



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS, INC.

Working Together to Make a Difference

547 Charles Bancroft Hwy.

Litchfield, NH 03052

www.nhafc.org

Email: nhfirechiefs@gmail.com

Minutes of a Meeting of the NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Thursday, August 15, 2019 – Town and Country Inn, Shelburne (Gorham), NH

Called to order at 1821 hours by Chief Buxton.

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

Chief Jay Watkins welcomed all to Shelburne/Gorham and thanked members for attending.

Advocate Members present – Don Chambers of Dube Construction.

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

Special Guests: Executive Councilor Michael Cryans was welcomed and introduced. He spoke briefly, thanking all for their service and commitment. Chief Kevin LaChapelle, newly appointed Asst. Director of Homeland Security was introduced and congratulated.

Minutes of the July meeting: A MOTION (Christopoulos/Whitehouse) to accept them carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Pending.

Communications: Letter from Chief Christopher Milligan

Applications for membership: Active Members: Deputy Chief Justin Cutting of the Hampton Fire Department; Deputy Chief Adam Hughes of the Rochester Fire Department and Chief Dana Horne of the Randolph Fire Department.

Life Membership: n/a

President's Report: (Buxton) –

- Attended FST Commission meeting in July, NHFA is in the process of rolling out a new Customer Service program

- FF I/FFII Visiting Committee is the process of being developed
- Continue to participate in the Visiting Committee reviewing Haz-Mat Technician
- Preparing to participate in the Governor Commission on PTSD
- August 29th we will be working with the Department of Safety regarding PTSD
- NHAFC will be partnering with NHMA to present a Fire Service track during their annual conference (Sober Living, Cancer/PTSD, Bullying)
- As of this date no state budget
- Educational opportunities for the updated building code and fire code will be coming in September and October
- We continue to review the impacts of SB257 Foam regulations (PFOA)

Executive Director's Report (Lemire) –

- September 12 will be back at the Academy for a breakfast meeting and October 10 will be in Hudson.
- 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. Presentations will be made by members of the Mt. Washington Observatory and the Mountain Rescue services.
- Work is being done on the conversion to the new AMS program. Exec. Director and webmaster worked with MemberClicks. Chiefs Murray, Powers, Christopoulos and Lemire participated in a conference call to start the on-boarding process which should be completed by September.

1st Vice President Report (Jones) –

- He reported that he had participated in a meeting on the final language for code revision on photovoltaic systems on roofs.
- He also stated that he had attended a meeting of the NH Building Code officials and thanked them for their support in legislation adopting the new fire code.

2nd Vice President Report (Rhodes) –

- He spoke of the new role of the organization in proactive lobbying. We are beginning meetings with prospective firms next week.

Sgt. At Arms (Sitar) –

- He spoke of the NH Fire Chiefs' certification program. Working on it now. More information will be forthcoming.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Dep. Toomey)

- Applications closed July 1, 2019 and they are processing the ones received.

Division Reports

State Fire Marshal - Fire Marshal Parisi reported:

Bureau of Administration:

Reorganization: We are in the process of reorganization within the FMO. We have proposed the creation of a Bureau called Planning and Support Services to be led by District Chief Danielle Cole. This Bureau will handle the functional areas of public education, fireworks and pyrotechnics, hazardous materials, EOC operations, and special projects. Although not officially approved by the Department of Personnel, we have begun the transition within the office, and therefore this report is reflective of that change. SB 49 – Fire Code: SB 49 has been signed by the Governor. The 2015 edition of NFPA’s Fire Code (NFPA 1) will be effective September 8, 2019. HB 562 – Building Code: HB 562 has been signed by the Governor. The 2015 ICodes will be effective September 15, 2019. HB 710 – BCRB changes: HB 710 have been signed by the Governor and are effective August 11, 2019. Recovery Residences: 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 working on an Informational Bulletin for Recovery Residences to include a process for accommodations. 2020-2021 Budget: We are in a holdover status with the budget. Governor Sununu has signed a continuing resolution to operate through September 30. Currently, this should not affect our service delivery to our customers. If anything changes we will let you know.

Bureau of Investigations:

New/Active cases: 16 Calls for Service in the month of August; Our 8 investigators are actively working 21 Criminal Cases. Foxwoods 301 Event: BOI personnel assisted with NASCAR details at NHMS for the July Race. Recent Court Actions: A pipe-fitter has been indicted for a 2017 New Boston house explosion Also, a former Salisbury man will serve five to 10 years in state prison after pleading guilty to setting a fire that burned down a Franklin home in December 2018. 2018 Fire Deaths: The final report on 2018 fire deaths is being compiled and will be available shortly.

