



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

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Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, March 14, 2019 – Alan’s Restaurant – Boscawen.

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 PM

After a salute to the flag, a moment of silence was requested for departed members.

Chief Buxton welcomed all to the meeting, and recognized Commissioners Barthelmes, Quinn and Bailey for being in attendance.

Chief Buxton asked all members to introduce themselves and share from where they come from.

U.S. Representative Ann McLane Kuster spoke and shared the status of activities in Washington. She is attempting to visit all of the municipalities in her area. She also spoke of the opioid crisis and the support her office is providing chiefs in NH.

Chief Buxton invited Commissioner Barthelmes up for a presentation of appreciation from the NHAFC.

Advocate Members Present: Willie Burk of Harrison Shrader.

Special Guests: (above)

Minutes of the February 14 meeting: Deferred to the April meeting

Financial Report for the month. Deferred to the April meeting.

Communications: (none)

Applications for membership: Retired Asst. Chief Anthony Phillips of Newmarket and Asst. Chief James Richardson of Derry.

Life Membership: Chief Richard O’Brien, formally of Goffstown Fire.

Interim President’s Report: (Buxton) – Chief Buxton reported:

- Discussion ensued on committee vacancies: MCI Committee – MOTION (LaChapelle/Beattie) to appoint Deputy Chief Scott Tice of Hudson as voting member and Chief Mark Howard of Keene as alternate, carried unanimously. EMS Trauma Coordination Board – MOTION (LaChapelle/Jones) to appoint Deputy Chief Brian Allard of Goffstown, carried unanimously. E-911 Commission: MOTION (LaChapelle/Jones) to appoint Chief Henry Thomas of Newbury, carried unanimously.
- The Audit and Budget Committees will be up and running shortly.
- HazMat grants were awarded last week. He described the awards and the locations.
- He described HB 2 (Governor's budget). He described a \$750K funding for FF physicals but at the end of the biennium from contingency. Also included was money for North Country fire department extractors.
- Hearings on the Fire Code begin next Wednesday, March 13.
- The 541 Sub Committee meetings with Primex are working and will be releasing the report shortly.
- Discussion ensued on the IRS letter received closing our case. Danais and Danais are supposed to be handling it. Chief Fraitzl described the work done so far. Derek from the company called Frank to tell him that he will make contact with the IRS for clarification. Frank will set up a meeting with them.
- Legislative Breakfast is April 3. We need to start working on talking points.
- He asked Chief LaChapelle to explain the proposal from First Responder Grants to sponsor a class on grant writing. Tabled for now.
- He spoke on the TEMSIS program update and that they may not bridge the information. Director Pendergast is working on it.
- Received draft plan from Rick Alpers from PRIMEX. Will forward to BOD.
- He mentioned conversations with Commissioners on filling Comm. Barthelmes vacancy.
- Marshal Parisi reported that the bill on Sober Housing was retained in Committee yesterday. Opportunity for amending exists.

Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –

- Work is continuing on our annual meeting/vendor display for April, 11, 2019. We will again be at the Falls Event Center in Manchester.
- The Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for the 3rd of April, but it turns out to be the last day of the NEDIAFC conference in Providence.
- May meeting will again be at the Mt. Washington Hotel on May 16 (note change) in conjunction with Primex. We are working on sponsors and speakers.
- June is scheduled to be a breakfast meeting at the Lakes Region Community College with a tour and presentation on the Fire programs.
- The NHAFC Professional Enhancement Weekend for members, spouses and guests is back! It will be at the Red Jacket Mountainview in North Conway on

Veteran's Day weekend (November 9-11). Plan ahead because we need a minimum of 50 participants.

- The board will be discussing the August meeting schedule as it conflicts (again) with FRI in Atlanta.

