demolition Operations](#), which calls for a fire prevention program and a designated manager to enforce safety onsite. The topic will also be discussed by a panel of industry experts during an [Addressing Fire Safety Challenges During Construction](#) webinar on April 15.

Visit [here](#) to register for the free webinar.

### **Fire Safe Construction:**

Many firefighters across our state are also involved with the trades. The Granite State chapter of National Women in Construction (NAWIC) is hosting an introduction to their organization on **Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please encourage women you know – particularly in the fire service – to sign up and learn more. Their involvement can raise awareness about the importance of fire safe building practices across our state.



### **FATAL FIRE PREVENTION**

As most of you know, New Hampshire has experienced a higher number of fires – and fatal fires – in recent months. We encourage you to watch this 3 minute video from Deputy Chief Billy Goldfeder about improving interest in fire prevention activities within your station and community.

[No One at My Department Gives 2 Cents About Fire Prevention](#) - Fire Rescue 1

### **Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Asst. Director Phillips)**

- Director Pendergast retired on March 31<sup>st</sup>, please contact me in the meantime if you have anything that needs to be addressed. My cell phone is 603-419-9457.
  - She will be back in a part-time capacity working on first responder mental health programs in conjunction with the Commissioner's Office.

- The rehabilitation of the A-Building is complete and is now back in service
- New EMS Rules adopted
  - # of providers required to transport
  - Licensing as “Non-Affiliated”
- FROST program has officially ended as of March 31st
- Held the first kick off meeting for the new Statewide Fire Incident Reporting system. We had approximately 25 people representing numerous departments throughout the State.
  - We will be working on establishing some pilot departments in the coming months with a larger roll out schedule coming this summer
- Reminder that EMS provider license expire on April 30<sup>th</sup>, we have approximately 1,200 providers that have yet to renew their license
- Reminder, when EMS licenses are now issued providers will be receiving them via email once their application is processed in approved.
- CPAT is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>, we currently have 45 candidates schedule for the exam. We also have dates in May, June and September scheduled. Registration for these dates are ongoing.
- Ongoing programs
  - 5 Firefighter I programs
  - 3 Firefighter II programs
  - Recruit School is schedule to start June 7<sup>th</sup>. The application window opens on May 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - Virtual ICS300 program starting May 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Fire Officer II program starting May 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Crisis Intervention Team training schedule for June
- Rollout of the New Firefighter I Train-the-Trainer programs continues

### COVID-19 Summary

- Emergency Protocols – 1 Emergency Protocols Released
  - COVID-19 Vaccinations Version 2 - Released 3 February 2021
    - Version 1 - Released 23 December 2020
  - Personal Protective Equipment Version 2 - Released 23 December 2020
    - Version 1 - Released 27 July 2020
  - COVID-19 Version 4 – Released 23 December 2020

- Version 3 – Released 27 July 2020
  - Version 2 – Released 17 April 2020
  - Version 1 – Released 17 March 2020
- COVID-19 Testing Version 3 – Released 23 December 2020
  - Version 2 – Released 27 July 2020
  - Version 1 – Released 26 March 2020
- COVID-19 Destination Determination Version 2 – Released 27 July 2020
  - Version 1 – Released 26 March 2020
- COVID-19 Temporary MIH Version 1 – Released 17 April 2020
- Emergency Rules
  1. # of Providers Required for Patient Transport – Released 19 March 2020
  2. Expiration Extension of Currently Licensed EMS Providers – Released 19 March 2020 (Expired 19 September 2020)
- Emergency Waivers
  - Provisional Certification – No longer accepting. All expired as of 1 April 2021
  - Partial Background Checks – No longer accepting

### ***Fire Standards and Training Commission – Chief Clark***

Director Pendergast retired as of March 31, 2021 we received no notice from Commissioner Quinn of possible replacements. Nick Mercuri left to head up the Laconia Community College Firefighting Program. Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips serving as interim Director. The Commissioner's nominee must meet with the Commission for concurrence which meeting will be a special meeting which is expected to take place in April but has yet to be scheduled.

We last met on March 4<sup>th</sup> and were advised that the Academy has ordered a new 100 foot aerial and Class A Building has been relined and now in service with Live Fire. The Instructor Course is being revamped and will be more like a college level on-line class. The Visiting Committee is to meet with Curriculum Committee to discuss. Chief Justin Cutting retired from Hampton Fire Department and is no longer on the Commission. He headed up the Instructor Course Visiting Committee and his recent retirement has delayed the meeting.

Since most of the Rescue Courses were removed from FF 2, the Rescue Courses will be offered as stand-alone courses. The Commission removed all prerequisites except PPE and SCBA for Confined Spaces.

The Commission also is working to eliminate the designation of FF 3 as that is not a NFPA designation. It is noted that many Union contracts reference FF 3 and will need to be modified.