Bureau of Building Safety and Construction:

Educational Opportunities: 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. Also, we will be rolling out training sessions on NFPA 1 and 101, 2015 editions in the fall. These sessions have been scheduled for October 8, 10, and 11 in Concord; and October 16 and 17 in Franconia. Please see the flyer for more details. These classes are free, and are co-sponsored by the FMO, NHMA, Primex3, and the NFPA. Deadline to sign up is September 24. □ Solar: We have been working with the NHAFC, NHBOA and Solar Industry to consider potential amendments to the requirements for solar array spacing and roof access for one and two family dwellings. The workgroup has proposed an amendment that is in final review that would allow installations covering up to 50% of the total roof area to be exempt from the access provisions in NFPA 1. □ Administrative Rules: 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 □ School construction: We would like to remind everyone that the Department of Education rules (Ed 321.13) require the State Fire Marshal's Office to review all construction of public school facilities.

Bureau of Planning and Support Services:

□ Kidde Smoke Alarms: We have crafted a letter in conjunction with Kidde that will be sent to all homes that received Kidde smoke alarms during the Get Alarmed grant project that FD's participated in. The letter explains that some alarms are having issues, and if alarms are malfunctioning the homeowner should contact Kidde for replacement alarms. Their points of contact are both local representatives, so they won't be sent to a national person who knows nothing of this issue in NH. The letters will go out this month with a cover letter by the FMO and in an State of NH envelope so it's hopefully not discarded as junk mail. Fire Chiefs that have questions or concerns are encouraged to contact District Chief Stacey Dubois at Stacey.Dubois@dos.nh.gov. □ Fire Mobilization Plan: 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 . □ Side-by-side Sprinkler Prop: 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. □ Hazardous Materials: Hazmat Coordinator John Cannon has resigned from state service. We will take this opportunity to review this position and job description prior to posting this vacancy. We will be meeting with the statewide Hazmat collaborative (comprised of representatives of all teams, the NHSP EOD, and the 12th CST) to solicit input into what they need from the state. We will also solicit input from other stakeholders, including the Fire Chiefs, regarding this position. □ Fireworks: Fireworks Safety & Enforcement Unit conducted numerous Display, Proximate Audience, and Flame Effect inspections during the busy month of July. Total injury stats should be available next month. If your community hasn't reported a fireworks

related incident or injury in July, please do so ASAP to fmo.fireworks@dos.nh.gov □ Social Media/Public Outreach: 31 Twitter and Facebook Posts. These posts reached 24,794 people with 72 new followers.

CO and Fire Safety: The Vermont and NH Fire Safety and Carbon Monoxide Awareness and Prevention Summit will be held in Lebanon on November 5th and 6th. This is a free event which focuses on preventing death and injuries, specifically pertaining to Vermont and NH. The registration will be opening soon for this event, for more details contact our Public Education Section. □ Fire Prevention Week: This year, Fire Prevention Week is scheduled for October 6 through 12. In preparation for Fire Prevention Week, NH FMO public educators will be connecting with local fire departments to drop off calendars, provide posters advertising FPW, along with a newsletter. For departments having local FPW events the newsletter will provide information about how the FMO will help advertise the event on our website, through social media and also about a drawing for departments to win a FPW banner.

Fire Standards/Training/EMS – (Director Pendergast)

Logistics-

Ladder 1 passed all inspections and is back in service after approximately \$20,000 of repairs and testing.

We have taken delivery of our grant funded Hazardous Materials Tanker rollover prop. This is now added to the cache of props for use both at the Academy or can be brought out to departments or Mutual Aid Districts under the “Department usage policy”. (We are working with the vendor on 1 quality issue on the prop before it will be available for use)

We have also taken delivery of 4 Portable generator/LED light towers for the North Country drill yard, also grant-funded.

The Technical Rescue Building (J building) has had some final additions. There is now a deck on the A side and also bulkhead stairs were added.

We have made an assessment of the “Training House” at our Bethlehem Facility and after speaking with several North Country Chiefs, the decision was made to make a few repairs that will allow continued use of that building.

The ARFF site has had some PM and painting done over the last few weeks. Several recertification programs are scheduled for September.

Programs-

The Bethlehem and Rye Firefighter I programs have recently begun.

Recruit school: We are in week 4 of the full time recruit program with a full class of 27 students. This is an extremely hard-working group who are supporting each other to succeed.

Summer classes also include Aircraft Firefighter, Concord FF I evening, Firefighter I-Rye, FF I – Bethlehem, 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.

We have 4 Driver Operator/pumps classes scheduled for the fall as well as Mental Health First Aid.

The fall offerings of both FF I and FF II from LRCC are full.

