



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Board of Directors – September 2, 2020

Called to order by Chief Jones at 0830 hours

Present: Chiefs Jones, Sitar, Beattie, Emanuel, Thomas, Rhodes, Toomey, Burns and Executive Director Lemire. Chiefs Rhodes and Emanuel had to leave the meeting for other commitments. Chief Howard joined the meeting at 0921.

Minutes of previous meeting: Motion (Sitar/Thomas) to approve the minutes from the August meeting carried unanimously with one abstention.

Financial Reports: n/a

Correspondence: none

President's Report: (Jones)

- On 7/18 Brent & I met w/ Governor Sununu = discussion items included:
 - Thoughts on filling the Assistant Position to Commissioner Quinn.
 - Thanked him for Covid stipend for Emergency 1st Responders
 - Thanked him for his initiative in receiving Covid PPE Supplies
 - Brent briefly touched based on HB1234
 - Inquired on any info pertaining to Hero's Care Act Funding
 - Mention possible funding towards PT/Volunteer Chiefs w/ hours dedicated to Covid-19
 - Discussed budget shortfalls; nationally, state and locally (direct effects w/ department daily operations)
 - Governor advised of dollars current available w/ Covid-19, strongly recommended to be creative and request funding for such.
 - PTSD Comm. Advise Rob to continue as NHAFC Rep., advised him of the 3 First Responder Suicides in the past month within the State of NH
 - Held mtg. 8/28 – Chief Buxton reported that they must have a final report to Legislature by October 15. The Legislature wants to keep the group together into the next session. He indicated the frustration of the committee in not having the virtual capacity by the state sooner and it compromises the time schedule of the

committee. He also mentioned the physical fitness/mental health program in Portsmouth that is mandatory and we should check the program out with PFFNH.

- NH Drug Overdose Fatality Review Comm – Chief Thomas
- Thanks to efforts of the Fire Marshal's Office, Chief Sabine ruled a LODD
 - A big step forward for the Fire Service
- Level I instruction this fall semester w/ LRCC Students/Interns – Chief Jones is passionate about this as he is hosting interns that are not qualified and cannot access classes. Chief Buxton offered information from his contacts with the Academy, which was not necessarily helpful. They have a Commission meeting tomorrow (FST).
- Nick Mercuri, advised/inquired on possible legislation supporting a NH EMT License Plate, our position. He received a few comments back.
- Contacted Chief Allard of Goffstown and extended our condolences and offered our services after the loss of their Captain after taking a CPAT test.
- Also contacted Director Pendergast and inquired if she needed any type of assistance as well.
- NEAFC Div of IAFC – report of mtg. on 8/25 – The CT conference is now cancelled. The board will convene to determine how to distribute reimbursements or keep them for the future m

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- I am still working on some type of virtual Candidate event for October 8.
- The Red Jacket has been reserved for our 2021 Professional Enhancement Weekend on Nov. 12-14.
- No word yet from the IRS on our non-profit status. Still waiting to hear Accountant will be checking.
- I am almost done with the By-Law update. I've been working on purging and reconciling the membership list and all of the invoices.
- Crooked Mountain is not closing after all. Does this change our plans?

1st Vice President's Report (Sitar)

- He still has the apps for Credentialing. He will contact Ty Gagne and Margaret Byrne to review the apps. He has 20 applications.
- GOFFER funds are not available to fire districts. The district must go through the municipality for funds.
- He suggested that Lakes Region departments run their own FF I class.

2nd Vice President's Report (Beattie)

- He asked if the report from the FST commission can be brought up at next meeting or should we get a report ahead of time. Chief Buxton will pass on some bullet points after the meeting.
- He checked into the rule change for ambulance supplies. They are innocuous and just housekeeping items.

- He spoke with Nick Mehuri on the EMT license plates. Nick had little information on the proposal or where the proceeds would go. They were just gauging our interest. Discussion ensued.

Sgt. At Arms Report (Emanuel) – no report

Scholarship Committee (Toomey)

- Checks will be sent to recipients.

New Business:

- Chief Sitar was awarded a SAFER grant for 4 new firefighters this year. He is not sure his commissioners will accept it. They are still working at it. Discussion ensued on history and member experiences.

Old Business:

Good and Welfare:

- He mentioned the unconfirmed schedule of services for Capt. Tower.

Upcoming Events: NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 0900 HOURS.

Meeting adjourned at 0935 hours.

Respectfully submitted

Brent T. Lemire, MPA
Executive Director
NH Association of Fire Chiefs