Interim 1st Vice President Report - (Carrier) –

- He spoke of a new committee (FFI working group). Needs volunteer to work with him on it. There is a big push from the North Country to reduce hours. The goal is to develop a plan and recommendation from the NHAFC. Chiefs Andrus and Clark are interested. Chief Sitar suggested that his Deputy (Joubert) would also be interested in serving on the committee.
- Committee vacancies: E-911 Committee – Chief Henry Thomas of Newbury; MCI committee-Deputy Chief Scott Tice of Hudson and Chief Mark Howard of Keene; EMS Coordinating Board – Deputy Chief Brian Allard of Goffstown; New School Construction has been posted; Building Code Review Board – 2 positions coming up at the end of the year.

2nd Vice President Report/Legislative Committee (Jones) –

- He spoke of the status of legislation. Chief Buxton added informational items.

Sgt. At Arms/Professional Development (LaChapelle) – (n/a)

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Toomey) – Report due April 1.

Division Reports

State Fire Marshal – Deputy Fire Marshal Shultz reported:

Bureau of Investigations:

Nashua-1/30, Investigators were called to respond to a residential fire that occurred. There were no injuries and the building sustained substantial damage. There were no criminal indicators and the cause of the fire was accidental in nature.

Sandown-2/1, Investigators were called to respond to a property where a fire had occurred in an abandoned residence. The property owners had asked the fire department in the past if they wanted to use the building as a training burn. The owners had constructed a new home on the property. There were no injuries, the cause of the fire is still under investigation at this time.

Lisbon-2/2, Investigators were notified of a fire that occurred in a residence. There were no injuries, the building sustained minimal damage. The cause of the fire was accidental in nature and was attributed to an electrical receptacle. FMO provided a consultation with the fire chief.

Epping-2/4, Investigators were requested to respond to a fire that occurred in a small cottage. There were no injuries and there was minimal damage to the building. There are criminal indicators involving the case and it is still under the investigation.

Troy-2/5, Investigators were notified of a fire that occurred at a residence. There were no injuries, there were no criminal indicators surrounding the fire. There was substantial damage to the building. No FMO response requested, notification only.

Nottingham-2/6, Investigators were called to respond to a residence where a subject was found deceased and had suffered some burn injuries. There were no criminal indicators, the subject had been found at the request of a welfare check from a family member. An autopsy was conducted and the cause and manner of death are pending at this time.

Boscawen-2/6, Investigators were requested to respond to a residence where a fire occurred. There were no injuries, the building sustained minimal damage. The cause of the fire was accidental in nature and was attributed to a fluorescent light assembly.

Peterborough-2/7, Investigators were notified of a fire that occurred in a recently purchased property that was undergoing renovation. There were no injuries, the cause of the fire was accidental and was attributed to the use of floor finishing urethane. There were no criminal indicators, notification only no FMO response requested.

Bethlehem-2/13, Investigators were notified of a fire in the main building at the Rocks Estate. This building was a total loss and so was a gift shop in the back and an adjacent pole barn with vehicles close by. There were two workers in the basement in a work shop doing metal work and grinding who left approximately two hours before the fire. The first reporting party put the fire in the basement work shop window. There were no injuries, the cause of the fire was undetermined, no FMO response requested notification only.

Enfield-2/14, Investigators were called regarding a fire at the Enfield House of Pizza. The chief advised that the fire was contained to an employee bathroom at the restaurant. The chief advised there was an electric space heater in the bathroom that appeared to be operating after hours and a plastic container was up against it. There were no injuries, FMO notification only, no response requested.

Warren-2/15, Investigators were called to respond to a fire that occurred at an unoccupied vacation home. The building was a total loss, there were no injuries. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, there are criminal indicators surrounding the incident.

Farmington-2/16, Investigators were called to respond to a vehicle fire. The vehicle sustained significant damage and there were no injuries. Reports from a witness saw some people outside in the area of the car shortly before the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation at this time and there are criminal indicators.

Plymouth-2/17, Investigators were called to respond to a fire in a federally assisted elderly housing apartment building the previous evening. The chief stated that new tenants were moving into a unit and had loaded the counters and stove with boxes. A stove was accidentally turned on and a small fire started which was extinguished by the building's sprinkler system. Deputy Morrison said there were no injuries and there was fire damage to the unit and some water damage to the units below. No FMO response requested notification only.

Nashua-2/19, Investigators were called to respond to a fire in a bus at a homeless mission. The bus was a total loss, there were no injuries and a nearby building was damaged by heat on the exterior. The fire was lit by a resident of the mission who was told that he had to leave and became upset. This suspect was arrest and charged with arson.

Acworth-2/20, Investigators were called to respond to a fire in a residence. The resident had to jump out of a second story window to escape the fire; he was transported to the hospital with serious injuries but is expected to survive. The house was a total loss; the cause of the fire is undetermined due to the extent of the damage. There were no criminal indicators surrounding this case.

Epsom-2/22, Investigators were notified of a fire that occurred at a residence. The resident received second degree burns as he attempted to extinguish the fire. The resident was transported to the hospital for treatment and is expected to make a recovery. There was minimal fire damage to the home, the cause of the fire was accidental in nature. No FMO response requested, consult and notification only.

North Walpole-2/24, Investigators were called to respond to a fire that occurred in a residence. There were no injuries, the residence sustained significant damage in the rear of the building on both floors. The fire originated in the first floor kitchen, the cause of the fire is undetermined, there are no criminal indicators.

Belmont-2/25, Investigators were notified of a carbon monoxide incident where a worker who was sand blasting collapsed as a result of a carbon monoxide exposure. The call was originally for a subject who collapsed and was transported to the hospital for treatment. At the hospital it was discovered that he had a high level of CO in his blood and was going to be moved to a hyperbaric chamber. The cause of the exposure was the blasting and the rated suit that he was wearing did not operate properly to dissipate the CO in the atmosphere. Notification was made to OSHA, no FMO response requested, notification only.

*** FATAL CO INCIDENT *** Epsom-2/25, Investigators were requested to respond to a suicide that was caused by an intentional carbon monoxide exposure. A vehicle was located in the driveway of a residence with the deceased resident inside. The vehicle was locked and the windows were covered. Inside the rear cargo compartment was a homemade charcoal grill with charcoal that had been used. The victim was deceased in the front driver's seat. The autopsy is scheduled for February 28, 2019.

*** FATAL FIRE*** Hampton-2/27, Investigators were called to a house fire where it was reported that a child was unaccounted for. Eight people (5 children, 3 adults) were home and asleep at the time of the fire. Upon scene examination a male child was found deceased inside the building. Origin and cause investigation was conducted. No criminal indicators were noted. Autopsy was scheduled for Thursday, February 28.

Public Education:

Mary MacCaffrie, Public Education Specialist, presented three fire and falls safety workshops to the volunteers for the Senior Companion Program in Somersworth, Concord and Franklin. The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Remembering When™ program covers the 16 key fire and fall safety messages for older adults. Mary added an additional hour of training to the workshops and concentrated on cooking and kitchen safety. Unattended cooking and careless practices in the kitchen is the cause of many residential fires in New Hampshire. The Senior Companion Program is a volunteer program providing friendly visitation and respite services to homebound adults. Members of the Somersworth Fire Department and Franklin Fire Department attended the workshops and provided information to the volunteers on the service they provide and the local resources available in their communities.

Mary MacCaffrie attended the NH Falls Task Force monthly meeting. The members are planning a spring Falls Safety Conference for April 17th. Making Your Community Age Friendly, Hoarding, and Fire and Falls Safety are among some of the topics under consideration for the conference.

Fireworks: 2/27/19 – In just 5 months after a devastating fire and \$770,000 dollar loss, Stateline Fireworks (Winchester) is back open for business; in large part due to fire code compliance (Sprinkler Systems).

Fire Standards, Training and EMS – (Director Pendergast)

Logistics-

The Government shutdown has delayed the announcement and funding of the 2018 AFG grants, however the peer application scoring has taken place. The first round of announcements should take place late spring.

The Governor and Council approved our large Image Trend project contract, which does include in part, the Statewide Fire Incident Reporting module (which was 85% grant funded)

The purchase of a new aerial truck as a capital expenditure is included in our biennium budget. We attended the committee meeting with the Commissioner and Director Lavoie to help justify the purchase. We will be applying for Federal funds to grant fund \$500,000 of the purchase price.

