

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

Location: 98 Smokey Bear Blvd, Concord, NH  
Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305  
Telephone: 603-223-4200  
Toll Free: 1-800-371-4503  
Fax: 603-271-1091

### **MINUTES OF MEETING** **November 14, 2013** *(Approved)*

Members Present: Stephen Carrier, Brad Simpkins, Kevin Pratt, George Klauber, Michael Brown, Jeremy Thibeault, Richard McGahey, Kerry LeBlanc, Mark Tetreault and J. Michael Joyal.

Members Absent: William Degnan, David Lindh, Earl Sweeney and William Campbell.

Vacancy: Dept. of Education Designee.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services*—Deborah Pendergast, Director; Jeffrey Phillips, Bureau Chief; Nick Mercuri, EMS Bureau Chief; Denice McAdoo, Recording Secretary; Dep. Chief Eric Wilking (Exeter FD); Jason Lyon (Chief – New London FD and President of NHAFC); David Jones; Rick Todd, President NH State Federation of Forest Fire Warden Association; Captain Meredith Lund, NHFA; and Chester Martel.

#### **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 Carrier at 2:10 p.m. on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH.

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by EMS Bureau Chief Nick Mercuri.

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

***Motion*** was made by Commissioner Thibeault; seconded by Commissioner McGahey to accept the June 6, 2013; August 29, 2013 and September 5, 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

### **III. CHAIR’S REMARKS**

Chair Carrier asked that when making motions everyone please remember to state their name and to be clear in wording the motion. He said he had missed the last meeting as he was attending the EFO symposium in Emmitsburg.

Just in case he doesn’t see everyone before, Happy Holidays!!

### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Item 1. Emergency Medical Services.** Commissioner Tetreault was present and gave a report. There was no written report submitted.

**Item 2. Fire Marshal’s Office.** Director Degnan was not present. Chair Carrier gave a brief update on what Max Schultz had talked about earlier at the NHAFC meeting.

**Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau.** Chief Simpkins was present and gave a report. There was no written report submitted.

**Item 4. Curriculum Review.** Bureau Chief Phillips gave an update. There was no written report submitted.

**Item 5. Academy Awards.** Chair Carrier went over the schedule. Everyone will meet immediately following the conclusion of this meeting. Remember: you can start now with the nominations for next year’s academy awards!! It is not too early!!

### **V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

Director Pendergast gave a brief report on what has been going on in the Division since she started. She said the North Country training facility has officially been named after Councilman Ray Burton (Raymond S. Burton Fire and EMS Training Facility). Ground has been broken and site work is nearly complete. Captain Nick Antonucci will have an office there. Last Saturday they held there first official training class.

In earlier meetings with the 2 Bureau Chiefs she said they have been discussing where the needs are; where things can be tightened up. A working group has been formed to talk about our instructor/mentor process; instructor evaluation, etc. If any of the Commissioners is interested in becoming a part of this and offering input, please let her know.

They are also looking at the Division organizational chart. Chief Rosolen's position is not going to be filled and there are a couple of other positions that have not been filled. We are looking at what positions we want to have filled. Any input would be appreciated.

There are 7 FFI courses in progress; 3 FFII courses; we have completed a total of 169 courses and have put 2299 students through those classes.

The Assistance to Fire Fighter Grant process is open now and has been opened to fire training academies where it was previously only open to fire departments and municipalities. We have a grant application started.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

**Item 1.** Fire Fighter I Forestry Module – Chair Carrier stated that the vote was previously taken for WFF-I

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Klauber; seconded by Commissioner Joyal to open the floor for public input. Motion passed unanimously. Rick Todd – President of the NH State Federation of Forest Fire Warden Associations - was present and reviewed a written submission (Resolution) which was presented to the Commissioners. He said a vote was taken within their organization and it was unanimous that they go on record as opposing any changes to the Wildland portion of the FFI course.

There was some discussion/input from Dep. Chief Wilking and Chester Martel.

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Klauber; seconded by Commissioner Joyal to close the public input session. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Carrier read a letter from Chief Allan Clark (Sugar Hill FD) for the record. A copy was in each commissioner's packet.

There was a power point presentation showing the results of the survey that was sent out. A paper copy was also available to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Simpkins went over some statistics with regard to worker's comp claims involved in Wildland Fire Fighting.

Commissioner McGahey stated that the survey to him was enlightening. He also said it seemed the Commission might be accommodating a small group who does not care about training one way or the other and would like the Commission to reconsider its original decision. He was on the Visiting Committee

that was part of this and apologized that he was not at the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Those who sat on that Visiting Committee worked really hard to crunch the numbers and get the hours reduced. There was some discussion about the decision made at the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Klauber; seconded by Commissioner Thibeault to reaffirm the original motion from the September 5, 2013 meeting stating the 8 hour Wildland curriculum would be used unless the 24 hour program is asked for. Motion did not pass.

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Simpkins; seconded by Commissioner McGahey to amend the aforementioned motion and incorporate Wildland Fire Fighter I back into FFI with delivery beyond Spring 2014 to be online accompanied by an 8 hour practical. Motion passed unanimously.

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Brown; seconded by Commissioner Klauber to amend the previous motion and to make the effective date **July 1, 2014**. Motion passed unanimously.

**Item 2.** Commissioner Klauber talked about the healthcare requirements prior to taking training. NFPA 1582 standard came back from the committee with questions. Commissioner Klauber said he is available, as is anyone else on the committee, to address any questions. Everyone is in agreement that something needs to be done before a person enters into training. There will be a report at the next Commission meeting.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Thibeault; seconded by Commissioner Klauber to approve the Commission meeting schedule for 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. was made by Commissioner McGahey and seconded by Commissioner Klauber. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Pendergast, Director