The Commission next regular meeting is May 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

**NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coord. Board – (Chief Allard)**  
n/r

**National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) – n/r**

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

- **State EOC continues to be activated for response efforts to COVID-19. Activities include:**
  - Vaccine Distribution and Immunization continues to be the priority.
    - NH is ranked #1 in vaccine administration in the Nation;
    - The AG's Office is seeing an increasing number of complaints against businesses not following guidelines. Ensure that you are using the most recent version of the State's Universal Guidelines which can be found at: <https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov>
    - Londonderry site moved indoors at the Rockingham Mall.
    - Exeter site moved indoors to the Newington Mall.
    - Claremont site moved to Newport at the Shaws Plaza this week.
    - Nashua site will be moving indoors to the Pheasant Lane Mall next week.
  - The State has done 2 vaccine super site clinics to date: March 6-8 & 27-28.
    - This weekend we will be back at NHMS administering 12K J&J 1 dose vaccines Saturday and Sunday. Fixed sites in Salem, Newington and Concord will be open on Sunday and have J&J as well. Total of 17-18K doses this weekend.
    - The vaccine sites are Mon-Sat 12 hours a day; Sundays are staffed with minimal personnel. We thank you for your continued assistance with staffing all the sites.
- COVID Presidential Disaster Declaration DR4516 received April 3, 2020.
  - To-date communities have been reimbursed \$1,958,813.24.
  - FEMA released final COVID 19 Grant Guidance this week that the PA staff are still going through. We will get information out to everyone as soon as possible regarding new eligible activities.
- The State PPE Program ends on April 19<sup>th</sup>. The State will move to a 90-day emergency stockpile as PPE is now readily available in the market place for everyone to purchase themselves.

- **Non-COVID related activities:**

- 2021 EMPG Federal application will be submitted in May
- HSEM Program Changes:
  - Added Public Assistance (PA) Unit in the Planning and Grants Section to focus on all disaster work with applicants, this includes the current COVID disaster as well as the 5 legacy disasters we continue to manage, which means we are managing a total of 6 disasters.
  - Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Program now under the direction of Dave Vaillancourt (vs Fallon Reed). We have hired several staff to assist in managing the Program. Reminder to EPZ towns that your Seabrook Assessments are due at the end of the month.
- HSEM has had a number of staff changes over the last 4-6 weeks due to departures and internal promotions:
  - Grant Nichols sworn in as the HSEM Assistant Director March 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Vanessa Palange – Community Outreach Coordinator
  - Kim Castle – REP Assistant Chief
  - Paul Kelly – REP Trainer
  - Amy Carter – REP Planner
  - Courtney Jordan – Field Rep (Carroll & Coos County)
  - Olivia Barnhart – Assistant Chief Planning & Grants
  - Rob Perocchi - EMPG Coordinator
  - Vanesa Urango – Public Assistance Assistant Chief
  - Jen O’Leary – Public Assistance Coordinator
  - Sara Abell – Public Assistance Program Assistant
  - Austin Brown – School Readiness Program Coordinator
  - Megan Hoskins – Assistant Chief Operations
  - Bill Haynes – Logistics
  - Holly Patterson – Business Section Program Assistant
  - Megan Wells, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, will be leaving HSEM next week; position is posted.
- As always let me know if you need anything, my cell is 419-9179.

**EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Beaudoin) – n/r**

**Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) – n/r**

**Board of Fire Control – (Chief Clark) –**

Marshal Parisi has just announced his resignation to be effective as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. Chief Norm Skantze who was chair of the Board retired effective as of April 1, 2021. The next meeting of the Board will need to deal with the retirements. Chief Skantze represented the Forest Wardens on the Board. Both were a bit of a surprise as they were not discussed at the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

The last meeting of the Board was held on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was short with an update on the pending legislative action. It appears that neither the Building Codes or Fire Codes will be updated to the 2018 version. Apparently, the Building Codes amendments were not prepared in time, but the Fire Code amendments were.

There was a meeting of the joint committee of the State Building Code Review Board and the Board of Fire Control to deal with discrepancies between the Codes. No action was taken and additional meetings will be required.

Brief discussion concerning an amendment to the Fire Code to remove the requirement for a fire suppression system in small Fire Stations under certain circumstances and to make small Fire Stations consistent with the Building Code. More discussion is necessary, but for small rural communities without a municipal water supply the fire suppression requirement adds significantly to the cost of replacing code deficient fire stations.

The next meeting of the Board would normally be in June. But a special meeting may be needed to interview the Commissioner's Candidate to replace Marshal Parisi.

