

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION**

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### **MINUTES OF MEETING** **November 1, 2007** *(Approved – January 3, 2008)*

Members Present: Edward Murdough, Brad Simpkins, Michael Williams, David Duquette, Kevin Pratt, Stephen Carrier, Richard Mason, Karen Schlitzer, Al Burbank, Earl Sweeney, John Hoglund, William Degnan, R. Gary Stenhouse.

Members Absent: Joseph Butts, George Sykes.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services*—Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Sue Prentiss, Bureau Chief; Denice McAdoo, Recording Secretary, Chief Chris Christopoulos, Lebanon FD, Chief Shawn Murray, Hudson FD, Joe Friere, Supt. Of Training – Nashua FD, David Lang, Pres. – NH Professional Firefighters, and his Administrative Assistant Nicole Porter.

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Item 1. Call to Order.** The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair David Duquette at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 1, 2007 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Item 1. Motion** was made by Commissioner Burbank, seconded by Commissioner Murdough, to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2007 Commission meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

### III. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Duquette introduced the newest Commission member, R. Gary Stenhouse. Commissioner Stenhouse will be representing the Municipal Association. Introductions were then made by each Commission member to Gary Stenhouse.

### III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Item 1. Emergency Medical Services.** Chief Prentiss gave her report. No written copy was available.

**Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office.** Fire Marshal Degnan gave his report. No written copy was available.

**Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau.** Commissioner Simpkins gave the following report:

#### Forest Protection Bureau Report for November 1st, 2007

- In state fire statistics: 454 fires 203 acres Debris fires remain our number one cause, representing 192 of those fires.
- Currently have a 20-person fire crew posted as available within the national system. We are watching California, but are closely monitoring the South due to extreme drought conditions.
- Our new training engine is now housed at the Fire Academy and has been outfitted with tools and will shortly have graphics applied.
- Our weekend training in September was a success despite significant rain on Saturday. We had approximately 70 firefighters show up. We raffled off numerous prizes such as PPE. The community that traveled the farthest (Hampton Falls) received six backpack pumps and a mop-up kit. The community that sent the most people (Hinsdale) received a Wick 100 portable pump.
- We have received somewhere between 80 to 100 applications so far for the four forest ranger vacancies. The physical fitness testing will commence in early December.
- New Hampshire had its first Firewise community recognized. It is only the third such recognition given to a community in all of New England. The Ski and Beach community in Tamworth, located in the pitch pine fuel type, has done considerable work at reducing the threat of a wildland fire, including clearing brush away from houses, constructing a new egress, installing a fire danger sign, and applying for funds for a new cistern. The Northeast Forest Fire Compact reimbursed the community just over \$26,000 for their efforts.

- The Volunteer Fire Assistance grant applications were mailed out and need to be back in by the end of November.
- There are at least two LSR's that have come out that would impact the Forest Fire Service. One is in regards to the minimum age of firefighters who can fight brush and forest fires in the state. A second request concerns leave and compensation for state employees who are responding to a wildland fire or other emergency.
- DES is clarifying the issue regarding last year's legislation about the burning of any wood associated with construction or demolition. This new legislation that goes into effect on January 1, 2008 does not apply to landowners, only businesses or commercial operations. Therefore, there should not be much impact on the issuance of burn permits, other than Category IV or when a non-landowner is requesting to burn the prohibited material.

**Item 4. Curriculum Review.** Curriculum Status Report by Chief Rosolen is in each Commission member's packet and is as follows:

**CURRICULUM STATUS REPORT  
November 1, 2007**

(a) **Driver/Operator:**

- (1) Pumps:
- (2) Aerial Apparatus:  
Still waiting to hear from the committee. No other programs will be approved at this point.
- (3) All Vehicle:  
We are currently forming a visiting committee to review this program and bring it up to the NFPA standard. A report will be coming forthwith.

(b) **Hazardous Materials:**

Waiting for the new standard, will need a visiting committee this Fall.

- (1) Operations:
- (2) Technician:

(c) **Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting:**

(d) **NFPA 1030 Series:**

- (1) NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners: Inspector II is now Pro-Board accredited.
- (2) NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator is in the planning stage for delivery. A planning meeting is to take place in early November.
- (3) NFPA 1035, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator: Will probably follow the 1033 standard.

