

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

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### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**October 6, 2011**

*(Approved)*

Members Present: Stephen Carrier, George Klauber, Jason Lyon, Mark Tetreault, Michael Brown, David Lindh, John Hoglund, Edward Murdough and Brad Simpkins.

Members Absent: Earl Sweeney, Al Burbank, Joseph Butts, Kevin Pratt and William Degan.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services*—Perry Plummer, Director, Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Jeffrey Phillips, 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 10:10 a.m. on Thursday, October 6, 2011 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH.

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Commissioner Simpkins.

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

**Item 1. Motion** was made by Commissioner Lindh, seconded by Commissioner Lyon to accept the minutes of the July 20, 2011 special meeting. Motion passed, with Commissioners Murdough and Tetreault abstaining.

#### **III. CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Chair Carrier is now Chief of Gilford Fire. Chief Beland has retired. Congratulations Steve!!

#### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Item 1. Emergency Medical Services.** Commissioner Tetreault gave his report. No written report was submitted.

**Item 2. Fire Marshal's Office.** Fire Marshal Degnan was not present. No written report was submitted.

**Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau.** Commissioner Simpkins gave his report. No written report was submitted.

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

##### CURRICULUM STATUS REPORT October 6, 2011

- (a) **Driver/Operator:**
  - (1) Pumps: The visiting committee is presenting this program this month.
  - (2) Aerial Apparatus:
  - (3) All Vehicle: Looking to review this program for a needed revision.
- (b) **Hazardous Materials:**
- (c) **Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting:**
- (d) **NFPA 1030 Series:\*\***
  - (1) NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners. This program is being presented this month.
  - (2) NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator, looking for a working group to decide how to proceed at this time.
- (e) **NFPA 1006 Rescue Series:**
  - (1) Structural Collapse:
  - (2) Confined Space:
  - (3) Technical Rope Rescue:
  - (4) Trench Rescue:
- (f) **NFPA 1001 Firefighter I and Firefighter II:\*\***
  - (1) Looking for a working group to produce a "Firefighter responder, Rural Firefighter" program to offer volunteer departments that would count toward FFI.
- (g) **NFPA 1021 Fire Officer:\*\***
  - (1) Beginning to review materials to offer III & IV as a portfolio method other than CFO.
  - (2) A number of classes are scheduled this fall (Portsmouth & NHFA) and this winter.

(h) NFPA 1041 Instructor:\*\*

(1) A number of courses are currently going on now, (Portsmouth & Littleton) with two more planned for this winter.

(i) NFPA 1051 Wildland Firefighter

(j) ICS/NIMS

\*\* Programs that are considered for on-line learning to be able to offer more programs in the future.

**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

Chair Carrier asked that a committee be formed to take a look at the hours in FFI. He said that it could be decided before the next Commission meeting who will be on this committee. Commissioner Lyon said that he would be happy to sit on that committee.

**V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

**Item 1. Director's Report #3.** The Director's Report #3 for October 6, 2011 submitted by Director Plummer was in everyone's packet and was as follows:

**Director's Report  
#3  
October 6, 2011**

**Red Shirt Fridays**

The Division is implementing a new program called Red Shirt Fridays. Each Friday our participating employees will be wearing red shirts that read "Support Our Troops."

The goal of this program is to show support for our service men and women and their families and let them know we appreciate the sacrifice they make each and everyday.

While this is not our original idea, it's great to be able to show our support in this small way. The sacrifice of our military personnel and their families really hits home when members of our public safety family are impacted. We miss them, worry about them and are proud of them all at the same time. We all should do what we can to support their families while they are gone, but feel this is one more way to show support and our desire to keep them in our thoughts while they are away.

### **Online / Blended Learning**

Converting many of our programs to blended learning will be a priority. Currently we are presenting two Instructor I programs in a blended learning format. Temsis guru Brad Weilbrenner has been reassigned to get our online learning program up and running.

The Instructor I program pilots have been reduced from 40 classroom hours to approximately 20 classroom hours.

### **Instructor Education**

In an effort to assist our instructors in meeting their continuing education requirements we will be hosting the following 3 hour training session. The session is sure to be extremely entertaining and educational, as it is presented by Chief Rick Lasky, one of the fire services top educators. This is a frank talk by one of the country's leading fire service professionals.

**When: October 17, 2011 - 7pm - 10 pm**

**Where: The Fire Academy - Concord**

**Program: Why Aren't The Numbers Going Down?**

Each year agencies such as the NFPA, NIOSH, USFA, along with several others, publish documents describing the Line Of Duty Deaths (LODD) and injuries suffered by firefighters for the previous year. And each year talented fire service instructors and fire academies across North America, host seminars and conduct training all in an effort to reduce the amount of injuries and fatalities. With all of this great work, why aren't the numbers going down? This session takes a hard look at the causes for those losses and discusses the *realistic* steps necessary to finally begin to make a difference and ensure that every firefighter goes home, safely to their families.

### **Revised Instructor Hiring Policy**

Due to recent budget cuts as well as a desire to offer training to more students, we are changing our policy of automatically having two instructors teaching every classroom session. A single instructor will be used where appropriate.

