

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING

June 4, 2009

(Non-Approved)

Members Present: David Duquette, Stephen Carrier, Richard Mason, Frank Fraitzl, Gary Stenhouse, John Hogle, Kevin Pratt, Mark Tetreault, Mike Williams, Joe Butts, Brad Simpkins, Earl Sweeney, Ed Murdough and Al Burbank.

Members Absent: Bill Degnan and Karen Schlitzer.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services*-Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Jeff Phillips, Bureau Chief, Sue Prentiss, Bureau Chief, Denice McAdoo, Recording Secretary, Capt. Andy Anderson. Also present were Richard Bilodeau (Pembroke) and Mark Lemay (Goffstown).

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 Duquette at 3:05 p.m. on Thursday, June 4, 2009 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Murdough.

II. Approval of Minutes

Item 1. *Motion* was made by Commissioner Burbank and seconded by Vice-Chair Carrier to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2009 Commission meeting with no changes. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Simpkins abstained because he was absent from that meeting.

III. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Duquette commented that in all the years he has been Chair of the Commission, which will end this November, of all the subjects that have come up for discussion C2F2 has always been an issue. He said that the Commission has

always addressed the needs of the fire service and if each member votes with their conscience, that is all anyone can ask of them. However the C2F2 issue works out, it was done with good intent.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS (Taken out of order at Commissioner's requests)

Item 1. - C2F2 Motion was made by Commissioner Burbank and seconded by Commissioner Sweeney to open a discussion of C2F2 before voting on it.

Commissioner Sweeney suggested suspending C2F2 for 3-6 months and go back to work on it. Chair Duquette expressed concern that if it is suspended for a few months, what happens to the students waiting to complete the class. Do they then take it afterwards or just fall through the cracks. Commissioner Butts said that doing so (suspending the program) would "open up a can of worms." He suggested voting to either get rid of it or keep it and not suspend it. He also said that it would take more than 3-6 months and people would fall through the cracks.

Director Mason asked Commissioner Sweeney if he recalled, in the IAFF letter, what sections would be in violation. He stated that we (the Fire Academy) do not do any recruiting, C2F2 is training for those who either want to be recruited or it is training that is mandated within the first year of employment. Commissioner Sweeney said that the problem is that the program is seen as a "pass/fail" and the communities are dismissing those individuals who seem to fail. He also said if we are going to say someone failed, we need to make sure that we have a validation study of each of the tasks and make sure the criteria used has been validated.

Commissioner Burbank said if we were to eliminate the program as a hiring requirement for fulltime fire fighters and instead kept it as a stand alone program individual departments would do their own training. He also said that he would hate to see C2F2 go away, but that it is fraught with problems. He said he is in favor of suspending it.

Chair Duquette brought up the fact that if we are using the same objectives and same testing in FF I and FF II as in C2F2, then it has already been validated and tested, why is it not alright to use it in C2F2. He said meeting the national standard in one place means it is still a national standard in the other place. Director Mason stated that we use the exact same job sheets in FF I and FF II for C2F2. That is what the students are being evaluated against. Chair Duquette said that C2F2 has been looked at and worked on by a visiting committee and to say that students are being evaluated by something that does not meet the national standard is not correct.

Referring to Commissioner Burbank's statement that C2F2 is a *hiring requirement*, Director Mason stated that it is not a hiring requirement, but rather a *training requirement* to be completed within the first year upon being hired, unless an extension is obtained.

Commissioner Burbank made a motion to keep C2F2 as it is: a training requirement to be completed within one year of employment. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion.

Commissioner Murdough stated that he thinks the problems are not with the C2F2 program itself, but rather with the system. Specifically, the problems are: the one year completion requirement, physical fitness of the students, instructors not trained to the standard and recruitment. He believes that changing C2F2 will not change those problems. We will have the same problems, just in a different program.

A roll call vote was taken, with the result being 9 in favor of keeping C2F2 and 4 in favor of eliminating the program. Those in favor were: Commissioners Murdough, Simpkins, Williams, Fraitzl, Carrier, Burbank, Hoglund, Butts and Tetreault. Those opposed were: Commissioners Sweeney, Duquette, Pratt and Stenhouse.

Commissioner Fraitzl made a motion to establish an advisory or review committee to review C2F2 and address the concerns that were raised as a result of the discussions. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Carrier. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services. Chief Prentiss gave a report, nothing was submitted in writing.

Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office. Fire Marshal Degnan was absent and no report was submitted.

Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Simpkins gave his report and a written copy was in everyone's packet.

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

CURRICULUM STATUS REPORT
June 4, 2009

(a) **Driver/Operator:**

- (1) Pumps:
- (2) Aerial Apparatus:
- (3) All Vehicle:

(b) **Hazardous Materials:**

Captain Pragoff and Jeff Allison are reviewing the standard now and have formed a visiting committee for the new standard and curriculum.

- (1) Operations: Two programs are needed here. One for 1001 FFI with chapters 5 and 6.6 with 6.2 24 hrs., another program for EMS only chapter 5 16 hrs.
- (2) Technician: Awaiting the new materials to be printed to go to visiting committee.

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

(d) **NFPA 1030 Series:**

- (1) NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners.
- (2) NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator is in the planning stage for delivery.
- (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:
- (2) Confined Space:
- (3) Technical Rope Rescue:
- (4) Trench Rescue:
- (5) Ice Rescue – This program will need to be reviewed before any are offered.

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

Train the Trainers have begun and will continue over the next 6 to 8 months. Recruit school and the IEU programs have been completed and the feedback will be presented at this meeting. FFI looks very good; FFII after some discussion will work.

