

NH Fire Standards and Training Commission**MEETING MINUTES** (Approved)**January 5, 2023**

9:30AM – **Dormitory Building, Classroom 5 & 6**

Please note the changes in the agenda in bold red.

FST Commission members present:

Allan Clark, Robert Field, Frank Fraitzl, Sean Toomey, Richard C. Bailey Jr., Steven Sherman, Neil Irvine, Eric Wilking, Christina Wilson, William Campbell, Ron Sebastian

FST Commission members not present:

Kerry LeBlanc, Jason Smedick

Division of Fire Standards and Training & EMS Staff:

Director Justin Cutting, Assistant Director Jeffrey Phillips, Crystal Tuttle

Guests present: Chief Thomas Blanchette of Loudon FD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 9:30AM. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 2. Membership

- Chair Wilking and Director Cutting stated the upcoming expirations in appointments, and William Campbell stated that he will not be seeking reappointment.
- Don DeAngelis, Chief of Epping, has been confirmed to represent the NH Association of Fire Chiefs (NHAFC).

Item 3. Public Comment

- Chief Thomas Blanchette of Loudon Fire Department spoke about the curriculum for Firefighter I & Firefighter II. A discussion was had about how to get feedback from stakeholders.

I. REPORTS

Item 1. Questions/comments regarding reports (Division, EMS, CB, FMO, Forest Protection, Curriculum).

- Division Report- Director Cutting
Director Cutting reviewed open staff positions with the Commission. A Recruitment and Retention Newsletter has been created and sent to stakeholders. The Director and Fire Marshal met with Senator Maggie Hassan on new legislation concerning the use of PFAs in equipment and exposures to firefighters. Director Cutting is attending the 2023 Pro Board Conference in Texas.

Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Irvine had questions about the EMT/EMR programs and reciprocity for combat medics. The Director stated that third parties administer certifications and education for EMT and higher, so the State has no control over their programs. Director Cutting explained the parameters for the new EMR/EMT funding the State has received.

- Coordinating Board Report- Eric Wilking
November 17, 2022 meeting approved a second set of protocols from the MCB. The next meeting is January 19, 2023.

Item 2. Waiver Report – None to report. Work on an online form is underway at the Division.

Item 3. Legislative Report – The Division is following:

- HB 182 Relative to prohibiting the discharge of volunteer firefighters or volunteer medical technicians from other employment.
- HB 183 Relative to employment of retired firefighters at the fire academy.
- HB 254 Relative to remote participation in public meetings under the right to know law.
- HB 376 Establishing a committee to study the current education, training and requirements for personnel employed as emergency dispatch and 911 telecommunicators for police, fire, and emergency medical organizations.
- HB 410 Relative to municipality ranked list promotions.
- LSR 830 Relative to New Hampshire workforce training programs.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made (Field/Fraitzl) to approve the November 10, 2022 minutes. All in favor. None opposed. One abstention.

IV. SUB-COMMITTEES

Item 1. Administrative Rules Sub-Committee –Director Cutting

- No meeting recently. Chair Wilking and Director Cutting made changes to the standing committee's makeup, adding members and shifting responsibilities.

A motion was made (Irvine/Field) to accept the standing committees as presented, including the appointment of Commissioner Wilson as Chair of the administrative rules Sub-Committee, with an amendment to appoint Commissioner Field as the emergency preparedness & security representative.

- Director Cutting presented a memo from the Recruitment and Retention ad hoc committee with recommendations for the administrative rules committee to review concerning eligibility for full time firefighters being hired.

Item 2. Curriculum Review Sub-Committee - Commissioner Clark

- No meeting recently. The next meeting will be on March 2, 2023. Director Cutting stated that the FFI & FF II online modules will be ready for Spring students.

Item 3. Visiting Committees

- NFPA 1006- Technical Rescue- Commissioner Field

The committee met on December 8, 2022 and finalized using the Jones and Bartlett curriculum and reviewed JPR's. The next meeting will be held on January 23, 2023 and then they will submit their findings to the curriculum committee.

- NFPA 1021- Fire Officer III & IV
Schedule being made currently.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Burton Facility- Director Cutting

- Estimate remains above proposed budgets, due to materials etc. The Commissioners office and the Division have reviewed cost saving measures with the architects and may take a phased approach to the original plan prioritizing needs.

Item 2. Firefighter II Testing- Director Cutting

Audits were made and feedback received. The test will be reviewed by the Division.

Item 3. Fire Fund Solvency- Director Cutting

- Commissioner Clark asked about the fire fund solvency issue. Director Cutting stated that the Commissioners office, along with Director Lavoie, are working with the Governors office in developing a strategy to make the fund solvent. The Governors budget is due early February.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Motion made (Field/Fraitzl) to enter non-public session at 10:45am

Motion made () to reconvene public session at 11:06 am

VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made (Field/Fraitzl) – to adjourn the meeting at 12:01 PM, passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: March 2, 2023 at 9:30 AM – Classrooms 5 & 6- Dormitory Building

(Minutes: Crystal Tuttle, Administrative Assistant)