New Hampshire State Firemen’s Association Grantham Fire Station, Grantham NH

Meeting Agenda February 15, 2019 – 10:00 AM

1. Meeting called to order at 10:11 by Tom Green, followed by the pledge of allegiance to

the flag of our country.

1. Present were Jeremy Thibeault, Cliff Cray, Ron Howe, Larry Benoit, Kendall Hughes, John Leonard, Tom Green, & Rick Eichler

1. Absent were Glenn Davis, Karen Eichler, Bud Chapman, Dan Boynton, Corey Fecteau and Peter Donovan
2. Also present as observers – None
3. Voted to dispense with the reading of December 14, 2018 minutes, and to accept as written. Motion by Larry Benoit, Seconded by Cliff Cray. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Provident report – Tom Green – there have been a few claims recently. All claims are going well. No complaints from Provident or questions on claims.
5. The following bills to be paid – Eastern Propane $451.42; Tech Pro $20 for computer service to retrieve data from crashed drive; Corrigan Screen Printing for Tom Joslin’s ax $75.50; Cornerstone $580 for yearly service for lock box services. Motion by Cliff to pay the bills; seconded Larry Benoit; all in favor. None opposed. Motion carried.
6. Treasurer’s Report – Rick passed out the report. Beginning balance $95,386.58. Income $4,058.08; expenses $69,532.26. Ending balance of $29,912.40. First CD $17,903.54; 2nd CD $7,556.90; checkbook balance $843.23; savings $3.608.73 leaving a checkbook and savings balance of $29,912.40. Putnam account $66,709.00. Total assets of $96,621.40. LODD Memorial Fund balance of $17,387.81; income $537.77 leaving a balance of $17,925.58. Joe Griffin Memorial Fund is $155.; 19 Rick suggested that we should get rid of that account as we no longer us it. Tom suggested that we co-mingle that into the general fund as a separate line item. Joe Griffin Memorial Fund has an IRS number but is not 501C. The CD’s did mature and Rick combined them and they will come due 5/10/20 with a rate of 1.73%. The amount in the CD is $25498.31. Rick said we have been getting a lot of the $10 renewal fees for the decals. Motion by Larry Benoit to accept the treasurer’s report. Seconded by Cliff Cray. All in favor. Motion carried.
7. Department Update Reports:

* Belknap – Ron Howe – started with meeting with departments with a goal to meet with each contact from each department. He has gotten feedback.
  + Belmont was happy to see Ron, she has not met anyone from the Association. He has met with Sarah Weeks. She likes the website, but felt it was not updated often enough. She also said they would be happy to host one of our meetings.
  + Alton – the chief is new and was not aware they were not members and will talk to their association to see about getting back in as members. Ron will follow up in a couple of weeks.
  + Sanbornton – issues were money and inconvenience of paperwork. He is going to do his budget and will look to get back in. We will look into submitting by excel file. Ron asked if the association could add the administration can be covered by the insurance. Tom said admin members can be covered by the insurance; but do not add them into the numbers for the state. Ron asked if small fundraisers for departments can be done on the website. Tom explained that it would be too much maintenance for the website; but Jeremy suggested that it be put on facebook.
  + Kendall and Ron had discussed about getting information for the department of the month. Tom asked that they send it in a format that would be easy to put on the website.
* Carroll – Vacant –
* Cheshire – Rick said he spoke with the chief from Ringe and he showed interest in becoming rep and join. Rick gave him Tom Green’s phone number. Tom will follow up with him.
* Coos – Bud Chapman – absent
* Grafton – Dan Boynton – absent due to family issues. He met with Rumney and Warren. Rumney responded they would like to rejoin and will work on the paperwork. Bridgewater sent in paperwork without payment.
* Hillsboro – Corey Fecteau – absent
* Merrimack – Tom reported that Boscowen chief Ray Fisher is retiring after 56 years of service. Retirement party is scheduled for March 9th from 2-5 at the Boscowen Fire Station. Danbury fire chief resigned; the new Chief is Jeremy Martin.
* Rockingham – Cliff Cray – North Hampton submitted paperwork and will follow up with secretary; the chief will follow up with that. Newfields had a change of address and did not receive paperwork. He followed up with the town hall. Cliff ask that Karen send a bill; but she cannot send a bill without knowing how many members. Cliff will get that information to her. Tom Green was in touch with the chief from New Castle and will follow up with that.
* Strafford – Larry Benoit – still waiting to hear from Barrington and Lee. Tom Green deals with the town office in Lee and suggested he get in touch with him. Both Larry and Karen have been in touch with the chief from Lee; but still have not received payment.
* Sullivan –Vacant –
* 2st Vice – Peter Donovan – absent
* 1st Vice – Tom Green –
  + Decals – 271 firefighter decals sold; 46 retired decals and 6 supporter decals. 31 renewals have been received for January out of 70-75 renewal letters that were sent. Tom will send out February and March this week. Probably 50 renewals for February and March.
  + Membership – will work on doing members on line. They can now pay through paypal. Sanbornton asked how we billed. Rick said there is an invoice that goes out with the annual rolls. Departments can also pay on paypal and he can submit the paperwork later.
  + Five families meeting – met on January 10th at the Fire Academy. There were updates on the fire codes; building code legislation; sober recovery houses update; fire resistance furniture ban legislation; and training for the North Country; and recruitment and retention.
  + Website needs to be updated a little.
* Public Relations – Kendall Hughes –
  + has not received any feedback on the brochure. We will be moving forward on that. There will be some graphic changes. Tom will get a price on printing the brochures; Kendall will also look for a price. Tom would like a brochure with each letter he sends out with the decals. Kendall asked if 5,000 would be too much; Tom suggested a little less in case we have changes. We will decide when we get prices. The reps should also have some to bring to the stations.
  + Kendall said snapchat and Instagram did not work well for him. He is putting things through facebook. Facebook is going well; he is posting quite a bit of stuff. He is getting comments. Things are getting reshared. Things like ham and bean suppers are great for facebook. Tom ask that Ray Fisher’s retirement be put on facebook.
  + Spotlight departments – Ron will send him things. Anyone who wants to spotlight a department can send Kendall items; 5-10 photos; description of the fire department and what they do. Something people will read; make it interesting and keep it to a couple of paragraphs. Tom will come up with a form for the reps to fill out for the spotlight departments. This will go on facebook and website.
  + Attendance – attendance was low today and Kendall felt day meetings are extremely difficulty and hard for board members to attend. Tom explained we are trying to split the meeting between day and night. Winter night meetings are difficult at night. Our next meeting in April will be an evening meeting; probably the center of the state. Larry suggested December and February be daytime. April through October be evening meetings. The North Country Fire Academy in Bethlehem was suggested; April 18th at 6PM. Rick will look into video conferencing with Bluetooth speakers and cell phones for those who can’t make the meeting. If we can’t get into the Academy; Jeremy will look into an alternate location in that area. Tom will look into a speaker for that meeting.

