



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors – November 6, 2019

Granite Restaurant, Centennial Hotel, Concord, NH.

Meeting was called to order at 0833 hours by Chief Buxton.

Present: Chiefs Buxton, Jones, Rhodes, Sitar, Thomas, Beattie, Howard, and Toomey, and Executive Director Brent Lemire.

Minutes of previous meeting: MOTION (Sitar/Jones) to approve the minutes of the October 2 meeting, carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: The reports for July through September have been posted on the website and approved at the last meeting.

Correspondence: A thank you note from Kaitlin Beattie for the scholarship.

Life Membership: n/a

President's Report: (Buxton)

- He spoke of the benefits being derived from the hiring of our new lobbyists.
- He had lunch with PFFNH President McQuillen and spoke of the bills relating to the retirement system and benefits in the case of firefighter suicides. They are not supporting the retirement benefit one.
- He spoke of a bill for balanced billing for ambulance services and also the federal requirement that all ground ambulance services be reviewed over the next four years as far as billing, etc. He asked for volunteers to serve on a working committee. Chiefs Howard, Sitar and Beattie will serve.
- Chief Rhodes indicated that AMR has put a grant request in to study transporting to Urgent Care Centers instead of hospital ERs.
- He stated that the FFI visiting committee started work yesterday.
- He spoke of the pass rate for FFI. Since 2014 it's been 65%. Pumps has gone from 87% to 50%, etc. Discussion ensued on the reasons (instructors, candidates, curriculum)?

- He also spoke on a proposed rules change by FST concerning those convicted of arson being subject to punishment. Chief Rhodes spoke of removing the credentials as a possibility.
- He shared that he had attended a meeting on locking devices for schools as there is a concern that school officials receiving grants for devices are having them installed without regard to the local fire codes. They are working through the issue, as well as the toll that active shooter drills are taking on the teachers and students
- He asked the board if they supported the amendment being proposed on the dimensions of rooftop solar arrays. The board affirmed after discussion.
- Discussion also ensued on an amendment relating to sober living facilities that may preclude early fire warning devices. The board affirmed its support for early warning devices and to keep the number to under 16 residents.

Report of the Executive Director:

- The Professional Enhancement Weekend for members, spouses and guests will be at the Red Jacket Mountain View in North Conway on Veteran's Day weekend, November 8-10, 2019. All attendees have been emailed an agenda.
- Crotched Mt. Christmas Party will be Thursday, December 12.
- January will be a breakfast meeting at the NHFA on the 9th with a LifeScan presentation afterward.
- CFSI will be April 29-May 1, 2020. I would like to make hotel reservations at the earliest date.
- He asked if the board supported another corned beef dinner meeting again in March on the 12th and the board affirmed. A February ski event/meeting was also approved for February 13.
- Moving ahead with the Annual Meeting/Vendor Showcase again at the same location. OK?
- He shared that we're progressing with the onboarding with the new website, engaging in several training classes.
- The December board meeting will be in Litchfield on Thursday the 5th at noon.

1st Vice President's Report (Chief Jones) –

- He reported that President Carrier is working diligently on the merger plans with the NE Division, IAFC.

2nd Vice President's Report (Rhodes) –

- He echoed Chief Jones' assessment of the merger talks
- He also shared that the NEDIAFC Conference will be in Mystic, CT on April 6 – 8, 2020.
- He also shared the blankets that were printed for the residents of Crotched Mt. for the December 12 Christmas party.

Sgt.- At- Arms Report – (Sitar) –

- He reported that he had attended the seminar on mental health sponsored by Chief Rhodes at Nashua and felt that the doctor (Nicole Sawyer) who presented was amazing and should be kept in mind for future seminars.

Treasurer – (Christopoulos) – n/a

New Business:

Old Business:

Good and Welfare:

- The NHMA Conference is November 13 and 14 at the Double Tree Hotel in Manchester. NHAFC is presenting a seminar on Wednesday.
- The Primex Risk seminar is November 19
- The next BOD meeting is Thursday, December 5 at noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 1010 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Brent T. Lemire, Executive Director
New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs