



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, May 16, 2019 – Mt. Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods, NH

Called to order at 1916 hours by Chief Jones.

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

Chief Jeremy Oleson of Twin Mountain welcomed all to the meeting and thanked members for attending.

Advocate Members present – Lisa Benincasa of AT&T FirstNet; Wayne Perkins of WD Perkins and Kevin LaChapelle of IPS.

Members were asked to introduce themselves and share where they were from.

Special Guests: n/a

Minutes of the April meeting: A MOTION (Fraitzl/Sitar) to accept them carried unanimously.

Financial Report for the month. Not available at this point.

Communications: n/a

Applications for membership: Advocate: Mike Ortiz of Federal Sign and Signal and Thomas Dube of Dube Construction. Active Members: Chief Joseph Bird of Brentwood Fire; Dist. Chief Brendan Burns of Manchester Fire and Asst. Chief Patrick Howe of Portsmouth Fire.

Life Membership: n/a

President's Report: (Buxton) – (as presented by Chief Jones)

He shared Chief Buxton's apologies for not being in attendance tonight but stated that it was for his graduation from UNH-Manchester with a Master's in Public Administration.

The new Board of Directors met on May 1st and looks forward to working on the goal outlined in the strategic plan this coming year.

An amended version of the PTSD Bill has been approved by the house and senate. The amended bill will include the inclusion of presumption for PTSD claim and adjust the cancer definition of Tabaco free lifestyle.

The Fire Code and Building Code are on path to passing both the house and senate.

The NHAFC will be partnering with Primex and the Police Chief Association for an August seminar by Gordon Graham. Please watch for Advertisement.

Primex will again be hosting the November 7, 2019 Fire Service Symposium. This year speakers Captain Mike Gagliano (ret) of the Seattle Fire Department (“This Firehouse Rocks-Achieving Firehouse Excellance”) and Anne Gagliano (“Challenges of the Firefighter Marriage)

Executive Director’s Report (Lemire) –

- He thanked the major sponsors for this meeting (AT&T First Net; IPS; NFPA and W.D. Perkins Pump Specialists) for their support.
- The June 13 breakfast meeting will be at the LRCC. There will be a presentation and discussion on the FF program.
- July 11 will be at the Atlantic Grill in Rye.
- The August 15 meeting will be hosted by Berlin and held at the Town and Country Resort in Shelburne. Golf opportunities available for both July and August.
- September 12 will be back at the Academy for a breakfast meeting.
- Work is ongoing on the Professional Enhancement Weekend for members, spouses and guests. It will be at the Red Jacket Mountainview in North Conway on Veteran’s Day weekend, November 9-11, 2019. Plan ahead because we need a minimum of 50 participants. We will be working with Primex on a presenter.
- On May 7 Shawn and I participated in a Zoom session with a prospective vendor for website and administrative support services.

1st Vice President Report (Jones) – (included in President’s report)

2nd Vice President Report (Rhodes) – (n/r)

Sgt. At Arms (Sitar) – (n/r)

Committee Reports

Division Reports

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Chief of Strategy and Planning Nick Mercuri)

Logistics-

We are currently working with DES and a private vendor. We had 10 more monitoring wells drilled in areas of the campus in order to get more information on the PFAS levels underground.

SB 25 going forward has our Ladder Truck (\$500,000 from Federal funds) and HVAC project. This will now be voted on by the Senate.

Programs-

We held our first Grant-funded Mental Health First Aid for fire/EMS class at the Academy. It was well-attended by both career and volunteer fire and EMS and by a few Law Enforcement personnel.

This same SAMHSA grant is funding another Crisis Intervention Training (40 hour class) was held in the North Country at the Burton Facility May 6-10. The next offering will begin July 29 here in Concord.

We have partnered with IAFC to host a Recruitment and Retention Certification Course here on May 18-19. This is a free program and student expenses are reimbursed.

Recruit school

We have now begun accepting applications for this year's full time recruit program. To date we have 24 applicants and a short waiting list. We will determine in the next week or so what the maximum number of students for the program will be. After a June orientation date, the program begins in July and will run into September.

We held the Spring CPAT program in April at the Laconia Ice Arena. We will hold the next testing in May and then summer testing in June. Please feel free to send a representative from your department to meet the CPAT candidates and potential job applicants.

Budget-

Our budget is continuing to move through the legislative process. It will next be presented at Senate Finance Committee

Other news-

June is back working part time. Please continue to send her your department Form As and Bs if you should have a change in personnel.

AC Robert Quinn has been confirmed as the next Commissioner of the Department of Safety. Director Perry Plummer has been confirmed as the next Assistant Commissioner of DOS.

When comparing student and program numbers from 2013 and 2018, there has been a 98% increase in the number of overall student interactions. This includes on campus deliveries, off campus and online education. A portion of the increase was due to more available programs online as well as more EMS education both online and continuing education in the classroom and the mobile simulation program.

The Division hosted 20 members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee of legislators for a presentation and tour of our facility. We discussed our budget and projects for their support.

State Fire Marshal - Fire Marshal Parisi reported:

Bureau of Administration: • SB 49, adoption of the 2015 edition of NFPA 1 (Fire Code) was passed by the House and Senate. This bill will be going back to the Senate for concurrence for floor protection amendment the Board of Fire Control adopted. • HB 562, adoption of the 2015 edition of the ICC code suite, was passed by the House and

Senate. It has to go back to the House for concurrence with the Senate amendment (to adopt the Building Code Review Board's amendment regarding floor protection). • SB 109 (Fire Marshal's Office detail pay) passed the Senate and House and should be enrolled soon. • SB 110 (Fire Marshal's Office Law Enforcement member's ability to obtain insurance information on building collapse and CO incidents) passed the Senate and the ED&A Committee in the House. It has been sent to a second committee (Commerce) for review in the House. • Recovery residences (Sober Houses) continue to be challenge on the forefront of our agenda. HB 311 was retained by the House, but other legislation may need to be promulgated for the 2020 legislative session. A statewide solution is needed. We will continue to engage the fire service, the building officials, NH Coalition for Recovery Residences (NHCORR) and the Attorney General's office in proposed solutions. • We are continuing to work with Kidde on the "Get Alarmed" grant project in replacing the defective fire alarms across the state. Fire Chiefs that have questions or concerns are encouraged to contact District Chief Stacey Dubois at Stacey.Dubois@dos.nh.gov. • The NH Fire Mobilization plan is being updated and training programs are being rolled out across the state. Questions regarding the plan or training can be directed to Plans Examiner Buddy Thibeault at Brian.Thibeault@dos.nh.gov. • We are working with the NH Fire Prevention Society and the National Fire Sprinkler Association on procuring a side-by-side residential sprinkler prop for the state. When it becomes available we will let departments know.

Bureau of Building Safety and Construction: • We continue to deliver a fire service educational seminars across the state. These include sessions on school inspections, fireworks, oil and gas fired appliances, tent inspections, places of assembly, hood and kitchen inspections, etc. If you are interested in requesting a regional delivery of these programs please contact Deputy Fire Marshal Sean Toomey at Sean.Toomey@dos.nh.gov. • We have hired a new inspector in the Bureau of Building Safety and Construction. Ryan Brautovich of Peterborough will be working part-time for the office conducting inspections for the bureau of BS&C. We welcome Ryan to our team! • We will be hiring a new mechanical inspector shortly to fill the vacancy Marc Prindeville made when he was appointed as the Chief Mechanical Inspector. More information will follow regarding this appointment. • If the new fire code is adopted, we will be rolling out training sessions on NFPA 1 and 101, 2015 edition in the fall. We hope to be able to have day and night sessions to accommodate all fire service members, and host them in Concord as well as at the North Country Fire Academy. More to come soon on these training sessions.

Bureau of Investigations: • 22 Calls for Service in the month of April. • Our 8 investigators are actively working 13 Criminal Cases. • Kingston – After a lengthy arson trial, John Gates was convicted of 6 felonies with sentencing set for June 7th. Great collaboration with Kingston FD, PD, Manchester FD (K-9) and ATF. • District Chief Tom Riley retired on April 30th – We thank him for his 24 years of service – the past 11 years with the FMO

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Fratizl) – no report

EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (n/r)

Forests and Lands – Chief Sherman reported:

- Our new Forest Ranger for District 12, Luc Perreault is enrolled in the current fulltime police academy which began on May 6th and concludes on August 23rd. Captain Accardi will be covering District 12 in his absence.
- We offered 19 annual training sessions this spring for our Wardens and Deputy Warden's with 704 in attendance.
- The NH Forest Protection Bureau will be hosting the commissioners meeting for the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Commission in Lebanon from August 6-8, 2019.
- While the two additional Forest Ranger positions that were included in the budget request did not make it into the final budget document, fiscal committee has reinstated one position into the budget. Hopefully this will continue to make it through the final approvals required during this legislative session.
- The deadline for the Hazardous Wildfire Fuels Reduction Grant is June 1, 2019. The intent of the 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 Rx burns.
- Fire Departments which have been awarded VFA grants for the current year should have signed and submitted their MOU's and be actively working on making their approved purchases. Please purchase only equipment and PPE that was approved and submit invoices and a facsimile of the check for reimbursement.
- The online fire permit system is currently being utilized by 155 towns and 11 dispatch centers throughout the state. Since the beginning of 2019, over 3500 permits have been purchased online with another 4600 paper permits being entered into the system. Online use is 32% higher to date this year when compared with 2018.
- Work continues with the fire towers capital improvement projects. Oak Hill fire tower in Loudon will be nearing completion in early June and the contractor will be moving next to Mt. Kearsarge in Warner. This will also involve a full fire tower cab replacement. The last project scheduled for this year will be Milan Hill fire tower in Milan.
- The Forest Protection Bureau and the USFS-WMNF has teamed up again to offer a Wildland Fire Academy June 6-9, 2019. This year it will be located at the NH Fire Academy in Concord. **The deadline for applications is May 20, 2019.** The following courses are being offered:

