



## **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, June 13, 2019 – Lakes Region Community College, Laconia, NH

Prior to the meeting, Dr. Larissa Baia, President of LRCC, conducted a round table discussion and presentation on the Fire Program at the college. She solicited input from the members on how to improve the program.

Called to order at 1007 hours by Chief Buxton.

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

Chief Kirk Beattie welcomed all to Laconia and thanked members for attending.

Advocate Members present – Don Chambers of Dube Construction; Kevin LaChapelle of IPS.

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

**Special Guests:** n/a

**Minutes** of the May meeting: A MOTION (Klose/Akerstrom ) to accept them carried unanimously.

**Financial Report** for the months of March, April and May have been posted. A MOTION ( Beattie/Pendergast ) to accept them carried unanimously.

**Communications:** A letter from the NH Fire Service Committee of Merit was received and placed on file. The donation requested is a budgeted item.

**Applications for membership:** Advocate: Harris Trophy (Lisa and Frank Fraitzl)  
Active Members: Jennifer Harper, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

**Life Membership:** n/a

**President's Report: (Buxton) –**

- He reported that he had attended the public hearing and offered support to Jennifer Harper for confirmation as Director of Homeland Security.
- The Commissioner will be working with her on the process for selecting a new Assistant Director.
- We will be holding the November weekend on November 8 – 10 instead of the 9 – 11.
- Facebook page will be up and running shortly.
- Discussion ensued on the lobbyist contract process/RFP. The Executive Director will work with Chief Rhodes to solicit prospective firms.
- Committee of Merit info has been posted.
- He described the outcome of a meeting held with the Asst. Commissioner on issues at the NH Fire Academy.
- Commissioner's office is scheduling quarterly meetings and will be scheduled shortly.
- The 2020 budget has been adopted and approved for transmittal by the Board of Directors. He described the changes and stated that it will be uploaded to the website. He will ask for approval at the July meeting.

#### **Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –**

- July 11 meeting 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 done on the Professional Enhancement Weekend for members, spouses and guests. It will be at the Red Jacket Mountain View in North Conway on Veteran's Day weekend, November 8-10, 2019. Plan ahead because we need a minimum of 50 participants.
- Presentation on proposed new AMS program. Exec. Director and webmaster worked with MemberClicks on proposal for consideration. A MOTION (Sitar/Christopoulos) to approve the agreement (\$7,195) with MemberClicks to become our new AMS provider carried unanimously.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report (Jones) –**

- Two positions on the Building Code Review need filling. Please email the Executive Director with expressions of interest.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Report (Rhodes) –**

#### **Sgt. At Arms (Sitar) –**

- He stated that grants for the radio reprogramming from the state interoperability coordinator are due shortly. He suggests that the apps be submitted asap.

#### ***Committee Reports***

#### **Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey)**

- Applications close July 1, 2019.

## ***Division Reports***

### **State Fire Marshal - Fire Marshal Parisi reported:**

#### Bureau of Administration:

SB 49 – Fire Code – Senate moved to concur with the House, so this should be headed to enrollment soon and then to the Governor’s desk.  HB 562 – Building Code – We are awaiting the House to concur with the Senate. Once that occurs, it should be enrolled and then to the Governor’s desk.  We are working to do a public bill signing for both of these bills, including all the fire service partners, building code officials, etc. We will keep everyone updated.  HB 710 – BCRB changes – This was amended in the Senate, so it will need House concurrence. This will require the Building Code Review Board to post all local code amendments to the website (central repository).  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 have an upcoming meeting with the Attorney General on June 5.  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](mailto: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](mailto: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 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](mailto:Sean.Toomey@dos.nh.gov).

We have hired a new mechanical inspector in the Mechanical Safety & Licensing Section. Guerino “Jerry” Pandolfi of Pembroke will be working full-time for the office as an inspector covering areas of Hillsborough, Merrimack and Rockingham counties. We welcome Jerry to our team!  We are working with representatives of the NHAFC, NHBOA and the Solar Industry to evaluate and consider possible amendments to the rooftop solar installation requirements in NFPA 1, 2015 edition. We’ve found that the new requirements in NFPA 1 will have a negative impact on the solar industry. We are

working to balance the operational needs of the fire service and the continued trends of increased residential solar installations. With evolving technologies we have found changes in the 2018 and proposed 2021 editions of NFPA 1 that address these installations. □ We are working with DHHS to finalize their updated Foster Care Inspection Form which will include a new Inspectors Guide. □ We are working with DHHS and NH ARCH (Association of Residential Care Housing) to review the nighttime fire drills in assisted living facilities. Local and national data shows a trend of injuries in the elderly while conducting these nighttime fire drills. Falls are the leading cause of fatal and non-fatal injuries in older Americans. We evaluating the potential needs for code amendments to balance the need for fire drills with the impact on these residents. □ 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. □ HB123 was signed by the governor on May 15th. This bill is effective July 14, 2019. The bill requires increases the all-hazard drills to 4 instead of 2. One of the required allhazard drills shall test emergency response to an armed assailant. We will be developing a fact sheet that will be available on our website and the School Resource website in the coming weeks. □ We have started work on the review and update to Saf-C 6000, the State Fire Code with an anticipated completion of December 2019. Anyone with comments or suggestions are encourage to forward your information to our office through the fmo@dos.nh.gov email.