EMS in the Warm Zone: We are now over the half way point for departments who have met the Grant requirements for the training. A total of 56 departments have completed the training, we have 4 departments on the schedule (Claremont, Pelham, Milford, and Langdon) and 11 more departments pending scheduling as of end of July.

CPAT- Our final 2019 offering of the CPAT test is scheduled for September 16, one day only.

Budget-

We are operating on a 3 month continuing resolution since the veto of the proposed budget. Because we are on a bit of a seasonal schedule, we have requested an advance of \$50,00 through the Fiscal Committee in order to continue to hold classes in early fall.

Other news-

We will be hosting the NH Trauma Conference here at the Academy on September 27.

Hayley O'Brien has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant to Senior Staff. (After June Connor retired). Denice McAdoo has retired as of July 31, 2019

Justin Romanello (EMS Bureau Chief) reported on several items in his area, including the issue on the LifePaks not being effective on those under 8 years of age. Pediatrics pads are needed in that case.

Bureau of EMS – (Justin Romanello)

His report included information on:

EMS Operations Committee of Merit Event – 30th September NREMT Remote Testing Site for Cognitive Exam o NREMT Remote Testing Coordinator – Part-Time

Retirement - Kim Mattil -Licensing and Education Regulation Coordinator (Regions 2, 3, and 4)

Clinical Systems State of New Hampshire Trauma Conference – 26th and 27th of September. Open Positions - o Trauma Coordinator – Awaiting State Budget

Data Systems DERMIS – User Management System o Expected to be released in +/- 3 Months

Open Positions -TEMSIS Elite Support Specialist Coordinator – Part-Time Records Management Coordinator

Education Delivery Continuing Education o Teleconferencing Hospital Sites – Concord, New London, Monadnock, Wentworth Douglas, St. Josephs and Dartmouth (TBD) Services – 45th Parallel, Linwood (TBD) and SOLO (TBD) - Weekend Quarterly Training 0830 – 1230 Saturdays \$5 includes Breakfast 14 September

2019 Initial Programs o EMT Programing - Currently under development - EMR Course – Late Fall? Open Positions
o Simulation Program Coordinator - In process o Staff Instructor – In process
Recruitment and Retention Workforce Engagement Study with office of rural health
 Survey questions are completed Beta testing underway with two random participant from the following groups New Licensee Current Licensee Expired/Non-Renewed Licensee Once feedback is received will identify any needs for improvement

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

He mentioned that a state-wide recruitment drive will be undertaken with information on the website.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management – (Director Harper) No report

EMS Trauma Medical Review Board – (Chief Allard)

1. Division/BEMS Updates

- PM's are being completed on all apparatus at NHFA.
- The Division has a new Haz-Mat Tank Rollover prop.
- CPAT pass rate for June was 68%
- Committee of Merit Ceremony will be on 9/30/2019 at the Capital Center for the Arts in Concord.
- EMS Operations rules were ratified and approved by the Commissioner.

2. Committee/Board/Work Group Reports

- TMRC
 - Dr. Eric Martin was appointed as the new chair of TMRC
 - Trauma Conference will be 9/26 and 9/27 at the NHFA

3. Old Business

- QA/QI – Jeremy LaPlante – No new information
- Data Request – Chip Cooper – No Updates
- Privacy Committee – Chip Cooper – No Updates

4. New Business

- Clinical Bulletin #54: Vaccination Protocol Clarification – If there is ever a Public Health Safety Epidemic declared in the

state, Paramedic's & AEMT's may assist the public in giving vaccinations.

- **Clinical Bulletin #55 & #56: (Important)** "Multi-Function Cardiac Monitors" AED Mode: Lifepak 12, 15, and 20's in AED mode will only shock in adult mode. The Multi-Function Cardiac Monitors in AED mode will not be able to shock a patient 8 years and younger at the appropriate electric shock.

Everyone is being advised to have a plan until a long term solution is put in place. Consistent with AHA guidelines state it is okay to administer an adult amount of electricity to a pediatric patient if that is all you have. It has not been proven to be harmful.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2019

Forests and Lands – Chief Sherman

Fire activity has picked up slightly with the dry weather. We have had a few fires over the past few weeks, one in Tamworth and one in Gorham. Please keep your Ranger informed about any fires in your communities.

Our new Forest Ranger for District 12, Luc Perreault will be graduating from the Police Academy on August 23rd and resuming his field training the next week. Captain Accardi will be covering District 12 in his absence.

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. Remember the deadline for everything to be returned to our office is August 31st. New VFA Grant applications have been sent out and are due by September 30th.

Work continues with the fire towers capital improvement projects. Oak Hill fire tower is having the final work finished up. Kearsarge fire tower has been demolished and the cab replacement is well under way. The last project scheduled is Milan Hill fire tower which is planned to be completed next spring.