(e) **Rescue Series:**

- (1) Structural Collapse:  
No pilots scheduled as yet.
- (2) Confined Space:  
A confined space trailer has been purchased from Mike Carrier of Merrimack Fire and is on campus at this time.
- (3) Technical Rope Rescue:  
An Operational level of rope rescue TtT has been accomplished and This program is ready to be offered this month. A Rope Rescue Technician class is scheduled for early September. The first Operations class went well.
- (4) Trench Rescue:  
A Trench Rescue class was completed in April.
- (5) Water Rescue/Ice will be the next programs to be considered.

(f) **NFPA 1001 Firefighter I and Firefighter II:**

A Visiting committee is needed this Fall to view curriculum resources and the new NFPA Standard.

(g) **NFPA 1021 Fire Officer:**

The fall class was cancelled due to low enrollment. A Spring class will be scheduled.

(h) **NFPA 1041 Instructor:**

A Instructor I course is scheduled for February in the Lakes Region. A Bridge course is planned for January or February.

(i) **NFPA 1051 Wildland Firefighter:**

Doing well at this point.

(j) **C2F2**

More discussion on the skills evaluation will be taking place.

(k) **ICS/NIMS**

Starting to regionalize these programs for more effective and economical delivery. An ICS 300/400 program was just completed that included a TtT. We are now able to offer these classes around the State.

## **Pro-Board Certifications, Standards and Year**

NFPA 1001, Firefighter I, 2002  
NFPA 1001, Firefighter II, 2002  
NFPA 1002, Driver Operator Pump & Aerial, 2003  
NFPA 1021, Fire Officer I&II, III&IV, 2003  
NFPA 1041, Fire Service Instructor I, II, III, 2002  
NFPA 1031, Fire Inspector I, 2003 and soon Inspector II  
NFPA 1003, Airport Firefighter, 2005  
NFPA 472, Hazardous Materials Operations, 2002  
NFPA 472, Hazardous Materials Technician, 2002  
NFPA 1006, Rescue series not yet accredited, 2003  
NFPA 1051, Wildland Firefighter, 2006

**Item 5. Academy Awards.** Commissioner Carrier reminded everyone that the Academy Awards ceremony is tonight at 7:00 p.m. Rehearsal for the ceremony will be immediately after this meeting, followed by dinner at 5:30.

**Item 6. Nominating Committee.** This committee was appointed for the purpose of nominating a Chair and Vice-Chair. On this Committee has been: Commissioner Simpkins, Commissioner Hoglund, Commissioner Sykes and Commissioner Murdough. This should be taken voted on at the November meeting.

## **IV. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

**Item 1. Director's Report #111.** The Director's Report #111 for November 1, 2007 was reviewed by Director Mason and was as follows:

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT #111 November 1, 2007**

I cannot believe it has been an entire year since the 2006 Academy Awards ceremony! This proves that time flies, especially as we approach the "mature" years! I hope all had a great summer and fall! Now it is time to get the snow shovels ready!

#### **1) Commission Membership**

I am pleased to announce that the vacated position for the NH Municipal Association has been filled. R. Gary Stenhouse, the Town Administrator for Derry, N.H. has taken this seat with his first term to end November 16, 2009.

The vacancy now is the Chief of a volunteer fire department for the NH Association of Fire Chiefs.

2) Division Employment

With the promotion of Brenda Marston we are in the process of hiring Rachel Frame of Ashland for our vacant secretary position. Her start date is still not determined.

The vacant Program Specialist III position in the Bureau of EMS is in the background investigation phase and should be filled shortly.

3) Fire Station Addition

The construction is complete! We are now assembling shelving as the back half of the room has a full mezzanine and we will have a tool crib like facility for training and operating equipment.

This will help with our logistics drastically!

4) North American Fire Training Directors

September 25-28 we hosted the North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD) annual meeting at the new Hilton Garden Inn in Portsmouth. Visiting the meeting were the new United States Fire Administrator Greg Cade, National Fire Academy Superintendent Dr. Denis Onieal, and National Fallen Firefighter Foundation Executive Director Ron Siarnicki. We also had 34 states represented and 2 Canadian Provinces. It was an honor to host these great folks!

During the meeting we were bussed to our fire academy for tours and demonstrations, and then visited Globe Firefighting Suits in Pittsfield.