## **Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Pendergast)**

### ***Logistics***

The ‘A’ building continues to be used for all evolutions with the exception of ‘live fire’. We are awaiting word from FEMA on our 2018 AFG grant in which we requested funds to replace our lining system in the burn rooms. Our ladder truck has had the transmission repaired by Cammarota and is now on its way to Lakes Region Fire apparatus for the final repairs of alternator, etc. It will then have all tires replaced. The total cost of about \$20,000 will allow us to have a serviceable vehicle for the foreseeable future while we await funding for our new apparatus. The North Country air trailer has been repaired and all air refill systems have undergone preventative maintenance.

### ***Programs –***

Recruit school: To date we have 27 recruits starting the program. After a June orientation date, the program begins in July and will run into September. We have 2 summer offerings of the IAFF Fireground survival Program. The field program in Chester is full and the Concord program in July will soon be accepting applications. Summer classes also include Aircraft Firefighter, Concord FF I, Rescue Skills, Swiftwater Rescue Level I, and Confined Space technician, Instructor I, Instructor II and III, Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II coming this fall. In addition, we have several seminars with topics such as Fire investigation for First Responders, Youth Firesetter Programs, Stress Management and Self-care and Human Trafficking. CPAT- June 11

and 12 are the next scheduled dates for summer session of CPAT testing. The budget is moving along without further cuts. They also interviewed 3 candidates for the vacant Instructor Captain position. Final EMS rules are not in place.

#### **National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) – (Chief Corey) –**

- He reported that he has a pallet of water for use by fire personnel at scenes.

#### **Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Fallon Reed)**

- On behalf of the Director she thanked all for the support received in her confirmation.
- The Emergency Plan updates are ongoing.
- Warm Zone training is also ongoing and they will be working with the NHAFC to expand the opportunity.
- Houses of worship emergency training is also available and recommended.
- They are working on a Swift Water Rescue program. RFP is out for a contractor.
- The School Taskforce Recommendations Working Groups have been meeting. A new School Resource Center site has been placed in operation for ALL school personnel, parents, etc. It's a one-stop shop for information.
- She reminded all that table top exercises/games are available and can be offered to officers/firefighters/EMS personnel.
- She reminded attendees of the "See Something – Say Something" program. Posters are available for schools, buildings, etc.
- She also gave an update on the declared disasters that have occurred over the past 3 years.

#### **EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Dep. Chief Allard – in writing)**

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I had the opportunity to attend the New Hampshire Emergency and Medical Trauma Service Coordinating Board meeting on Thursday, May 23, 2019. Below are the highlights from the meeting:

##### 1. Division/BEMS Updates

- Hepatitis A – With the recent increase of Hepatitis A cases, the division is working with Public Health on updating our protocols so providers can assist with vaccinations if needed. This is a verbiage update, no major concern.
- Our administrative rules have been approved and will be signed by the Commissioner within 30 days. There was a brief discussion with regards to new language on how the Bureau needs to handle licensure suspensions. The Bureau's lawyers added language that mirrors how the Nursing Board handles these suspensions.
- The State has done a few spot ambulance inspections

throughout the State. No major issues found to date. Departments may want to consider verifying their ambulance inventories.

## 2. Committee/Board/Work Group Reports

- TMRC
  - Reviewing the utilization of air medical transport.
  - Elliot Hospital is now an ACS level II trauma center for adults and a level III for pediatrics.
  - Trauma conference at NHFA on 9/26 & 9/27
- Protocol Committee
  - ACS – Removed NTG paste
  - Bradycardia – Calcium drip update
  - Cardiac Arrest – Minor updates
  - CHF – Discussion on added CPAP for the EMT-B
- Stroke Care
  - FAST ED Protocol overview
- Conference being held in November – No date yet, more to come.

## 3. Old Business

- QA/QI – Jeremy LaPlante – requested to have 3 members from both the Coordinating Board and Medical Controls to look in a QA/QI process
  - Data Request – Chip Cooper – No Updates
- Privacy Committee – Chip Cooper – No Updates

**Forests and Lands** – Chief Sherman (no report)

**Building Code Review Board – (Chief Ober)**

- There has been no activity to report on.

**Board of Fire Control – Chief Andrus (report in writing) and Chief Clark**  
Neither board has met since the last meeting.

**Emergency Services and Communications** – Director Doyle (no report)

**E-911 Commission – (Chief Thomas) – (no report)**

**Fire Code Review Board – (no report)**

**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 –**

**Good and Welfare –**

Don Chambers spoke of the benefit golf tournament sponsored by 1-800-BOARDUP

Director Pendergast reported on her meeting with the National alliance on fire service cancer. She is encouraging firefighters to become part of the online registry that is available.

Dep. Director Phillips reported that the language on the state's cancer legislation has been cleaned up and will be voted on shortly.

The next meeting will be held at the Atlantic Grill in Rye on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 1700 hours.

Following the raffle, (proceeds of \$105 counted by Chiefs Christopoulos and Sitar) a MOTION (Klose/Akerstrom) to adjourn, carried at 1105 hours.

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

June 13, 2019