



## **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 2, 2026**

Meeting held at the Primex facility in Concord.

The meeting was called to order by Chief LaRoche at 0837 hours.

**Members present:** Chiefs LaRoche, Fraitzl, Wheatley, Carrier, Toomey, J. Chamberlain, and ED Lemire. Adam Schmidt joined us also.

**Minutes of previous meetings:** A MOTION (Toomey/J. Chamberlain) to approve the August meeting minutes carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** The August reports were presented. A MOTION (J. Chamberlain /Fraitzl) to approve carried unanimously. Chief Carrier explained the changes in the report to conform with the voted changes.

**Correspondence:** n/a

**Life Membership:** n/a

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

- He will send a report for next week's membership and summarized the content.

#### **Report of the President: (LaRoche)**

- The week of August 11th, I attended FRI in Kansas City.
- On August 20th, I attended a meeting at AMR in Nashua with Congresswoman Goodlander. The meeting was coordinated by Senator Prentiss and Global Medical Response, in an effort to get the Congresswoman to sign onto the RESCUE Act of 2026. The bill would mandate CMMS to use the cost study data and adjust reimbursement rates accordingly. In addition to that topic, the CARES Act, recruitment and retention, workforce, and other issues were discussed. It was well attended by ~15 Fire and EMS leaders.
- I attended the New England Division conference and the Recruitment and Retention workshop. It was very good, and as they continue to run them, I strongly encourage attending one.
- I attended the 5 families meeting yesterday at the Academy. It was a good meeting, with all groups represented:
  - Director Wholey gave some information on the infrastructure project.

- Director Wholey discussed what he believes is the good progress that Chief Clark made with Chief Matson on the Forestry portion of the new FFI curriculum. That Meeting is also this morning.
- Director Buxton talked about concerns with this year's Homeland Security Grant. First was the again accelerated timeline, but also that we will likely see a 20% reduction in funding due to New Hampshire not complying with certain election related topics.
- The grant will fund additional classes with C3 pathways, specifically 2 ASIM Advanced classes and 3 SAVEM classes.
- A good discussion ensued about how to get the Basic classes to more first responders, how we are using the TtT folks from this year's classes, how to ensure the system is getting to the non-DOS Law Enforcement agencies, and the future of RTF classes.
- The Memorial is Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 1000 hrs.
- They are looking for a new flag NHAFC flag for the memorial before the event.
- The next meeting will be January 5<sup>th</sup>
- He received an email from Kyle Levesque late last night on the change to the Trauma Medical Review committee and the impact of Senate Bill 421.

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

- The meeting/seminar in Gorham was a success and well received. Executive Councilor Karen Liot Hill joined us and spoke with several members.
- The September membership meeting will be on the 10<sup>th</sup> for breakfast at Lakes Region Community College. Please sign up by Friday
- The October board and membership meetings will be virtual (Oct. 7 and 8 respectively)
- The November board meeting will be on 4<sup>th</sup> at Primex.
- The November meeting/seminar will be held at the Fire Academy on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Chief Thomas is interested in continuing to serve on the Fatality Committee. They are happy to have him continue.
- The 100 Club of NH had their annual reception at the Manchester Country Club last evening. Chiefs Fraitzl, Buxton, Faas and myself attended.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report (D. Chamberlain) – No report**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Report – (Fraitzl) –**

- Store link has not made it up onto the website yet, but it will be shortly.
- He attended FRI also.
- Chief Wheatley and he attended IAFC President Locke's retirement.

**Sgt. At Arms Report – (Wheatley) – No report**

**IAFC – NED – (J. Chamberlain) –**

- He stated that he was sworn in as the state director for NH and thanked the board for the support.
- He noted that the conference was a success with over 700 attending.
- He also spoke of the SAFER grant that they have received and the items available under it.

**New Business –**

- Chief Fraitzl spoke of the website rebuild explaining the proposal from Amber Lagasse. She also does the State Firemen's Association site. He made a MOTION (second Toomey) to hire Amber Legasse (Shield Marketing) to update and manage our website at a cost not to exceed \$1500 to research the website for overhaul, carried unanimously.

**Old Business –**

- Goffstown Chief Selleck has asked the board to consider supporting a chance to the HRSA definition of a rural community and is attending to explain his request. He passed out handouts describing the program and info to back up his assertion that the definition as it stands, does not accurately depict the demographics of NH. He will suggest a letter to be sent to our Congressional delegation.
- Scholarship applications/awards (Marshal Toomey). He explained that there were more apps for the Level I than usual and only two are funded. A MOTION (Wheatley/Fraitzl) to support the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee and grant the scholarships, carried unanimously.
- Chief Fraitzl stated that he, Emanuel, D. Chamberlain and LaRoche will be presenting at the NHMA conference in November.
- He also elaborated on the corroboration on the Forestry part of the curriculum. They will be voting on it tomorrow at the FST Commission meeting.

**Good and Welfare –**

Motion to adjourn carried at 0952 hours.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brent T. Lemire, MPA  
Executive Director

September 2, 2026

