



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, January 10, 2019 – New Hampshire Fire Academy – Concord.

The meeting was called to order at 0930 hours by Chief Buxton.

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

Director Pendergast welcomed all to the Academy and wished all a Happy New Year.

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

Advocate Members present – Donald Chambers of 1-800 BOARD UP; Alex McCurdy of FDSS, Peter Hoekstra of Peniel Environmental, Frank Carideo of Kingfisher, Inc., Tom Green of Green Insurance and Jeff Spencer of Medical Business Services

Special Guests:

Minutes of the November meeting: A MOTION (Klose/Lund) to accept them carried unanimously.

Financial Report for the month. (n/a)

Communications: (none)

Applications for membership: (none)

Life Membership: (none)

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

- Fire Code and Sober Housing – He reported that they will be following the legislative efforts on these bills.
- Chief Fire Officer Credentialing – Chief Achilles shared the Initial Application for Chief Fire Officer Designation. It is in draft form for comment.
- Committee Assignments

- NVFC Seats
 - Board of Fire Control
- Strategic Planning Day 2/6 – waiting to hear back from Rick Alpers to confirm.
- 5 Family Meeting – This will take place on January 10 1100 hours at the NHFA.
- Legislative Session 2019
 - Currently 880 LSRs listed not a lot of information available as of today. 39 of interest, most surrounding Fire/Building Codes, PTSD
- Cancer
 - Working group with Primex, NHMA, NHAFC, PFFNH, NHFA
 - Working on educational document that will be presented through Town and City in May 2019
- Visiting Committee – The NHFA has posted several visiting committees for curricula.
- NHFA Rules Department Roster – The requirement that every organization send a roster to the NHFA has produced the following:
 - 5144 Active members
 - 30 Departments no response as of today
 - Yearly requirement
- Nominating Committee – He will be appointing this committee over the next few weeks.
- He will also be establishing the Budget and Audit Committees.
- He mentioned the dates for CFSI and it appears that Congress is not in session. ED will investigate further.

Executive Director’s Report (Lemire) –

- The February meeting will also be a breakfast meeting at the Academy due to the 14th being Valentine’s Day.
- The March meeting will include corned beef and cabbage dinner at Alan’s of Boscawen (our breakfast caterer). The cost will be \$27 (all inclusive).
- Preliminary work is beginning 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 being scheduled and may be on the 6th of February.
- 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.
- Preliminary work is also being done to bring back the Professional Enhancement Weekend for members, spouses and guests. It will be at the Red Jacket Mountainview in North Conway in either November or the second week of December of 2019. Plan ahead because we need a minimum of 50 participants.
- I am working on completing and RFP for lobbying services for the organization.
- Association patches are available for sale at \$3.00 each.

He also read a statement from Rick Mason concerning Marshal Parisi which read:

“Thursday evening, January 10, 2019 at the St. Anselm's Center of Politics the Daniel Webster Boy Scout Council will bestow the National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award to New Hampshire State Fire Marshal, Paul Parisi. Paul earned the Eagle Scout Award as a youth in his home town of Reading, MA. He epitomizes the integrity and attributes of a true leader and follows the Scout Oath and Law in his daily life. For more information search for NESAs NOESAs (the web address is too long to place here).

Paul will be among the first 13 that have received the award in NH.”

Marshal Parisi received a standing ovation at this point.

Interim 1st Vice President Report - (Carrier) –

He reported on the successful Crooked Mt. Christmas party. The attendance was lower than other years and they will be working on that with the new format.

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

Legislation – Chief Jones reported that there are 880 LSR's filed with 39 being of interest.

He also reported that he sits on the Primex Fire Symposium Committee and solicited input for subjects of interest.

Sgt. At Arms/Professional Development (LaChapelle) –

He displayed the items for sale and spoke of the new ordering of material from the NHAFC store.

Committee Reports

Scholarship Committee – (Toomey) – No report

Division Reports

State Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Parisi reported:

1. Division's priorities: 1.To build strong relationships and collaborate with stakeholders to solve our statewide challenges regarding the modernization and update to state building and fire codes that keep the businesses and public safe and secure with a reasonable fiscal impact and true cost benefit. 2.To solve the fire and life safety challenges with the current opioid crisis as it relates to sober living facilities by working with all stakeholders to address reasonable accommodations that address fire and life safety needs while also understanding the urgency to provide good treatment housing. 3.To find new methods to provide education and training for municipal fire inspectors so that the fire code is consistently applied and enforced throughout the state. 4.To secure long term funding for the State Fire Marshal's Office while constantly seeking new sources of program driven revenue.
2. Legislative interactions: Provided the DOS Business office with three fiscal impact statements for proposed LSRs regarding the flammability of furniture and carpeting, and well water testing. Met with Senator Carson who is filing 3 Legislative Service

Requests on our behalf relative to the 2015 Fire Code, FMO Detail pay, and Insurance Indemnification. Met with Representative Beaudoin relative to the 2015 Fire Code. Contacted several senators and Representatives relative to co-sponsoring FMO legislation.