Programs-

We collaborated with NH State Police and NAMI NH to get grant funding to offer training for emergency responders. These programs include an 8 hour Mental Health

First Aid class and a 40 hour CIT (Crisis Intervention Training). The first MH first Aid class is on March 27.

The first CIT program took place in Concord from February 25- March 1. 32 students including State Police, local PD, fire and EMS participated.

Our spring certification programs include:

-NHFA evening FF I program

-Wilton FF I

-Canaan FF I

-LRCC FF I

-LRCC FF II

-Seacoast (Lee) FF II

-2 Ice rescue programs- full with wait list (will add a third)

Recruit school

We will begin accepting applications for this year's full time recruit program on May 6. After a June orientation date, the program begins in July.

The Spring CPAT program is scheduled for April 16 and 17 and will take place at the Laconia Ice Arena. The application period is open until April 5.

Budget-

As reported, we have received notification of our successful 2017 AFG Grant application. We are working to purchase the equipment. We have collaborating with members of the haz mat teams to spec the hazardous materials tanker rollover prop, which should be here in May, and purchasing generator light units, fire extinguisher prop and the Incident reporting software.

Our HVAC project was approved in the Governor's budget going forward. This will allow us to make the upgrades to the final portion of the system which was started two years ago

Other news-

Our Division is working with Primex, NH Chiefs, PFFNH and other stakeholders and continue to meet to update the Fire Service Cancer Legislation as well as help to educate municipal officials about the cancer problem and the Legislation.

June is still out on leave due to an injury but we continue to receive reports of NH Fire Departments with their membership rosters (These were due by December 31st).

Approximately over 90% of departments have reported.

The Commissioner of the Department of Safety, John Barthelmes, announced his retirement as of 3/31/2019, Assistant Commissioner Robert Quinn will be the next Commissioner of Safety.

NH Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Coordinating Board (O'Brien)

- No report as he has retired and his successor will be seated shortly.

NVFC – (Chief Fraitzl) – (No report)

Advisory Council on Emergency Preparedness and Security (ACEPS) – (Chief Christopoulos) – (No report)

Homeland Security & Emergency Management – (Fallon Reed for Director Plummer) – She expressed the thanks from Director Plummer for the support given him in his nomination to Asst. Commissioner. She also mentioned grants for backup power for municipalities. She encouraged those that have not gotten grants to apply for them. Also the update to the state Emergency Operations Plan is being completed and sent to the Governor for approval.

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) –

- Our new District 12 (Grafton County) Forest Ranger started on February 15th. Luc Perreault is from Berlin and has worked for the state for the past four years with the Dept. of Corrections. We look forward to having him on.
- Training dates for our Spring Warden/Deputy Warden trainings are out. There are some changes, such as, new fire permits, definition of structure and other important information. We ask that Wardens/Chiefs encourage their Deputy Wardens and Issuing Agents attend.

SPRING TRAINING		
DAYTIME SESSIONS 9:00 am – 12:00 pm		
March 12 th - Loudon FD	March 26 th - Hanover FD	April 3 rd - Rochester FD
EVENING SESSIONS 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm		
March 19 th – Rumney (Russell Elem. School)	March 20 th – Keene (SWMA)	March 21 st – Wilmot FD
March 21 st – Woodsville (Cliff. Mem. Bldg)	March 22 nd – Conway Village FD	March 25 th – Mont Vernon FD
March 27 th – Auburn FD	March 28 th – Lancaster HQ	March 28 th – Plainfield FD
April 1 st – Colebrook FD	April 3 rd – Bow FD	April 4 th – Brentwood FD
April 4 th – Lempster FD	April 5 th – Wolfeboro (Abenali Ski Area)	

- This week we are rolling out the application process for a new grant. This is the Hazardous Wildfire Fuels Reduction Grant and will be available to municipalities. The intent of this grant is to identify town owned conservation lands which would benefit from prescribed fire and to help municipalities through the process of identifying lands, writing burn plans, and implementing burns. The deadline for grant submissions will be June 01, 2019.
- We are in the process of planning our main Smokey Bear 75th Birthday Event. It will be August 15th at Franconia Notch State Park. We will have the Smokey Bear Hot Air Balloon at this. We would like interested Fire Departments to bring Forestry units for a “Touch a Truck” at the event as well.
- We have a Bureau Twitter account: @NHForestRangers We will use this as another way to get the Daily Fire Danger out as well as sharing fire activity, Bureau news and information.

