

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING

January 6, 2011

(Approved)

Members Present: Stephen Carrier, Richard Mason, George Klauber, Kevin Pratt, John Hogle, William Degnan, Ed Murdough, Brad Simpkins, Joe Butts, Mark Tetreault and Michael Brown.

Members Absent: Al Burbank, Earl Sweeney, Jason Lyon, Gary Stenhouse and David Lindh, Jr.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services*—Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Jeffrey Phillips, Bureau Chief; Andy Anderson, Deputy Bureau Chief, Clay Odell, Bureau Chief and Denice McAdoo, Recording Secretary.

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 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 6, 2011 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH.

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Commissioner Butts.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 1. Motion was made by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Butts to change the word “adopt” on page 5, Item 1 under Old Business of the minutes of December 16, 2010 to “endorse.” Motion to accept the minutes with the revision passed unanimously. Commissioners Simpkins and Tetreault abstained.

III. CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Carrier brought everyone up to date on Commissioner Lyon's condition. Commissioner Lyon shattered his tibia and tore his ACL while ski-joring with a horse and will be off of his feet for about 10 weeks.

Chair also mentioned that this is Director Mason's last Commission meeting. He said it has been a pleasure to work with the Director and wished him best of luck.

There was a LODD in Shapley, Maine where a responding fire fighter was ejected from the vehicle. Please remember to wear your safety belt!!

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services. Commissioner Tetreault said he was not present at the last Medical Control Board meetings and deferred to Bureau Chief Clay Odell to report. There was no written report.

Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office. Fire Marshal Degnan gave his report. No written report was submitted.

Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Simpkins gave his report as follows:

Report of the Forest Protection Bureau for January, 2011

- Fire Statistics for 2010:
 - 412 fires for 148 acres burned
 - 3 prescribed fires for 19 acres
- We will be having a follow-up meeting with a company this Friday who is developing a prototype for us to be able to issue fire permits on-line. We don't know exactly when the program will be functional, but we are hoping within the next year or so to at least start a pilot program with a few towns.
- The Volunteer Fire Assistance committee met this past fall and disbursed the 2011 VFA grants. We had 51 towns apply for a total of \$67,652. We disbursed \$38,413 to 30 towns.
- The Forest Protection Bureau will become even more short-staffed over the next 3 to 4 months, as our Bureau Program Assistant will be leaving on maternity leave

and we just had a forest ranger who broke his femur after slipping on some ice. We will ensure coverage during their absences.

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

CURRICULUM STATUS REPORT
January 6, 2011

- (a) **Driver/Operator:**
 - (1) Pumps:
A visiting committee will be needed soon to look at this program.
 - (2) Aerial Apparatus: The new program has good reviews thus far.
 - (3) All Vehicle:

- (b) **Hazardous Materials:**
 - (1) Technician: Currently looking at different resources.

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

- (d) **NFPA 1030 Series:**
 - (1) NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners.
A visiting committee is reviewing these programs.
 - (2) NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator
 - (3) NFPA 1035, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator

- (e) **NFPA 1006 Rescue Series:**
 - (1) Structural Collapse:
 - (2) Confined Space:
 - (3) Technical Rope Rescue:
 - (4) Trench Rescue:
 - (5) Ice Rescue:
A needs assessment has been completed by a survey with a return of over 60 responses. Vehicle and Heavy Machinery seems to be the next level to pursue, with Water Rescue next; there were none others really desired.

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

July 1, 2010 ended the 2003 standard. All FF1a, FF1b and FFII exams have been destroyed and are no longer available based on our accreditation requirements.

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

- (h) **NFPA 1041 Instructor:**

- (i) NFPA 1051 Wildland Firefighter:
- (j) ICS/NIMS:

Pro-Board Certifications, Standards and Year

NFPA 1001, Firefighter I, 2008
NFPA 1001, Firefighter II, 2008
NFPA 1002, Driver Operator Pump & Aerial, 2009
NFPA 1021, Fire Officer I&II, III&IV, 2009
NFPA 1041, Fire Service Instructor I, II, III, 2007
NFPA 1031, Fire Inspector I & II, 2007
NFPA 1003, Airport Firefighter, 2010
NFPA 472, Hazardous Materials Operations, 2008
NFPA 472, Hazardous Materials Technician, 2008
NFPA 1006, Rescue series not yet accredited, 2008
NFPA 1051, Wildland Firefighter, 2007

Item 5 – Nominating Committee: *Motion* was made by Commissioner Murdough and seconded by Commissioner Klauber to accept the recommendations of Commissioner Stephen Carrier for Chairman and Commissioner Al Burbank for Vice-Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Director Mason included in everyone's packets a letter from Chuck Burkell of NFA, who was presented an Academy Award in November 2010.

