



## **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 – October 7, 2020

Called to order by Chief Jones at 0833 hours

Present: Chiefs Jones, Beattie, Emanuel, Christopoulos, Thomas, Rhodes, Toomey, Buxton and Executive Director Lemire. Chief Christopoulos left for an NE Fire Chiefs board meeting at 0900.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Motion (Toomey/Rhodes) to approve the minutes from the September meeting carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** n/a

**Correspondence:** Chief Lemire read a note from the Goffstown Fire Chief thanking the members of the NHAFC for their support on the loss of their Captain.

#### **President's Report: (Jones)**

- On 9/28 Brent, Chiefs Sitar, Beattie, Emanuel, and myself participated in a virtual meeting w/Commissioner Quinn, Marshal Parisi, Director Pendergast & Director Harper pertaining to any covid-19 related issues.
  - Commissioner Quinn -
    - touched on the recent Restaurant status pertaining to inside dinning.
  - Marshal Parisi –
    - Reminder of ESF4 available 24/7, 42 First Responders tested positive with 25 in Quarantine.
    - First Responder Testing, Public Health Lab, Convenient MD & Clear Choice MD with test sample delivered to State Public Health Lab.
    - Fire Drills for Educational Facilities within the School Year, required, Chiefs should be looking for more functionality rather than speed. Keep flexibility in mind when conducting drills, social distancing, do not want a ton of kids in the hallways at once.
    - Referencing the new restaurant guidelines, restaurants need to confer with local authorities before putting up barriers and tables as

well these items need to be considered interior finish, must meet the interior finish requirements.

- With the current drought status and the Governor's Emergency Order banning brush burning, etc. Be advised as Chiefs you have the authority to ban Class C Fireworks as well.
  - Fire Prevention Week- Marshal is citing working detectors in all residential homes. 7 Fatalities with no working detectors.
  - Entire BOD to be invited to next mtg on 9/12
- Director Pendergast –
    - Working on wrapping up classes that were postponed due to covid-19
    - Recruit Class in full swing for 10 wks. Logistically biggest Class since Covid-19
    - LRCC Level I Class to be instructed in the Spring Semester.
    - 20% reduction in programs possible even 30% due to budget cuts
    - Discussing Classes to offer for upcoming spring.
    - A little behind on Ambulance Inspections. EMS licensing is now over.
    - Issues w/background checks due to covid-19 put appear to be smoothing out
    - Fingerprinting is available now.
  - HSEM Director Harper –
    - EOC still fully activated
    - Some shortages with PPE, gloves & N95s. Hoping that shipment arrives this week.
    - Schools are a current issue, sport teams providing a challenge.
  - Chief Beattie –
    - Thanks the Commissioner for assistance with Liquor Enforcement during Bike Week.
  - Chief Emanuel –
    - Agreed Liquor Enforcement is extremely helpful with their support in Durham.
- 10/1
    - Brent & I attended a virtual Seacoast Chiefs Mtg. brief update on current issues/updates.
  - PFFNH President Bill McQuillen –
    - Touched base and advised the recent update pertaining to the Cancer Physicals delayed until March with funding deadline of June 21

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

- The Red Jacket has been reserved for our 2021 Professional Enhancement Weekend on Nov. 12-14.
- November meeting still virtual and should be a morning meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 0900.
- No word yet from the IRS on our non-profit status. Still waiting to hear. Accountant will be checking.
- By Laws are complete and will be shared with all members. I have completed purging and reconciling the membership list and all of the invoices.
- Updated FB page when possible.
- Crooked Mountain is not closing after all. Does this change our plans?

## **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Report (Sitar) n/a**

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

- He went over the legislative update sent by our lobbyist.
- The LSR's are out in title only. They will be monitoring them.
- He sat in (by phone) the legislative GOFERR meeting last week. The biggest concern is the hospitals in the southern tier and their deficits. They are looking into the disparity of CARES act funding on small businesses.
- He spoke with Nick Mercuri on the police department's ability to administer Narcan and the certification required to do so. Nick is working with the Police Chiefs' Association to see if legislation is forthcoming. Chief Buxton urged caution on handling this, as EMS personnel must be licensed and trained. Chief Beattie asked if there was room for compromise. More research needed.

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

- He thanked Chiefs Jones and Lemire for joining the Seacoast Fire Officers meeting last week.
- He also contacted Chief Germain on their Health and Safety Initiative for more information.

## **Scholarship Committee (Toomey) – n/r**

**New Business:** We need to fill the opening of full-time fire chief due to the untimely passing of Chief Burns. Chief Buxton suggests that we fill it pending the next election.

He mentioned a conversation to be had with the NH Police Chiefs on potential candidates holding medical marijuana cards.

**Old Business:** Chief Buxton reported that the next meeting of the Fire Standards and Training will be the public hearing on the Visiting Committee report on curriculum changes will be October 10. He suggests that the Association should be ready to testify as to its thoughts. The main concern is getting the Forestry portion back into the program.

**Good and Welfare:** Chief Buxton asked if we could streamline the voting process at meetings. Chief Lemire suggested that the will of the body should prevail and consent voting should be appropriate.

Chief Emanuel will be sharing information on the IAFC virtual conference beginning on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Upcoming Events: After tomorrow's Candidate's Forum/meeting, the next BOD meeting will be Wednesday, November 4 at 0830 hours. The monthly meeting will be held Thursday, November 12 at 0900 hours.**

**Meeting adjourned at 0936 hours.**

**Respectfully submitted**

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