3. Administrative rule changes, regulatory changes: On December 20th, Division members attended the JLCAR hearing for Saf-C 3300 Modular Housing and Saf-C 5000 Display Fireworks rules. Both will be returning to JLCAR in January. Working with the Legal Unit to finalize the rules.
4. Interactions with federal government: The FMO received overtime reimbursement from the ATF for cases both agencies worked together in the month of October.

Fire Standards, Training and EMS – (Director Pendergast)

She reported that:

Logistics-

Our aerial truck is out of service, but repairs are underway currently .

Our 'B' building is getting preventative maintenance service to be prepared for the spring programs.

We applied for 2018 AFG funds for the following items:

30 new SCBA cylinders

'A' Building new lining system for burn rooms

10 wheel 60,000# haul tractor

Pediatric high fidelity simulation manikin

--total funding requested~ \$420,000

The Government shutdown will delay the announcement and funding of the 2018 grants.

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 Psychological First Aid class and a 40 hour CIT (Crisis Intervention Training)

Our spring certification programs are being scheduled out and 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)

Budget-

We are working with the DOS business office in putting together an edited budget for the next biennium. Our Division, along with the FMO, were asked to show a further reduced budget as an exercise and put together a narrative outlining the impacts to our

programs. We have completed this project and are awaiting further budget talks as we enter the new Legislative session.

UPDATE: Final budget submitted to the business office, awaiting the Governor's budget address and budget work sessions.

We went to G and C in November to accept and expend our 2017 AFG funding of ~ \$360,000

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

Other news-

The Bureau of EMS worked with the evaluation Team from NHTSA and completed a comprehensive assessment of the EMS system in the State.

UPDATE: Final report received. The Executive summary and full report is on our website.

The 2018-19 Legislative season has begun and bills are starting to be filed. Chief Mercuri is reviewing each piece that may affect our Division in any way and will report out to the Boards.

Our Division is working with Primex, NH Chiefs, PFFNH and other stakeholders to update the Fire Service Career Legislation.

To date 85% of NH Fire Departments have reported their membership rosters (These were due by December 31st)

Chiefs Mercuri reported on the SAMHSA status as follows:

- 5 communities have complete applications
- They have been reviewed by the advisory committee and the Director
- They are being prepped for G&C at the end of the month
- We requested the funds we did not use in the first year to carry over, awaiting work from SAMHSA
- Additional communities have also applied and will move through the process as their applications become complete
- Our applications have no real deadline, we will accept them as they come in

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

NVFC – (Chief Fraitzl) – (No report)

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

Homeland Security & Emergency Management – (Director Plummer) –

Director Plummer reported on:

- Warm Zone Equipment/Training grants available
- Exercises - He described the various exercises available and they will be concentrating on school safety. They have money for several exercise opportunities for towns and cities. They just completed a full scale drill at the SNHU arena.
- They are working on training for safety in houses of worship and self-assessment templates.
- Swift water incident assessment is completed and the results will be shared shortly.
- He listed a few more recommendations from the safe school report.
- SAFE School notification program is available and free to all schools thanks to a donation through a non-profit.
- They are working on an anonymous tip line and app.
- He reminded all of the Emergency Management Academy. There are 4 levels and is a certificate awarded program.
- He introduced Fallon Reed and Matt Hotchkiss from NHHSEM.
- NH Emergency Management Conference will be June 4.

Forests and Lands – (Chief Sherman) –

- We are currently working on filling a forest ranger vacancy. We have given a conditional offer and are conducting the background investigation. This is for a vacancy in Grafton County.
- We have met with the Seacoast Type 3 IMT to review member qualifications and experience. One team member was recently accepted on to the Eastern Area Type II Incident Management Team. We will continue to work with the team and offer more opportunities for training and experience for them. Building this partnership is important to our agency as this team has helped out in state on wildland fires as well as all-hazard-incidents.
- We will be 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 draft information is currently in with the AG's Office for review.
- The application period is open for Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, which will be held this first Saturday in May (the 4th in 2019). Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is a national campaign that encourages people to come together on a single day to take action to reduce their wildfire risk. The application period for one of one hundred fifty \$500 awards will close March 1 at midnight EST. Winners will be announced March 22. The link will be available on NFPA's Prep Day page. <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Campaigns/National-Wildfire-Community-Preparedness-Day>

- After reviewing some of the concerns with the issuance of Fire Permits, we have modified the paper permits. Drafts of the modified fire permit were shown and Warden Association Meetings last fall and feedback was very positive. A portion of the spring Warden/DW training will go over the new permit.
- The online fire permit program saw its biggest year in 2018. 10,564 permits were sold and 14,790 permits were entered manually by towns. If your town has not signed up to the online permit program, you are encouraged to do so. This has proven to be a success for both residents obtaining permits and fire departments.