Thursday June 6th	L-280 Followership to Leadership (day 1 of 2) S-219 Firing Operations (day 1 of 2) S-212 refresher S-130/S-190/L-180
Friday, June 7th	L-280 Followership to Leadership (day 2 of 2) S-219 Firing Operations (day 2 of 2) S-130/S-190/L-180
Saturday, June 8th	S-230 Single Resource Boss (day 1 of 2) S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use (day 1 of 2) S-212 Refresher S-130/S-190/L-180
Sunday, June 9th	S-230 Single Resource Boss (day 2 of 2) S-211 Portable Pumps and Water Use -(Day 2 of 2) S-130/S-190/L-180

The full training announcement and application is located at:

<https://www.nhdf.org/Community/Fire-Warden-Information/Wildland-Fire-Training>

- The National Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention program was instituted in 1944 and this year Smokey Bear is celebrating his 75th year of leadership in wildfire prevention. A calendar of events is now available on the division website at <https://www.nhdf.org/Land-Conservation/Wildland-Fire-Prevention/Wildland-Fire-Prevention>. A national calendar of events is located at <https://www.smokeybear75th.org/>.
- Please provide us with dates of special events that you have scheduled in your communities. We would also like to receive a photo from your event to post on the website and use with social media. Please forward the information to Captain Miner at: douglas.miner@dncr.nh.gov. You can also post the photos and captions from your events to the NH Forest Ranger's Twitter account @NHForestRangers.
- We worked with the NH State Library to provide an application process for municipal libraries to request a special visit from Smokey Bear as part of the summer reading program. We received 37 applications and the interagency committee selected the following libraries as winning applicants:
 - Bethlehem Public Library**
 - Dunbarton Public**
 - Gorham Public Library**
 - Hampton Falls Free Library**
 - Mason Public Library**
 - Plymouth-Pease Public Library**
- With the support of the NFFPC Wildfire-Prevention and Education Working Team, the Friends of Smokey Bear hot air balloon will be returning to the northeast this summer. The balloon will be in Franconia Notch State Park at

Profile Field on August 15, 2019. Weather permitting, the balloon will offer tethered rides as part of the Division of Forests & Lands 75th birthday celebration for Smokey Bear. There will be displays, a forestry touch-a-truck, ceremonial presentations and recognitions for student artists who were selected as the state contest winners with the Smokey Bear poster contest. Mark your calendars and join us for a day of family fun.

- After leaving NH, the Smokey balloon will be going to the Great Falls Balloon Festival in Lewiston Maine. NFFPC PEWT members will be staffing the event and weather permitting, scheduled balloon flights will occur both morning and evening from August 16-18, 2019.
- An online GSA auction of surplus vehicles and equipment was recently concluded at Bear Brook SP with 40+ items sold to successful bidders. Since the FEPP items are federal property until disposed of, the proceeds from their sale goes back to the federal government.
- Both the FEPP and FFP programs continue to provide opportunities for communities to request and receive assignment of wildland fire apparatus and equipment. Please contact Firefighter Property Coordinator Rick Todd at (603) 271-3472 (Bear Brook Office), (603) 892-5088 (Cell Phone) or via email at Richard.Todd@dncr.nh.gov.

Board of Fire Control – Chief Andrus (report in writing) and Chief Clark

The Board of Fire Control met on April 17th and held a public hearing regarding two proposed amendments to the Fire Code.

One amendment continued the repeal of the requirement for electronic monitoring of fire extinguishers. That requirement was repealed in May of 2018 but the repeal would have expired within a year without this additional action.

The second amendment set the effective date of protection of floor assemblies as eighteen months after the date of the adoption of NFPA 1, 2015 edition.

After receiving public testimony, the Board discussed the proposed amendments and voted unanimously in favor of both of them.

