

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

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### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**March 6, 2014**

*(Approved)*

Members Present: Stephen Carrier, Kevin Pratt, Brad Simpkins, Jeremy Thibeault, Richard McGahey, Peter Lennon and Kerry LeBlanc.

Members Absent: William Degnan, David Lindh, Earl Sweeney, J. Michael Joyal and George Klauber.

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.

#### **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 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2014 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, 98 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Simpkins.

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

Approval of the minutes from November 14, 2013; January 10, 2014 and the September 5, 2013 non-public minutes was tabled until next meeting because there was no quorum.

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

Chair Carrier welcomed Peter Lennon (Senior Fire Inspector – Manchester FD) who is representing the Fire Prevention Society.

#### **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Item 1. Emergency Medical Services.** Bureau Chief Mercuri 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 spoke about the importance of installing working smoke and CO detectors in homes. He said anything that can be done to raise awareness should be done. Even so far as assisting in getting those devices installed in homes.

**Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau.** Chief Simpkins was present and gave his report as follows:

##### **Forest Protection Bureau Report 3/6/2014**

- Wildland Fire Training schedule was sent out and posted this week. Currently there are 22 trainings scheduled this spring with topics ranging from fireline safety such as heat stress and lightning, lessons learned from Yarnell Hill, and administrative rules update.
- The training schedule for our out-of-state crew program has also been posted. Currently there are five pack test and safety refreshers scheduled. This annual safety refresher and physical fitness testing is required for those firefighters wishing to be part of the fire crew program.
- The new administrative rules for wildland fire were conditionally approved by the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The final approval is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>. Most changes to the program are minor. However, a change of note is the inclusion of a continuing education requirement for Wardens and Deputies.]
- End of year fire statistics for 2013 were 182 fires of which 98 were wildfires (the rest were illegal fires that required a response). The wildfires burned 133 acres. Three structures were lost.

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

Chair Carrier mentioned that it is not too early to be thinking about the Academy Awards. Commissioner McGahey asked that the list of past recipients be made available to avoid nominating people who have already received an Academy Award.

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

Director's Report

March 6, 2014

1. Raymond S. Burton No. Country Fire and EMS Training Facility Class A burn building 90% complete, extended deadline to 4/21/14. The only remaining portion of the project is the concrete decks. Classroom building demolition and upgrades have begun. Front of building closed in; interior walls being built. Next meeting 6/19/14.
2. Applied for AFG funding through new FTA program. Mini pumper; 24 sets of turnout gear/PPE; portable ventilation/confined space prop trailer.
3. Standard evolutions committee was formed. Looking at practical skills for FFI and FFII. Rewriting JPRs.
4. Legislation. Division testified at HB 1489 Cancer bill; testified at EMT-I bill; and Memorial bill.
5. Received a request to consider adding the CDL driving course and test to FFI. Each student/recruit would have the option to take this.
6. Pro Board Accreditation process application is due this fall. We are reviewing and preparing to reapply.
7. Budget. Looking ahead the Hire Fund is decreasing. We are strategically planning for a “tighter” class schedule. We are looking at ways to increase revenue and decrease expenditures.
8. LEAN. Continuing to follow DOS move to accept the LEAN culture. Director; BC; DC and Supervisors going through 3 day LEAN training. Continue to hold LEAN process events to reduce waste (time and money).

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- Item 1. Changes to Curriculum – Process Question.  
Commissioner Brown was not present. This will be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- Item 1. John Fosher – ADA/EEOC Comments. Mr. Fosher spoke about his previously granted (medical) waiver and how the City of Manchester rescinded their offer of employment. He distributed a printout pointing out the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Mr. Fosher asked that the Commission take steps to update the Fire 701 standard to be current with the current Federal laws. Chair Carrier said the request should go to the subcommittee and they will come back to the Commission with a recommendation.

## **IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Chair Carrier said we should order appreciation plaques for Commissioners Lyon and Tetreault.

**IIX. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Carrier adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Pendergast, Director