



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors – April 3, 2024

Go To Meeting Platform

Called to order by Chief Emanuel at 0832 hours

Members present: Chiefs Emanuel, Watkins, Buxton, Hunter, Chamberlain, Thomas, Murray, Carrier, Jones, Fraitzl, LaRoche and ED Lemire. Jason Lyon and Adam Schmidt join us also.

Minutes of previous meeting: Distributed and posted for meeting. A MOTION (Thomas/Watkins) to accept carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: Distributed via email. The approval to approve both February and March reports were done in a MOTION (Thomas/Fraitzl), which carried unanimously.

Correspondence: n/a

Life Membership: n/a

Government Relations: (Schmidt)

- He reported on his email updates for bills being considered. Cross-over day is this week. He will send a summary sheet. There is concern on the deadline dates for PFAS mitigation.

Report of the President (Emanuel)

1. Emanuel attended Five family's meeting Friday March 29, 2024
 - Discussion about benefits, rights, privileges, and honors for firefighter deaths
 - Need to update and revise a policy to address active, retired, and line of duty deaths
 - Establish a workgroup to revisit the NHFMO guidance on documentation/recommendations upon hiring to determine and document employees and wishes, guidance for levels of honors and privileges, and potential

benefits available to members upon death. Chiefs Buxton and Fraitzl will work with group on updating the guidelines.

- PFFNH cancer screening legislation makes funding available for two years... need to set up systems in advance.
Need a team to outline a plan and RFP. Cancer screening committee to provide input and to help construct rules and process for screening. NHAFC representative
 - HB 1330 - EMS disciplinary proceedings. (Mark Proulx is the sponsor)
Concern with peer review of discipline moving licensing to the Office of State Professional and Certifications...
 - Recruitment/retention community college fund is not being utilized at the NHFA yet... January 1. Funds are retroactive back to July 1, 2023...
 - AFG, SAFER, HSEM have been cut 9% by the federal government. Defer to Director Buxton, understanding that there will be an impact to NH.
2. Emanuel and Board of Directors will be attending CFSI April 29th. Thank you Brent for coordinating the meetings with our federal delegation.

Report of the Executive Director: (Lemire)

- Next week's meeting will be the Annual Meeting/Seminar/Vendor Showcase at the Common Man Inn and Spa. We have 26 vendors and 75 signed up. We're finalizing vendor spots, etc. this week. Former Boston Fire Commissioner Joe Finn and Dr. Nicole Sawyer will be our seminar presenters. I've gotten commitments for \$5,500 in sponsorships. Deadline to sign up is Friday.
- Our next BOD meeting will be at Primex in Concord on May 8 due to board members being in Washington on the 1st. THE MAIN ENTRANCE IS NOW OPEN AGAIN.
- For May, we will partner again with Primex for our meeting during their annual conference. Our meeting will be at 3:00 pm on May 16 in the Warner Room of the Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel.
- The June 13 meeting will be virtual and held at 4:00 so as to accommodate some of our part-time members.
- The July 11 meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the NHFA. The vendor has lowered their prices so we're back to \$16.00.
- On August 8, we'll join our North Country brethren at the Town and Country in Gorham (Shelburne) where we'll have a seminar being developed by the Professional Development Committee.
- Our application for 501 c3 has been submitted to the IRS and the fee paid!
- Ad book proceeds to date: Total: \$16,950; Vendor: \$11,865; Assn: \$5085.

1st Vice President's Report (Watkins) – No report

2nd Vice President's Report – (Hunter) - No report

Sgt. At Arms Report – (Chamberlain) – No report

IAFC – NED – (Jones/S. Murray) –

New Business:

- Chief Lyon presented the slate of Nominations for officers for the coming year. A MOTION (Fraitzl/Thomas) carried unanimously.

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominations for the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs annual elections (2024):

The following will require a vote of the membership

- President – Chief David Emanuel - (Durham)
- 1st vice President – Chief James Watkins - (Berlin)
- 2nd Vice President – Chief Scott Hunter – (Bedford)
- Sgt. at Arms - Chief Dave Chamberlin – (Jaffrey)
- Executive Director/Secretary - Chief Brent Lemire (retired) - (Litchfield)

- Treasurer – Chief Steve Carrier - (Gilford)

- Fulltime Chief Director - Chief Steve Buxton (Nashua) **expiring 4/2026**
- Combination Chief Director – Chief Francis Fraitzl - (New Boston) **expiring 4/2026**
- Voting Member Director – Chief James Wheatley (Lebanon) - **expiring 4/2026**

BELOW ARE NOT UP FOR RE-ELECTION UNTIL 2025

- Fulltime Chief Director – Chief Mike McShane (Dover) **expiring 4/2025**
- Combination Chief Director – Chief Ben LaRoche (Bristol) **expiring 4/2025**

- Immediate Past President – Chief Larry Best (Biddeford, ME)

Respectfully submitted;

Chair, Chief Jason Lyon – New London
Chief Philip Cloutier – Gorham
Chief Mark Cotreau - Rye

Old Business:

- Request from ED for input on a proposal for a November weekend at Waterville Valley. Members supported the concept and urged we move forward.
- Review the FY 2025 budget. The 2025 budget was reviewed with the ED suggested changes to balance. A MOTION (Fraitzl/Watkins) to approve the budget with the changes presented carried unanimously.

Good and Welfare –

- Chief Buxton suggested that the grant process has become cumbersome and the timelines from the state don't line up with the local approval process. He suggests that the process be looked at and investigate a streamlining process. Discussion ensued as to the issues involved in getting the grant money. Members will offer further information.

Upcoming Events –

Board Meeting – April 3, 2024 – Virtual

Annual Meeting/Vendor Showcase/Seminar – April 11, 2024 at the Common Man complex in Plymouth, NH

Board Meeting – May 8, 2024 - Primex

Regular Meeting – May 16, 2024 – Warner Room at Sheraton in Portsmouth

Board Meeting – June 5, 2024 – TBD (Most likely Primex)

Regular Meeting – June 13, 2024 - Virtual

Motion to adjourn carried at 1016 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Brent T. Lemire, MPA
Executive Director

April 3, 2024