VI. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Item 1. Director's Report #130. The Director's Report #130 for January 6, 2011 was reviewed by Director Mason and was as follows:

Director's Report
#130
1996 – 2011 What a ride!

As I write Director's Report #130, my final report to you as Director for New Hampshire Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services, I reflect on what WE have accomplished in less than 15 years! I have included some of these highlights:

1. Dedicated Funding

A legislative committee worked through the fall of 2000 to find a dedicated funding source for fire training and emergency medical services. This committee established HB303 (2001) which made fees collected from motor vehicle records to be deposited in the “fire fund” which now pays our bills. In 2003 the State Fire Marshal and Emergency Management budgets were added to our fund.

2. Facilities

In 1996 the 52 bed dormitory and 2 bay fire station were being completed. Since then we have added 24 bedrooms and 3 classrooms to the dormitory (2003) and 2 bays and a “tool crib” to the fire station (2006). In the drill yard we added the first Flashover Simulator in New England. The Class A burn building and a fitness trail (built by 2 Eagle Scout candidates).

Amenities added to the buildings were a fully furnished fitness room, total audio/visual support for all classrooms, as well as having all buildings protected with automatic sprinkler & alarm systems.

3. Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Facility

May 14, 2002 we held the grand opening of the ARFF training facility built with more than \$7 million from the Federal Aviation Administration and a 10% state match. This facility includes a specialized aircraft trainer with 7 localized burners and a fuel spill trainer with a 125 foot fuel spill which can be seen from Exit 5 on I-89 when burning. In the building is the control room for the props and added another classroom to the academy.

4. Certification, Accreditation and College Credits

With any educational facility it is extremely important to have your courses and classes to have significant meaning. With that the Commission in 1996 voted to have certification follow nationally accepted training standards. This led to the curriculum being accredited so it is just as accepted out of state as in state...we have had our certifications accredited by the Pro-Board for more than 10 years! Most of our curriculum is also assigned college credits based upon length of class and difficulty.

5. Emergency Medical Services

On January 9, 2002 the Governor, with consent of the Executive Council, transferred the Division of EMS to the Division of Fire Standards and Training as an independent bureau. Since that time we have seen many enhancements to the EMS delivery and oversight in New Hampshire. Legislation in 2004 made this change more permanent by modifying the RSA's to reflect our current organization.

a) Five sections established:

- 1) Education – Transitioned to a central data base (rather than regional) and a merged data base of both fire and EMS training. Educational rules have been re-written and adopted.

- 2) Field Services – Licensing can be accessed through the field offices, standardized the investigations required, lead the administrative rule process and relegated the CPR card maintenance to the provider.
 - 3) Advanced Life Support – Switched from local option protocols to statewide protocols which integrated the National Scope of Practice. Major revision to critical care inter-facility transport practice.
 - 4) Trauma Services – Revised the NH Trauma System Plan and established a trauma simulation training program for hospitals.
 - 5) Data & Quality Management – We were one of the first three states in the United States to utilize Trauma and Emergency Medical Services Information System (TEMSIS) as a national reporting tool.
- b) We have moved all our field offices for EMS to locations more central to the regions and hospitals covered. The newest office was in Berlin on Main Street, which was totally consumed in a 2007 fire. We have since located that office to Gorham. Offices are also located in Wilton and Lebanon. Occasionally we staff an office in the Epping Fire Station. Being stretched around the state we have enhanced our entire phone system to be voice over internet, so all phones are easily called from any office.

6. Equipment

In July 1997 we took delivery of 3 fire trucks: 1,250 gpm pumper, 100 foot aerial with 1,000 gpm pump, and a 16 foot heavy rescue. The ARFF grant provided us with an airport crash truck, a partnership with the Division of Forest and Lands (Department of Resources and Economic Development) provided us with a forestry vehicle and the cities of Portsmouth and Manchester have graciously donated apparatus. We have requested an additional pumper in the FY11 budget.

We also have more than 20 trailers to assist with specialty programs: hazardous materials, LPG emergencies, SCBA maze, virtual reality, entrance test and more.