This does not mean that two instructors cannot be hired and used when necessary. The Program Coordinators can hire two instructors for a classroom session if they feel that

there is a need to, however, I ask it be justified and make sense to do so, not just as a routine practice.

I understand this new policy will place additional burdens on the instructors and coordinators, however, as economic times change so does how we have to do business. This should not affect the amount of teaching time available as additional programs will be conducted. Practical sessions shall still be staffed at an adequate level to conduct quality training as they have been in the past.

I know that having two instructors make it easier if one instructor cannot make it, so I asked instructors to please keep an eye on their schedule and let the program/course coordinator know as early as possible if they have a conflict.

### **Entrance Exam Study Guide**

The Division will be using the same Study Guide (TPM) for our next Entrance Exam. The Academy has these in stock as is available for immediate purchase. They will be the same price as last year, \$15.00 if they pick it up or \$18.95 for those that would like to have them mailed to them. The forms to fill out and the books will be at reception so that we are able to track the purchases. If you have any questions, please feel free to direct those to Scott Merrill, Program Coordinator.

### **Use of Lights and Siren**

At the last Medical Control Board meeting Chris Lemelin from McGregor Ambulance and graduate student from UNH delivered a presentation based on Master's in Public Health thesis titled "Lights and Siren Use in NH."

Mike Pepin, Chairman of the Best Practice Committee, stated due to increased interest and the fact that they have been able to verify with the two largest insurance carriers that it is NOT a policy of the insurance companies that lights and siren HAVE to be used whenever there is a patient in the ambulance, they are reviewing the lights and siren best practice document.

Plummer stated that the key is in education. He believes that educating providers on the risks of L&S use along knowledge of minimal time benefit, that most agencies would initiate policies voluntarily. He added that the fire chiefs meet on a regular basis and it would be best to bring it before them.

There was additional discussion if the best practice was just from the scene to the hospital, or did it also include responding to the scene. D Rivers, from E-911 stated that the use of the call determinants is not mandatory but up to local policy. Plummer stated they needed to break out the, to the scene and to the hospital response if they wanted to gain acceptance.

Cooper pointed out that there is an EMS Safety Course by the National Association of EMTs that addresses ambulance safety.

Plummer concluded that we should work with the Local Government Center and Primex to put together a program to begin to educate EMS/Fire leadership.

### **Outline of Recent Fire Course Process Changes**

- If a class is not full we will accept applications up to the day of class .
- We will make every attempt to fill vacancies if there is a waitlist for the class .
- Made many changes to reduce the number of times we would have to reject applications, mainly due to workers comp requirement .
- Certain classes will not require pre-registration; i.e., RERP .
- Changed how EVDT (Driver operator is processed) this will be able to certify student much quicker.
- Extensive examination of what the minimum number of students are for courses .
- Email notification of enrollment when the student is seated in the class. Additionally, if students would like text messages we now have that ability.
- Email notifications if the class is in jeopardy of being canceled due to low enrollment.
- FFI & II retesting procedures. If the student fails the certification exam with only one or two stations they will only need to retake those modules rather than the entire program .
- Retesting: working on being able to have students retest at other scheduled exams and our field offices .

### **CONVERSION OF EMT-INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED EMT**

- We are coming to the end of a process that began in 2001 to enhance the knowledge and scope of practice of all levels of EMS provider.
- Nationally levels are changing:
  - First Responder to Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
  - EMT-Basic to Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
  - EMT-Intermediate to Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)
  - EMT-Paramedic to Paramedic
- All providers, not just new ones, will need to attend a conversion course to enhance their knowledge and obtain the skills of the new scope of practice.
- Most of the current provider levels have two recertification cycles to accomplish this.
- EMR, EMT and Paramedic conversion will not be very problematic.
- The most far-reaching change is the EMT-Intermediate to Advanced EMT level.
- The increase in the knowledge base required of this enhanced level will require the EMT-Intermediate to attend a conversion course – which would be in place of a refresher training program the year that they take it.
- The state committee currently reviewing the process has made a preliminary recommendation that the number of hours required to meet the needs of the program is 36 hours. This would include an evaluation of the practical skills that are new to the AEMT scope of practice.

- The National Registry of EMTs has determined that the difference in the level of knowledge between the EMT-I level and AEMT is significant enough that a test of the individual's knowledge is required to ensure competency. Therefore after attending the conversion course the candidate would be required to take the computer-based NREMT cognitive examination.
- This computer based test will be conducted at any Pearson-Vue approved facility, and has the cost of \$70.
- Any EMT-I who does not wish to convert to the AEMT level, or who has been unsuccessful at multiple attempts to pass the cognitive exam, may receive certification by the National Registry as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).
- EMT-I's whose certification expires in March 2013 must complete the conversion process by March 31, 2015.
- EMT-I's whose certification expires in March 2012 must complete the conversion process by March 2016.