Emergency Services and Communications – Director Doyle reported:

- The Division's mapping unit began collecting data in Nashua on March 1st. The Nashua Telegraph ran an article regarding the data collection: <http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/local-news/2019/03/15/state-agency-collecting-address-data/>
- 3/25 - A staff member from Congresswoman Kuster's office toured the Laconia PSAP for a first-hand look at our operations and to speak with Telecommunicators. Director Doyle spoke with Congresswoman Kuster on

March 14th regarding the [“9-1-1 Saves”](#) act, a bill proposed in the U.S. House of Representatives to re-classify Public Safety Dispatchers and Telecommunicators;

- 3/27 - Representatives of the State of Rhode Island 9-1-1 met with the Division Leadership and Staff to review our best practices and how our EMD protocols work. Rhode Island is going through some changes and is looking to begin EMD. Rhode Island’s 9-1-1 system is a single PSAP model just like New Hampshire.
- 4/1 – NH 9-1-1 Special Projects Cartographer, Marilynn Burkowski, was notified by Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) in July she will receive a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award at the 2019 Esri User Conference in San Diego, CA. This award is given to user sites around the world to recognize outstanding work with GIS technology. Specifically, Marilynn was chosen out of more than 100,000 others for her work with the GIS development and maintenance of the NH Drug Monitoring Initiative. More to come;
- 4/2 – Director Doyle attended the hearing on SB93 and spoke to how E9-1-1 surcharges are remitted to the state;
- 4/3 – Director Doyle attended the hearing on SB210 and spoke to the need to have “Telecommunicators” included in the legislation to provide for confidential peer support services;
- 4/10 – Dir. Lussier, TC Roberge and Dir. Doyle presented at the NHEDA conference regarding the Peer Support initiative we’ve developed for our 9-1-1 TC’s and SP Dispatch;
- 4/7 thru 4/10 – Division members are participating in and attending the New Hampshire Emergency Dispatcher’s Association (NHEDA) Annual Conference in Whitefield. Team members attended training classes & symposiums as well as presented to fellow New Hampshire Dispatchers from around the state;
- At the NHEDA conference, NH 9-1-1 Training Manager, Allison Reopel was honored as the NHEDA Trainer of the Year;
- 4/14 through 4/19 – Celebrated “National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week”; Recognized our Telecommunicator of the Year – Dereck Corney, and read the Governor’s Proclamation to our telecommunicators recognizing their service;
- 3/28 - Representatives of the Division met with HSEM to update the ESF #2 portion of the State Emergency Operations Plan;
- 4/4 – Director Doyle, IT Manager Tim Scott and Community Relations Supervisor Mike Kelleher met with Coe Brown Academy Staff / EMD Young and officers for the Northwood Police to review their push-button alert as well as discuss options for the current telephone configuration on a multi building campus. Well-received and will be working with the Academy team and provide direction on next steps;
- 4/16 – Director Mark Doyle and IT Mgr. Tim Scott met with the Governor’s Task Force on School Safety to discuss progress of Task Force recommendations;
- 4/23 – Molly Hayes from Congressman Pappas’ office met with Senior Staff for a tour and sat in with our Training Coordinator, Michele Wilcox, for an on-hands perspective of PSAP operations and how are Telecommunicators are responsible for 9-1-1 call handling – follow up to a letter sent to Rep. Pappas from Dir. Doyle asking for support of the 9-1-1 Saves Act;

- 4/14 – Laconia 9-1-1 Call Center participated in Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Open House; many turned out to tour the center despite the rain;
- 5/7 - Ben Henry from NHPR visited the 9-1-1 call center and interviewed one of our Telecommunicators for an upcoming podcast on ‘Civics 101’;
- Wanda Scott, Public Outreach coordinator and Dir. Doyle presented at the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing regarding how we can best serve the Deaf & Hard of Hearing community and technology improvements in the PSAP
- We at the Division have welcomed Commissioner Quinn and Commissioner Plummer in their new roles at the Department of Safety and are looking forward to forging the relationships with First Responders from around the state!

E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) -

Fire Code Review Board –

New England Division of the IAFC –

Chief Christopoulos reminded everyone of the August FRI conference in Atlanta.

New England Association of Fire Chiefs – Chief Jones reported on the Expo at Foxwoods June 20 to 23. He recommended that all chiefs that are able, attend the sessions. The rooms are virtually sold out. He described the keynote speaker on Friday as the incident commander at the Sandy Hook shooting. Chief Steve Carrier will be sworn in as President on Thursday of that week. Next year will be at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA.

Recruitment and Retention Committee – (Chief Beattie) - no report

Old Business –

New Business –

Chief Klose reported that the widow of Firefighter Bomba who was killed in an accident, has received the death benefit.

Good and Welfare –

Chief Jones reported that Jennifer Harper, Asst. Director of Homeland Security, has been nominated to fill Commissioner Plummer’s position.

The next meeting will be held at the Lakes Region Community College on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 0900 hours.

A MOTION (Klose/Fraitzl) to adjourn, carried at 1953 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Brent T. Lemire, Ret.

Executive Director/Secretary, NHAFC

May 16, 2019