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/LandConservation/Wildland-Fire-Prevention/Wildland-Fire-Prevention>. A national calendar of events is located at <https://www.smokeybear75th.org/>.

□ We have conducted many prevention events this summer to recognize the Smokey Bear 75th. From libraries to Fairs to the Fisher Cats, Bureau staff has been very busy with this throughout the summer and will continue into the fall.

□ With the support of the NFFPC Wildfire-Prevention and Education Working Team, the Friends of Smokey Bear hot air balloon returned to the northeast this summer. The balloon was in Franconia Notch State Park at Profile Field on August 15, 2019 as part of the Division of Forests & Lands 75th birthday celebration for Smokey Bear. There were 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.

□ After leaving NH, the Smokey balloon is 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.

□ 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) 8925088 (Cell Phone) or via email at Richard.Todd@dncr.nh.gov.

We have recently secured a 2002-2005 ALF structural engine with a 1500 gpm pump and 750 gal. tank, formerly used at Otis AFB. If your community is interested, please contact Rick Todd soon as we plan to award it in September.

Building Code Review Board – (Chiefs Powers/Tetreault)

- Although we have been on summer recess, I am pleased to report that the board, in conjunction with the effort of the State Fire Marshal's Office, New Hampshire Building Official's Association, New Hampshire Homebuilder's Association, and others worked with the state legislature to update our codes. In September, we will begin using the 2015 ICC Building Codes, as well as the 2015 NFPA 1 fire code.
- There will be no rest come this fall, as the board will delve into the 2018 ICC codes to prepare for the next code cycle adoption.
- I have been selected to chair the subcommittee tasked with reviewing the 2018 ICC International Mechanical Code.
- Also, Chief Ober's appointment to the board has expired. I would like to thank him for his efforts with the building code review board. Unless one has served on the board, it is difficult to understand the amount of time and effort it takes to review various editions of the ICC building codes in order to make a well-informed decision whether or not to support, object to, or propose modifications to a particular code under review.
- Please note that legal counsel to the board, Heather Neville, has confirmed that the term of our appointed members to this board runs three years from the time they are appointed, and not from the time someone they are replacing had been appointed (if they are replacing someone whom has left their term prior to its termination).
- It is my understanding that House Bill 710 (attached) was approved on July 12, 2019 and went into effect August 11th. Highlights of this bill are:

- Members appointed to the board may now serve three terms of three years in length, rather than two as previously adopted.
- Each “appointing authority” may appoint one alternative member. The intent of this language was so that NHAFC could send an alternate to sit on the board when a regular appointee is not able to attend. It is not clear to me if the appointing authority can be NHAFC or the commissioner of safety. If the latter, then we may want to select a qualified alternate ahead of time
- New language has been added to further define the board’s authority, such as recommending published codes that are a minimum of two years old. The board must submit a summary of all significant changes in that code edition, cost estimates, and the need for the change. Previously, the board was authorized to adopt newer codes at will, but those newly adopted codes would expire if not ratified by the state legislature within two years. New codes may now only be established with an affirmative vote from the state legislature.
- The board may now hear appeals of final decisions by local building code officials, but only if the intent of the code is believed to have been incorrectly interpreted. The board cannot issue waivers or variances to the code. The appeal must be made to the BCRB within 30 days of the local board’s decision.
- The board must now publish amendments of the state’s codes made by municipalities, as well as provide accessibility to all of the state’s adopted codes and amendments. It is my understanding, as of this report, that the state is struggling to fund this requirement.
- Our next regular meeting is scheduled to be September 13th, 10am at the Department of Safety Building.

Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board:

- There have been no meetings since our last NHAFC meeting. Nothing to report. Please note that my term expires on October 3, 2019. I will gladly continue to serve, if the membership supports it.

Board of Fire Control – Chief Andrus / Chief Clark

They are starting work on the sober housing issue.

Emergency Services and Communications – Director Doyle (no report)

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

New England Division of the IAFC – Chief Rhodes reported on his trip to FRI in Atlanta and encouraged non-members to join as there is a wealth of information offered

New England Association of Fire Chiefs – Chief Jones’ reported that they are moving forward with the merger.

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

Old Business –

New Business –

Good and Welfare – Chief Klose reported that the Fire Chief in Newington (Darin Sabine) is suffering from terminal stomach cancer and his days are short. We were asked to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

The next meeting will be held at the NH Fire Academy on September 12, 2019 at 0900 hours.

Following the raffle, (proceeds of \$130) counted by Chiefs Christopoulos and Sitar) a MOTION (Christopoulos/Jones) to adjourn, carried at 1912 hours.

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

August 15, 2019