7. NH Fallen Firefighter's Memorial

After many years of discussions with the NH Association of Fire Chaplains and finding a spot for a memorial, only to have other construction projects create a change in location, the memorial became a reality! In August 2006 more than 100 fire fighters from across New Hampshire helped build the memorial...including both NH congressmen who helped lay bricks! The dedication was in September 2006 and an act legislated in 2007 mandated the second Sunday in October as "New Hampshire Fire Fighters Memorial Day" and we celebrate with a special service at the memorial site on that day each year.

8. Fire Act Grant Training

Since 2001 we have worked hand-in-hand with FEMA to assure appropriate training has been available to apply for the Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant program. We hosted at least six training sessions each year throughout the state. New Hampshire has seen above average results:

Fire Act	\$29,761,029	389 awards
Safer (staffing)	3,188,914	11 awards
Fire Prevention & Safety	6,273,720	81 awards
Fire Stations (1 yr only)	1,655,671	1 award
Total	\$40,879,334	482 awards

9. Training Offered

With the appropriate resources we have been able to offer training throughout the state with more than half the programs being held in the field, to accommodate all fire fighters. An example of the benefits of appropriate resources are the number of classes and students we support.

FY 2000	4,577 students 281 classes
FY 2010	14,016 students 457 classes

During the past fifteen years we have hosted almost 150 graduations of our programs and I personally have attended more than 120 of these graduations!

Another major milestone is the high school vocational program established this past September. This year there are 15 juniors at Dover High School participating in a Firefighter I program and when they are seniors they will take EMT-Basic and a new group of juniors will take Firefighter I. New Ipswich and Littleton High Schools have also expressed an interest in this program.

10. Special Events

- a) Explorer Fire Academy – We choose the last week in June each year for the training of our future NH Fire Service. Since 1996 we have had 900 Explorers trained through this venue. I know several who are now in the fire fighter ranks!
- b) Camp Fully Involved – During the summer we host about 2 dozen young female students to see if they are interested in the fire service as a career, again several have become fire service members!
- c) Academy Awards – We have hosted 15 academy award ceremonies honoring 77 with the Commission’s Academy Award from as far away as Michigan and 2 from the National Fire Academy. As well, 19 have been bestowed the Fire Service Award of Merit.
- d) International – We have hosted fire service officials from Ireland, Germany, Spain, Australia and others! In addition, we have hosted several one week programs for fire fighters from Ecuador.
- e) Government Officials Day – We started only a year ago, but plans are well on the way for this year’s program in April.
- f) AmeriCorps – We have teamed up with the AmeriCorps officials from Maine and Vermont to work on getting AmeriCorps to fund emergency responders in smaller fire and EMS departments.

- g) Homecoming Flag Details – We have worked with local fire departments to assure the American flag has been flying for military homecoming details. We have participated in about 2 dozen home comings!
- h) Fire Rescue New England – We have provided the audio-visual needs for the New England Fire Rescue training for more than a decade.
- i) Training Resources and Data Exchange (TRADE) – We have participated in this National Fire Academy program since 1996. I served as Region I co-chair in 1998-1999.
- j) North American Fire Training Directors – A group specifically organized for the assistance of state and provincial fire training directors which have been a great asset. In 2007 I was elected the president for a 2 year term. As well we hosted their annual meeting that year!

The above are what I consider the top 10 highlights of our accomplishments since 1996; bearing in mind these are in no particular order...all are very important. As my tenure comes to a close I thank you all for your friendship, support and dedication.

Very sincerely,

Richard A. Mason, CFO, MIFire
Director

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. CDs with Commission archives and information. In everyone's packets.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1. Approve meeting dates and times for 2011. ***Motion*** was made by Commissioner Klauber and seconded by Commissioner Pratt to accept the meeting dates for 2011. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 2. Chair Carrier wanted to let everyone know that he has met with Commissioner Barthelmes regarding Director's Mason's replacement. Chair said that the Commissioner thinks there won't be a need for a special meeting of the Commission. He thinks that the regular meeting in March will be time enough for the Commission to hold a confirmation vote. Chair also mentioned that the Commissioner urged anyone who is interested get their resume and a letter of intent to him as soon as possible. He also said that the Commissioner will consult with the Commission on this. An update will be on the Agenda for the March meeting.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Nothing to report.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. was made by Commissioner Klauber and seconded by Commissioner Pratt. Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 1/06/11
2. Minutes of Meeting – 12/07/10 – Not Approved
3. Curriculum Status Report 1/06/11
4. Director's Report #130 – 1/06/11