## **Legislative**

### **HB-2 Study Committee**

#### **Summary by NHAFC Lobbyist Doug Patch**

I attended the first meeting of the Committee to study funding options for Police Standards and Training and Fire Standards and Training and EMS. Rep. Fesh (Derry), Rep. Byrnes (Swanzey), Sen. D'Allesandro and Sen. Barnes were there – Rep. Panek (Farmington) was not there. They elected Fesh as the Chair and Panek as Clerk. They then asked Earl Sweeney to walk them through a history of PSTC and also of FST. On the FST side he described them as living on a shoestring for years and then when Commissioner Flynn agreed to take FST under his wing how he came up with an \$8 charge for accident reports (most of which are requested by insurance companies) as the way to pay for the academy.

That fee was later increased to \$12 for electronic requests and \$15 for across the counter requests. Earl talked about the need for specialized equipment at the academy and how volunteers are used as instructors in order to keep expenses down. He talked about how the fund is now being used to pay for the Fire Marshal's Office and 11% of the state Homeland Security division, how the money is being used to pay the debt service for the academy dormitory addition. He also talked about how the Legislature has taken money from the account (\$1.5 million in 2009 and \$250,000 in 2011). He also made the comment that he would not be able to go back to the insurance industry representative and look him in the eye and ask for more money given how the Legislature has taken the money to use for other things.

Sen. D'Allesandro made some comments and asked for some information. He said that the "sweeps" (meaning the raids on the PSTC and FST funds by the Legislature) had been detrimental to the corpus of the funds and wanted to know exactly how much had been taken away over the years, he wanted to know how much had been added to capital costs for the police and fire academies by bonding the expense instead of paying directly from the accounts, he said that paying tuition would be a hardship on small communities though

he also said that part of the solution might be having communities pay some of the police tuition the way fire does, he wanted to know how much the \$12 and \$15 fees produce (Earl said about \$2.5 million a year). There was a discussion about the fact that certification and training are mandated for all police officers but not for all firefighters (not for the volunteer and call ffs). They also talked about the 14 week training class for police and the fact that once officers are trained and the costs are paid for by the communities the officer can move to a different community, often because they can get higher pay. Earl said that some states have passed laws that require reimbursement to the communities that had to pay for the training or at least the expenses and salary while they were training.

The Police Chief from Rochester, David Dubois, urged them to leave the PSTC as is, said that it has worked well for NH and that downshifting tuition costs to cities and towns would be an unfunded mandate and have a negative impact on large and small communities alike. Merrimack County Sheriff Scott Hilliard told the Committee how important training is and emphasized that about 30 of his 67 employees are volunteer teachers at the PSTC. He also emphasized the differences between police and fire. Perry Plummer explained the training that the fire academy provides to full timers and call/volunteers and the fact that there is no training requirement for call and volunteers. He said that people are paying for training out of their own pockets in some instances and then getting hired (even if they are not the best candidate) because they save the community they are hired into the training expense. He also talked about how some communities spend money on the call/volunteer training and then the ff goes to a full-time job. The Committee asked what the FST operating budget is – Perry said it is around \$6 million and that this includes fire and EMS training, staff, 65% of tuition fees (the communities pay about 35%), refresher programs, payments on the bond for the academy (Earl said it is a 30 year bond). The Committee asked PSTC what their operating budget is and they said \$3.8 million. Michael Prozzo, the Sheriff of Sullivan County, who is also the Chairman of the PSTC Board said that the police funding mechanism needs to be fixed, particularly because their fund has been raided by the Legislature over the years – he said that if the Legislature had kept their hands off the fund everything probably would have paid for itself. The Belmont Police Chief, Vinnie Baiocchetti, told the Committee that his officers feel like revenue generators because of the penalty assessment fee added to traffic tickets, so they don't issue many tickets (on average they give out about 1 ticket for every 40 warnings). He talked about how expensive it still is for them to send a new officer for training, including ammunition and salary and benefit costs, even though they do not pay tuition. He said the system is not broken, so they should leave it alone.

Director Plummer also announced this year's Academy Award recipients:

Jessica Wyman of Nashua Fire; Eric Hagman of Dover Fire; Robert DiLuzio, Director of the Fire Explorer Academy; Allan Smith of Whitefield, Wildland Instructor and former Chief of Whitefield Fire; New England Association of Fire Chiefs and New England Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Karen Schlitzer, Assistant Attorney General and Former Commission Member and Director Richard Mason (Ret.) are recipients of the Award of Excellence. Also, on the same night we will be formally dedicating the auditorium to Richard Mason.



The schedule for November 3<sup>rd</sup> is as follows:

3:00 p.m.	Commission meeting
5:00 p.m.	Pictures
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	Awards Ceremony

The Director also mentioned having some Commission members pictures updated so the backgrounds all match.

**VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

Nothing to bring forward.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing to report.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion** was made by Commissioner Klauber to approve the EVDT program pilot and the Fire Inspector I program as presented; seconded by Commissioner Lyon. Motion passed unanimously.

**IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Nothing to report.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. was made by Commissioner Lyon and seconded by Commissioner Lindh. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Plummer, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 10/06/11
2. Minutes of *Special* Meeting – 07/20/11 – Not Approved
3. Curriculum Status Report 10/06/11
4. Director's Report #3 – 10/06/11