During the meeting I was unanimously voted the NAFTD President for the next 2 years with the Oregon Director as Vice-President.

5) 100 Club

On September 11, 2007 I represented the New Hampshire fire service at the Hundred Club of New Hampshire annual meeting in Bedford. This group does great things for the fire, EMS and police services. I have attached an application form for your use if you wish. They do not readily accept active emergency responder applications.

Benefits given by the Hundred Club for Line of Duty Deaths:

The Hundred Club provides the following benefits to the family of the deceased:

- \$10,000 check immediately upon the death of a member of our Protective Services;
- Each child and college student receives \$300 every Christmas;
- Children can vacation at any summer camp of their choice;
- Educational assistance is made available for institutions of higher learning. \$19,000 per year up to \$76,000 for four-year students;
- Continued communication and emotional support throughout the years.

6) New EOC (Emergency Operations Center)

The Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS has been asked by the Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Chris Pope, to handle physical arrangements and logistics for long term EOC operations. This would include feeding, lodging, access, etc. for small operations.

7) Firefighter Memorial Day

House Bill 135 passed in the last legislative session making the second Sunday in October as Firefighter Memorial Day. This year it was October 14<sup>th</sup> and at 2:00 p.m. we held a memorial service at the new Fallen Firefighter Memorial here at the academy with Commission Chaplain, Father Angelo Pappas presiding.

The service was prepared by the Professional Firefighters of NH, NH Association of Fire Chiefs, NH State Firemen's Association, NH Fire Prevention Society, the Fire Marshal's office and our office. This service, 36 minutes in length, with 200+ in attendance went very well. Mark October 12, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. for next year's service on your calendar!

8) NH Fire & EMS Committee of Merit

October 10, 2007 marked the NH Fire & EMS Committee of Merit award ceremony. Nearly 125 fire service and EMS providers were honored for going beyond the call of duty.

Barnstead Firefighter Stephen L. Jones was presented the Paul Sypek medal of valor posthumously. FF Jones was a line of duty death while working for the department last December.

9) National Leadership Summit

I was invited to the Leadership Summit last week in Washington, D.C. While it was a 2-day summit, due to previous plans I could only attend one day. That day however we heard from Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, U.S. Fire Administrator Greg Cade, and Gordon Routley (he chaired the committee reviewing the fire in Charleston, SC, where 9 firefighters perished).

This was extremely interesting, as well as the networking with 200 other fire service officials!

Well, you can see we have been busy these last couple of months. I did not even get into the classes offered! I am pleased to announce that this past Saturday Bureau Chief Jeff Phillips “tied the knot” with former division employee Michelle Duchesne. They are in Las Vegas on their honeymoon as we meet! Congratulations Jeff and Michelle, many happy years!!!

Director Mason added that we have not adopted a 2008 schedule yet. The next Commission meeting will be January 3, 2008, if that is fine with everyone. Also, the Administrative Rules, at this point, will be readopted and filed with changes. Commissioner Burbank wanted to know if everyone thinks having the meetings every other month is enough.

Reference was made to the Sugar Hill item and Director Mason referred everyone to the letter included in the packets.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Chair Duquette recognized Commissioner Simpkins for nominations. Simpkins said the committee met and nominated David Duquette for Chair and Steve Carrier as Vice-Chair. Floor was opened for other nominations. The voting will take place in January.

Commissioner Pratt wanted to know if the issue of letting fire fighters review failed material will be addressed. Chief Rosolen said that we are not going to allow this.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 1.** C2F2 – There was a discussion of the curriculum between the guests and commission members. The outcome was a motion to review the program by the Fire Academy Staff, made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Murdough.

**Item 2.** Director Mason asked that everyone review the memo from Capt. Uitts to Chief Rosolen in their packets before the next meeting.

## **VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Chair Duquette wanted to share a story regarding the Fire Fighter's Memorial. On October 14, 1972 George Grenier, a fire fighter on the Dover Fire Dept. was killed in the line of duty. That was exactly 35 years to the day that his wife attended our service and placed a carnation on the memorial site. It was also their wedding anniversary.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Burbank, seconded by Commissioner Pratt, to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 11/01/07
2. Minutes of Meeting – 06/07/07 – Approved 09/06/07
3. Curriculum Status Report 11/01/07
4. Minutes of Meeting – 09/06/07 – Not Approved
5. Director's Report #110 – 11/01/07