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

The Board of Fire Control met on December 12th and received a briefing from Fire Marshal Parisi on the activities of the Fire Marshal’s office and pending legislation. The Fire Marshal also presented an amendment to NFPA 1 on floor protection that is acceptable to both the fire service and to the homebuilders. A public hearing has been scheduled for January 17th at 9:30 a.m. for the Board to hear testimony on the proposed amendment. The Board also appointed a sub committee to review the issues with sober housing and Chief Skantze is on this sub-committee.

Additional information is available on the Division of Fire Safety website.

Joint Committee on Code Enforcement

The Joint Committee on Code Enforcement met on November 8, 2018 and received an update from Fire Marshal Parisi on the progress of the HB1254 Committee. The next meeting of the committee is January 10th, today, at 2:00 p.m. in the IPOC.

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

Manufactured Housing Standards Board – (Chief Powers)

He informed the group of the last meeting of the board and the complaint addressed.

Emergency Services and Communications – (Director Doyle)

- Attended the NH Association of Police Chief’s meeting in Hampton. Updated membership on ongoing projects and activities within the Division;
- Met with representatives from the Science and Technology Committee, including Rep. Jeanine Notter; Rep-Elect Dennis Acton; and Rep-Elect Alicia Lekas, for discussion regarding MLTS Legislation and a tour of the PSAP;
- Met with SESA (Suggestion and Extraordinary Service Award Program) Committee to recommend several employees for their cost savings recommendation involving a new, more efficient system of radio network monitoring;
- Meeting to discuss the MOMA with our BTOP (Broadband Technology Opportunity Program) stakeholders to update the current agreement and allocation bandwidth/costs;
- Attended the Barnstead Police Department “Open House”, dedication of their new Police Station. Met with their Chief of Police and staff;

- Assisted NH State Police and responding State/Local/SWAT/ESU Units from the New Hampshire and Maine with our Deployable Incident Command Vehicle. Assisted in Communications during the incident until suspect was taken into custody;
- Met with Wireless Partners regarding their buildout of cellular coverage in the North Country (Milan, West Stewartstown, Colebrook) and the possibility of a PPP with the Department of Safety for location of radio assets on their towers
- Met with Grants management, the SWIC John Stevens and the team to discuss radio re-programming for focus on interoperability channel programming in local/county first responder radios;
- Meeting with FCC Region 19 (New England) Technical Advisory Committee to be hosted here at the IPOC
- Presented at the New Hampshire Emergency Dispatcher's Association Supervisor's Seminar regarding changes and mission of E9-1-1
- Attended the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police conference in North Conway
- The E9-1-1 Commission recognized outgoing Chairman Doug Aiken for his many years of service as Chair of the Commission at our December 14th meeting at the Fire Academy. Councilor Kenney was in attendance to read the proclamation to Chairman Aiken
- P25 Radio project preparations continue – site visit was 12-18 in Chicago to view staging and discuss specifics with Motorola's engineering staff
- Ongoing meetings with Grants Management to discuss the RFP for MCPTT (Push to talk) applications for FirstNet
- With medical instruction over the phone from 9-1-1 Telecommunicators, two babies were delivered hours apart. The first at 12:10 AM in Manchester and the second at 6:42 AM in Nashua. The two 9-1-1 Telecommunicators will receive mugs and stork pins for the deliveries.
 - Held our monthly Division Senior Staff Meeting;
 - Meeting with Representatives from Kologik re: Copsync Emergency Alerting (Campus Safety) for schools;
 - E9-1-1 Commission meeting. Ret. Commission Chair Doug Aiken was recognized for his 26 years of service on the E9-1-1 Commission by Executive Councilor Kenney;
 Members of the Division went to Motorola (Elgin, IL) for a testing, demonstration and acceptance of the new P25 Radio system cores that we are having installed throughout next year.

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

New England Division of the IAFC – Chief Achilles – (No report)

New England Association of Fire Chiefs – Chief Jones reported that the 2019 conference will be at Foxwoods and 2020 will be in Worcester.

SAMHSA Committee – Chief Rhodes suggested that members familiarize themselves with the "Hub and Spoke" system of treatment, etc. as it is quite lengthy and complex.

Old Business –

New Business –

Good and Welfare –

Don Chambers reported that their raffle to benefit the Fallen Firefighters' Memorial netted \$800.

Jeff Spencer reported on his program to familiarize themselves on EMS reimbursement. He offered this information to any department who needs it.

The raffle was held with a \$181 collected and \$90 returned as prizes, counted by Chiefs LaChapelle and Jones

Chief Klose reported that there have been two firefighter suicides in the last month. He suggested that chiefs keep an eye on their personnel. Director Pendergast reported that 60 to 70% of the suicides have military connections.

Following the raffle, a MOTION to adjourn, carried at 1046 hours.

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

January 10, 2019