Board of Fire Control – (Chief Andrus) – Chief Andrus reported that:

The Board met on March 13th and received an update from Fire Marshal Parisi on the status of legislation, including the very successful hearing this morning on SB49 for the adoption of the 2015 edition of NFPA 1. The Board also received a report from the sober housing subcommittee on their work. Their next meeting is June 19.

Building Code Review Board – (Chief Ober/Chief Powers) –

Manufactured Housing Standards Board – (Chief Powers)
(Above)

Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)

- 2/19: Director Doyle attended the hearing on SB253 – Real time threat notification systems in schools;
- 2/26: Director Doyle met with the Science, Technology and Energy committee to discuss / testify relative to MLTS legislation on HB205 during their work session;
- 2/25: SIEC Working groups met with SWIC John Stevens at the New Hampshire Fire Academy for discussion and progress reporting;
- 2/22: Met with HSEM / Director Plummer re: Conference Call with Colorado’s “Safe 2 Tell” Tip line;
- 2/27: Director Doyle and Derick Aumann, the Division’s Case Review and Evaluation Specialist met with Chief Dan Goonan of the Manchester Fire Department to discuss call transfers and EMD protocols;
- 2/22 – 2/28: Motorola vendor, 2-Way Communications of Londonderry has been in to view, inspect and install the P25 Radio Cores and associated equipment and wiring at both the Laconia PSAP and Concord IPOC Facilities as the P25 Interoperability radio Project moves forward;
- 3/4 - Director Doyle & staff met with HSEM to discuss updating the State EOP (emergency Operations Plan);
- 3/5 – Met with members of the NH Air National Guard (157 ARW/SE) for a tour of the IPOC and 9-1-1 PSAP;
- 2/28 & 3/5 – Met with HSEM to discuss the plan for developing an anonymous Tip Line to fulfill one of the recommendations on the Governor’s task force on school safety;
- 3/6 – Director Doyle met with and testified on HB205 (MLTS Legislation) prior to the Committee’s Executive Session where the Bill was ITL’d;

- 3/7 – Met with members of the Governor’s Task Force on School Safety to brief-out the Task Force members on progress that our Division (E9-1-1) has made with those recommendations;
- 3/8 – Met with the membership of the E9-1-1 Commission at our Quarterly meeting at the New Hampshire Fire Academy;

NH Information and Analysis Center – (Corey Clark) – (n/a)

E 911 Commission – (Chief O’Brien) – (See Director Doyle’s report above)

New England Division of the IAFC – Chief Achilles –

- He reported on the NEDIAFC meeting on April 1 in Providence and urged attendees to register.
- He also spoke on the meeting involving the merger between the NEDIAFC and the NEAFC.

New England Association of Fire Chiefs – Chief Jones reported that the 2019 conference will be at Foxwoods June 20-23, 2019 and in 2020 it will be in Worcester. Rooms for Foxwoods will open up April 15. Chief Carrier will be the incoming President.

SAMHSA Committee – (no report)

Old Business –

- Chief Achilles spoke of and described the NH Fire Chief Officer Designation process. He stated that more information will be forthcoming.

New Business –

Good and Welfare –

- Chief Klose thanked all personnel that participated in all activities related to the Berwick, ME fire and funeral activities. He described the shortcomings and issues involved and learning experiences.
- He was informed that we have a Hepatitis A outbreak in NH. He is concerned about coverage issues.
- On behalf of the Granite State Support Team, he thanked the Commissioner for all of his support.

A MOTION to adjourn, carried at 2016 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Brent T. Lemire, Ret.
Executive Director, NHAFC

March 14, 2019