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

A visiting committee will be formed for this discipline soon.

(h) **NFPA 1041 Instructor:**

A visiting committee will be formed for this discipline soon.

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

(j) **C2F2 ????**

(k) ICS/NIMS:

Pro-Board Certifications, Standards and Year

NFPA 1001, Firefighter I, 2008
NFPA 1001, Firefighter II, 2008
NFPA 1002, Driver Operator Pump & Aerial, 2003
NFPA 1021, Fire Officer I&II, III&IV, 2003
NFPA 1041, Fire Service Instructor I, II, III, 2007
NFPA 1031, Fire Inspector I, 2003 and soon Inspector II
NFPA 1003, Airport Firefighter, 2005
NFPA 472, Hazardous Materials Operations, 2008
NFPA 472, Hazardous Materials Technician, 2008
NFPA 1006, Rescue series not yet accredited, 2003
NFPA 1051, Wildland Firefighter, 2006

Capt. Andy Anderson made a presentation of the new Fire Fighter I, which consists of 216 hours and Fire Fighter II, which consists of 120 hours. He stated that both programs have run very well. The difference in hours in the new curriculum was discussed.

Commissioner Sweeney made a motion to accept the new FFI and FFII curriculum as presented and move forward. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Carrier. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to report.

VII. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Item 1. Director's Report #121. The Director's Report #121 for June 4, 2009 was reviewed by Director Mason and was as follows:

Director's Report #121

June 4, 2009

Where we only met last month and typically the month of May is busy with classes wrapping up, I find a short Director's Report for today's meeting.

1. Harmless Hazards Trailer: Just over four years ago we received an augmented virtual reality training trailer made by Harmless Hazards of Bedford, NH. We had worked with the folks at Harmless Hazards in the creation of this technology, which they were funding through Department of Defense

grant funds, specifically with the Navy. One of our thought was to utilize this equipment for high school job fairs and other public relations events...as the technology utilized a hose line, SCBA, a helmet, and a fire inside the trailer. The only deficiency with the original design was no nozzle reaction or heat. The Navy purchased our trailer and gave it to us on loan through a bailment agreement. Well, Harmless Hazards went out of business and we have no support for the technology, therefore being so technological our system went out of service. So have all the Navy installations! We contacted the Navy to be released from the agreement, however they have no use for the trailer so it has been donated to us...we will strip the technology from the trailer and will use it for our field programs as an office, rehab area, and will assure the restroom is brought to workable condition.

2. RECRUIT SCHOOL 2009 – NOW HISTORY: The 18 Recruits who survived the first week of class actually survived the entire program graduating on May 15th in a well attended graduation ceremony. The student speaker, Tim Joyce, from Tilton-Northfield Fire Department did a commendable job for the class, as well his drawings were appreciated throughout the class. Other speakers included Commissioner Barthelmes, Chairman Duquette, and LT. Bruce Phillips of Manchester. The C2F2 Chief for this class was Commissioner Joe Butts who also did a commendable job...as usual.
3. FIRE INSTRUCTOR AND OFFICER OF THE YEAR: The Fire Instructors and Officers Association of New Hampshire held their annual meeting on May 27th in Concord. The highlight of the evening are the presentation of their two capstone awards, we congratulate both recipients!
 - a. The 2008 recipient of the John T. Ayers Fire Instructor of the Year Award was Captain Joe Butts of the Manchester Fire Department. He was the seventeenth recipient since the award's inception in 1989.
 - b. The 2008 recipient of the Peter J. Carver Fire Officer of the Year Award was Captain Bernard A. Marvin III of the Portsmouth Fire Department. The second recipient of this award that was established last year.
4. BUDGET: The budget which passed the Senate yesterday seems to have all our budgetary needs in tact, except the fire truck which was removed in the House phase. We are fortunate however to have the City of Manchester Fire Department donating a pumper to us in late summer...Thanks Commissioner Butts. The Senate also restored a portion of the record fees that were amended in the House phase of the process.
5. TRAIN-THE-TRAINERS: We are conducting numerous train-the-trainer programs on our equipment, apparatus and props to increase the people certified to operate our equipment during training, and assuring they are operated in a SAFE manner.
6. DEPUTY BUREAU CHIEF POSITION: We have reconfigured a program specialist position to be a higher level officer ion the Bureau of Training and Certification, where there were 6 subordinate captains who all reported directly to the bureau chief. The oral board promotional phase has been completed and the in-basket and essay portion are being graded presently. We are hoping to complete this process before July 1st.
7. PERSONNEL: Last month we had an update on personnel changes, and here is the update:

- a. EMS Research and Quality Assurance Coordinator has been filled by Richard Cooper who will transfer from Health and Human Services on June 19th.
- b. We have held the interview board to replace our receptionist and are going forward with the candidate who prevailed in that process.
- c. EMS Licensing Officer is being reviewed for possible change in grade, and then we will advertise.
- d. Lastly, see item 6 above.

We are hoping that all positions will be filled by mid-summer.

Also brought up for discussion was a letter received from Twin State Mutual Aid Fire Association. A copy of this letter was in each Commissioner's packet.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Appoint C2F2 Committee consisting of the following members: Chair Duquette, Vice-Chair Carrier and Commissioners Burbank, Butts, Fraitzl and Pratt. A meeting was scheduled for September 3rd at 9:00 a.m.

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Fraitzl, seconded by Commissioner Burbank, to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 6/04/09
2. Minutes of Meeting – 5/07/09 – Not Approved
3. Curriculum Status Report - 6/04/09
4. Director's Report #121 – 6/04/09