

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING **November 3, 2011** *(Approved)*

Members Present: Stephen Carrier, George Klauber, Jason Lyon, Kevin Pratt, Michael Brown, David Lindh, William Degnan, Joseph Butts, Edward Murdough, Al Burbank and Brad Simpkins.

Members Absent: Earl Sweeney, John Hoglund and Mark Tetreault.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services*—Perry Plummer, Director, Dennis Rosolen, Bureau Chief; Jeffrey Phillips, Bureau Chief; Clay Odell, Bureau Chief; Capt. Richard McGahey, Manchester FD, 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 3:10 p.m. on Thursday, November 3, 2011 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH.

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Deputy Chief Anderson.

Commissioner Butts introduced his replacement, Capt. Richard McGahey from Manchester FD. Capt. McGahey will be representing the NH Permanent Fire Fighter's Association. Welcome Rich!!

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 1. Motion was made by Commissioner Murdough, seconded by Commissioner Klauber to accept the minutes of the October 6, 2011 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

III. CHAIR'S REMARKS

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services. Commissioner Tetreault was absent. No written report was submitted.

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. 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 November 3, 2011

- (a) **Driver/Operator:**
 - (1) Pumps:
 - (2) Aerial Apparatus:
 - (3) All Vehicle:
- (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 scheduled for January 2012
 - (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:****
- (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

Item 5. Academy Awards. Rehearsal will be immediately following the conclusion of the Commission meeting.

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
#4
November 3, 2011**

Lasky Seminar

The Fire Academy joined with the Seacoast Fire Chiefs to co-sponsor Chief Rick Lasky "Pride and Ownership – For the Love of the Job!" seminar. The seminar was well attended with approximately 200 participants. The program had rave reviews.

In addition to the full day seminar, the Academy held an instructor education session the night before. Attendance was low at 25 participants. This educational session had high reviews from those who attended.

Electronic Time Cards and Payroll System

A considerable amount of time has been spent developing a new payroll system that will be completely electronic. Currently Academy employees have been on a positive pay system; therefore no time cards have been used. The entire Department of Safety will implement this new system beginning January 1, 2012. Over the next few weeks the Academy will move to a semi-electronic time card system in order to prepare for the January 1st transition.

Access Control System

The new access control system has been installed and is working well. This allows access with a swipe card versus a key. It allows the Academy to lock and unlock doors all at once, rather than having staff members walk around to all 44 doors. It also allows the staff to be more efficient when assigning dormitory rooms. If a swipe card is not turned in or is lost by a dorm resident we can deactivate the swipe card immediately.

North Country Burn Facility Update

The committee spent an entire day travelling from Littleton to Bethlehem to Whitefield to Groveton and finishing in Berlin. They started at 1000 and finished back in Littleton near 1800. Everyone that attended thought it was a very productive day.

Committee Members that attended were:

Chief Duncan, Chief Mercieri, Director Plummer, Director Andross, Chief Soltys, Chief Brooks, Chief Watkins, Capt. Antonucci, Michael Brigati and Chief Clark.

All sites were scored using an impartial grading sheet. The two highest scoring sites were the Bethlehem site and the Whitefield sites.

It became obvious during the tour that a site at the Lancaster Fair grounds or the DRED/Fish & Game complex might out score the Bethlehem site. Director Plummer is investigating state land in Lancaster and Chief Clark is speaking with the fair ground board. Chief Mercieri is confirming that a hydrant could be extended across the street at the Bethlehem site.

The next meeting is scheduled at 1700 in Gorham on November 17th. It may change dependent upon what we learn about a Lancaster site.

Legislative

HB-2 Study Committee – Update

Summary by NHAFC Lobbyist Doug Patch

The study committee met this morning. Rep. Fesh (the Chair), Rep. Byrnes and Sen. D’Allesandro were there. Michael Prozzo, Sullivan County Sheriff and Chairman of the Police Standards and Training Commission, gave them the attached handout and told them the best thing to do would be to change the law so the penalty assessment has to be paid even if the judge waives the penalty for the crime, so the money from the penalty assessment still goes into the fund. Rep. Fesh said that the balance in the police standards fund at the end of 2010 was over \$1.1 million. Captain Benjamin Jean from the Policy Academy staff told the committee that the balance as of the end of FY 2011 was \$303,000. Armand Maheux from the Laconia Police Commission told the committee they have one of the best academies in the country and they shouldn’t kill it and they should stop robbing Peter to pay Paul. He said they should “lock it in,” i.e. keep the money in the fund and don’t use it for other purposes.

Perry Plummer told the committee the Fire Academy funding source is fine so long as there are no more sweeps and no new divisions and they pay attention to capital projects. He had given them a handout at the prior meeting that I will copy and send. He referred to the 2009 increase in the record check fee, the proceeds from which go into the fire fund, and said there is a direct link between fire fighter training and losses that insurance companies pay for and said that if the Legislature continues to do sweeps from the fund they will lose that direct link and the insurance companies will take the position that there is no direct link. He said those sweeps were for \$2 million in 2009; \$1.5 million in 2010; and \$250,000 in 2011. He re-emphasized that they would be fine if the Legislature leaves the fees where they are and there are no more sweeps. Dave Cahill, the Police Chief from Sunapee, told the committee they should hold true to the original purpose of using the penalty assessment to fund the police academy, saying that it was done this way so that taxpayers did not have to assume the burden of paying for police training; those committing crimes should have to pay for this.

Sen. D’Allesandro said they should do three things:

- (1) put in the law that the penalty assessment must always be collected, even if the fines are waived;
- (2) put something in the law that calls for a gradual paying back into the police fund to make up for the \$8 million that has been raided from

the corpus over the years. Perhaps it could be paid back at \$500,000 a year if the economy gets healthier and the budget situation stabilizes; and

- (3) leave fire as it is. He said they would have to stay vigilant to make sure there were no further sweeps or raids on the funds to protect the funds from “pilferage.” (He also mentioned the retirement system situation, the fact that the system had its best year ever last year and earned about \$1 billion and said that he was afraid that the state would lose police officers to other states – he cited vacancies in state police and in Manchester and said they needed to do something to deal with this). He said he would introduce legislation that would do this.

Rep. Fesh and Rep. Byrnes agreed with D’Allesandro. That was the end of the session today.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing to bring forward.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Klauber brought up for consideration the idea of adopting a more standardized ICS to be more consistent from one community to the next. He also asked that the Commission think about forming a committee to look at this.

Chair Carrier brought up for discussion whether the Academy Awards should continue on an annual basis in the future. He asked that everyone think about these points and give some feedback on this. Commissioners Degnan and Burbank said they would like to have it continue, but Commissioner Burbank said it should be kept focused on training. It was also mentioned to combine it with Committee of Merit Awards or another award ceremony. Chair Carrier said that refocusing on training and combining the Academy Awards with Committee of Merit Awards is a good idea. The Director mentioned that getting people to attend one award ceremony might be easier than trying to get them to attend several award ceremonies.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 p.m. was made by Commissioner Butts and seconded by Commissioner Burbank. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Plummer, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 11/03/11
2. Minutes of Meeting – 10/06/11 – Not Approved
3. Curriculum Status Report 11/03/11
4. Director's Report #4 – 11/03/11