



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

*Working Together to Make a Difference*

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### **Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors – September 10, 2025**

#### **Virtual**

The meeting was called to order by Chief Watkins at 0803 hours.

**Members present:** Chiefs Watkins, LaRoche, D. Chamberlain, Fraitzl Carrier, S. Buxton, J. Chamberlain, Sitar, Cotreau, Wheatley, Murray and ED Lemire. Adam Schmidt joined us also.

**Minutes of previous meetings:** A MOTION (D. Chamberlain/Sitar) approve the August minutes carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** A MOTION (Sitar/LaRoche) to approve the August financial reports, carried unanimously.

#### **Correspondence:**

**Life Membership:** n/a

#### **Government Relations: (Schmidt)**

He brought up the proposal to file legislation including Fire/Rescue in staffing of local events. Discussion ensued as to whether to file legislation this year or not. A consensus vote was asked for whether to submit or not.

The Legislature is slowly starting to return to Concord after their summer break. Committees will consider bills that were retained (House) and re-referred (Senate) in the fall. House Committees have to report on their retained bills by November 21. The Senate does not have a formal deadline. The House and Senate will vote on the committee reports during their initial sessions in 2026. There were several other deadlines and updates NHAFC members of which NHAFC members should be aware:

- **Senate Filing Deadline** – Senators have until Friday, September 12 to file bills for the 2026 session. We should see titles before too long. The actual text of bills will not be made public until later this year or early next year.
- **House Filing Deadline** – House members can file bills between Monday September 15 and Friday, September 19. Again, we should see the titles before too long.

- **Veto Day** – The House and Senate still have not finalized when they will return to Concord to consider vetoed issues by Governor Ayotte. In total, the Governor issued 15 vetoes. There is speculation that they may wait until January to take up the vetoes. Nothing has been confirmed yet. Two of the bills which were vetoed were of interest to NHAFC:

**GOVERNOR’S VETO MESSAGE REGARDING HOUSE BILL 475**

Recruiting and retaining first responders is of paramount importance for public safety, and local departments across our state are facing enough difficulty with this already.

This bill will make it even harder to hire police and fire personnel. The New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs and Association of Police Chiefs have written me that ‘this bill, should it be signed into law, will have far reaching effects for public safety... [and] increase the length of time for roads to be plowed, fire department coverage, police response, and staffing.’ It is also an unnecessary overreach by the State into municipal affairs.

**GOVERNOR’S VETO MESSAGE REGARDING SENATE BILL 213**

I am vetoing this legislation as it conflicts with other bills I have recently signed into law regarding absentee ballots. Additionally, I intend to work with the bill sponsors on the issue of electioneering to ensure that public employees can engage in public discourse without misusing their official positions for political purposes.

- **New Location for House Hearings** – For the 2026 session, the House will not be having committee meetings in the Legislative Office Building (aka LOB, the building directly behind the State House). The building is going through a major renovation. House Committee meetings will be held at **1 Granite Place, Concord, NH 03301**. The following directions appeared in the most recent House Calendar “....Legislative Offices at Granite Place are in the South building. From I-93 N or S, take exit 15W. At the lights, take a right to head north on Route 3 / Bouton St. At the next set of lights, stay straight as the road turns into N. State St. At the next set of lights, take a left on to Penacook St. At the stop sign, take a right turn on to Rumford St. Granite Place is the next left turn.” The House will hold their sessions in the State House, but if Chiefs plan to attend any House hearings, it will be important to note the new location.

**Report of the President: (Watkins)**

1. Bill Signing in Epping
2. Quarterly Leadership meeting
  - Cancer screening
  - Retirement issue (Language – “Final compensation”)

3. PTSD Commission 12<sup>th</sup>
4. Single means of egress on the 23rd
5. NFPA
6. NEAFC
7. FF Memorial is on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Chief S. Buxton will represent the NHAFC

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

- Jodi Grimblas has submitted a request to increase their fee to \$20,000 per year for this contract. Discussion ensued and a MOTION (Sitar/Fraitzl) to approve their request and sign the proposed contract, carried unanimously.
- The September 10 Association meeting will be virtual and held at 0900 this morning.
- The October 9 meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the NHFA at 0900 with a seminar prior to the meeting in the auditorium.
- The November 13 meeting will be virtual.
- The December 11 meeting will be a dinner meeting at the Nashua Country Club.
- Chief James Reinert was appointed to the BCRB by Commissioner Quinn.
- I reserved our table at the North Country Public Safety Awards dinner on November 14. It is a budgeted item.
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$23,565.50 ; Vendor: \$16,495.50; Assn: \$7,069.50.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report (LaRoche) –**

- He attended the Professional Development Committee meeting and the takeaway was that they will be seeking funding for speakers, etc.
- They will be surveying members for input on Professional Development tracks in the future.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report – (D. Chamberlain) – No report**

### **Sgt. At Arms Report – (Fraitzl) –**

- He attended the 100 Club dinner last week and urged members to attend next year to give the fire service more representation.

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

- He reported that they are concerned about low registration this year for the conference.
- He is retiring on December 28 and will be running for the NE Chiefs Secretary/Treasurer position in October. He will vacate his Director position next year.

### **New Business –**

### **Old Business –**

- Chief Sitar stated that 3 members will be given their CFO designation at the October meeting.
- Retired Chiefs Don DeAngelis and Stephen Heath both meet criteria for Life Membership. A MOTION (Fraitzl/LaRoche) to award Life Membership to both of them, carried unanimously.
- Chief Buxton reached out to Director Wholey about the contract for cancer screening. While there is a slight delay, the Commissioner wants to get it before the G & C as soon as possible.
- Chief Carrier reported on the golf tournament. The profit was \$8,367. He asked if we still wanted to sponsor it with our additional revenue stream. The consensus was that we take a year off and reevaluate.

### **Good and Welfare –**

Motion to adjourn at 0845 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brent T. Lemire, MPA  
Executive Director

September 10, 2025