#### **Building Code Review Board – (Marshal Lennon) –**

- Proposed amendment to the 2015 International Codes that would require approval of any wind turbine to be approved by the NHFMO. The proposed amendment was motioned to be tabled to the next board meeting, which is to occur April 9, 2021.
- Public Pre-Hearing Conference-To consider the appeal of Appeal of Donald Chase regarding the denial by the NH State Fire Marshal's Office, in accordance with N.H. Code of Administrative Rules SAF-C 6005, of a request for relief from requirements of NFPA 101 Life Safety Code.

Scheduled to next meeting on 4/9/2021.

- Following proposed house bills about tiny homes and accessory dwelling units.

#### **Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board: (Chief) n/r**

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

- NASNA (national Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators) update meeting & presentation (2/19) relative to the FCC's roll-out of the 9-8-8 suicide helpline.

- Supporting a request and providing employees to assist in call center at 2-1-1 at ECTC and the Fire Academy.
- Continuing to supporting a request for assistance for additional call takers in the call center at 2-1-1 at ECTC and the Fire Academy.
- Preparations underway for the deployment of the NG9-1-1 upgrade of our call delivery network and customer premise equipment this month.
- Mutualink trainings in full swing – 140+ individuals have been trained so far on the Mutualink platform.
- NASNA (National Association of State 9-1-1 Administrators) update meeting & presentation (2/19) relative to the FCC’s rollout of the 9-8-8 suicide helpline.
  - Impact regarding 10-digit dialing for all local calls in New Hampshire – required as of October, 2021.
- 988 Suicide helpline kick-off with 988 Planning Coalition via Zoom. Several meetings since discussing planning, infrastructure building, capacity building and legislation re: funding.
- Monthly meeting with New Hampshire Chiefs of Police 3/16.
- Meeting with DNCR Commissioner and staff on 4/9 regarding radio consolidation efforts, moving forward.
- Meeting with Chief Sitar of Tilton-Northfield Fire, re: discussion related to FCC’s NPRM’s on 4.9 Ghz; 911 Fee Diversion; and also the “LIFT America” act focused on NG911 funding. Chief Sitar is one of the IAFC reps on the committee (4/15).
- Radio Communications Support at NHMS for Vaccination Super Site - The team supported interoperable communications between local public safety, public health entities including NHMS staff, state agencies such as DHHS, HSEM, FMO, DNCR, DOIT, DESC, the Governor’s COVID Task Force, as well as the Department of Safety Commissioner’s Office. Assisting with Communications support at NHMS / Super Vaccination Site for this weekend.



- 50 portable radios to support operations
  - 3 mobile camera trailers/trucks & 3 fixed camera positions for a total of 16 separate camera views for traffic monitoring and situational awareness
  - 1 Verizon 'Cell on Wheels (COW)' to support vaccination staff
  - 8 DESC staff members, 1 dispatcher and remote staff to support the command vehicle, communications, video and wireless needs over the 2 day event
- National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week is April 11-17, several events planned including recognizing our Telecommunicator of the year, Bronwen Smith

**E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas)** – The next meeting of the Commission will be in June.

**IAFC Director – (Chief Christopoulos)** – He reminded all of FRI which will be held in July in Charlotte.

**New England Fire Chiefs – a Division of the IAFC – (Chief Jones)** – They met in Concord today and determined that they will host an Expo this year but will have an annual meeting/two-day seminar, most likely in Portsmouth. The 2022 Expo will be in Worcester.

**Old Business** – Chief Thomas reported that the Drug Overdose Committee met in Concord and heard a speaker from Delaware. They are meeting monthly and receiving guidance from other states in organizing.



**New Business** – Chief Jones asked for a report of the Nominating Committee, which reads as follows:

- President – Chief Michael Sitar (Tilton-Northfield)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Chief Kirk Beattie (Laconia)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Chief Dave Emanuel (Durham)
- Sgt. at Arms – Chief Larry Best (Salem)
- Executive Director/Secretary - Chief Brent Lemire (retired) (Litchfield)
- Treasurer –Chief Chris Christopolous, (Lebanon) 1 year term
- Fulltime Chief Director - Chief Mark Howard (Keene) **expiring 4/2021**
- Combination Chief Director – Chief Sean Toomey (Warner) **expiring 4/2021**

\*\*Chief Bud Chapman appointed by Chief Jones as special envoy to the North Country in 2020

Chief Robert Buxton MOVED (seconded by Paul Parisi) to authorize the Executive Director to cast one ballot for the slate of officers. The motion carried unanimously.

The 2022 Budget has been posted on the website but the group has not had time to review. A MOTION (Howard/Buxton) to table until May carried unanimously.

Chief Jones took a few minutes to thank everyone for their support and for being able to serve as President. He has learned a lot and shared that it was a moving experience for him. He then turned the meeting over to Chief Sitar.

Chief Sitar presented Chief Jones with a token of appreciation from the organization. He also thanked the membership for being elected

### **Good and Welfare –**

The meeting was adjourned at 1731 hours.

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

April 8, 2021