1. New Hampshire Fire Standards and Training Commission – Jeremy –

* Jeremy got re-elected as chairperson. The rules subcommittee is working on creating surveys; somewhere between 3 and 5 surveys. They will ask that the 5 families send these out via e-mail. Asking questions about items that came up at the retreats of the fire boards and EMS boards. They will try to get a sense of what the fire service wants in the way of certification; suspension and relocation; structure credentialing; firefighter and fire officer credentialing; that would be 4 surveys. Once those are approved at the next rules subcommittee meeting we will start pushing them out so they will know what the fire service wants.
* Hazmat decon held a public hearing on January 18th; there was no comment. That curriculum will be voted on at the next commission meeting.
* Hazmat tech has their first visiting committee meeting scheduled sometime in March.
* On January 8th there was a public hearing to separate citations from Inspector II. There are some written comments and this will be voted on at the next commission meeting.
* There have been some organization meetings for NFPA 1006 visiting committee. Technical rescue and professional qualifications. The visiting committee has not been seeded yet - they are still trying to filter out how they will put that together. Currently, ITRS is prerequisite for all technical rescue programs with the exception of swift water. Currently, there is no awareness program offered for anything with the exception of swift water; they jump right into the operations programs. An awareness question is asked to meet the Pro Board requirements. The question is should we be offering an awareness level training in every technical rescue discipline. Should it be stand alone; should we offer awareness programs. There were questions they had to clarify with the Pro Board; this is on reason why the visiting committee has not been seeded. They have not heard back from Pro Board yet. The gaps for rescue skills for fire II are a little bit of incident command stuff, and air monitoring (this would be necessary for trench rescue, confined space). They do not want to add 2 days to trench rescue training and confined space training to include air monitoring. They also don’t want to have to repeat the air monitoring training if a person takes both confined training and trench rescue training. All of the technical rescue programs are intermingled and at the same time they are apart. The one that stands alone from the others is rope and that committee should start moving forward with operations and techs for ropes. Right now, none of the technical rescue programs are Pro Board; should we offer more programs that are. Auto extrication program that firefighters receive now; the only thing that is missing from the Pro Board qualifications is that it be done with a live victim in the car – this would be operations level. Technician level would include heavy trucks; there are a couple of tractors on the training ground. Is there anything missing from that standard that we don’t offer now that we should. One item that comes to mind is tower rescue. The fire academy has coordinated programs in the past in 2007 when they got grant money to fill in gaps. Dive is another one; that is complicated and better off not offering it.
* NFPA 1001 – professional qualifications. The committee has been approved but not seeded; because the commission and academy administration is trying to set some vision before the committee starts. There was discussion on how to train firefighters in less hours in order to recruit more firefighters. The Fire Chief’s Association has formed a study committee and their goal is to determine what the fire service in the State of NH actually needs. If anyone has opinions, talk to Jeremy or one of the Chief’s reps, which should be coming out by email any day now. There was more discussion on this.

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1. Legislative Report – Jeremy

* House bill 343 – relative to code in foster homes – this would not apply if you are fostering kids; the fire marshal’s office opposes that, unfortunately it is already on the house and senate calendar.
* Senate bill 109 – focuses on the authority of the fire marshal’s office – we should support this bill
* Senate bill 110 – authorizes the fire marshal to obtain information from the insurance companies to investigate insurance loss. We should support this bill.
* Senate bill 257 – prohibits the use of foam containing PFC’s. The military standards require that. This one need’s to be watched.
* House bill 528 – this one is in committee. This requires that insurance companies consider the presenting symptoms rather than the final diagnosis when determining whether or not to pay for emergency services.
* House bill 65 – has a hearing on March 5th. This is another ambulance billing bill. Insurance companies can operate like Medicaid and pay fair market value for your services – the patient cannot be billed for the balance.
* House bill 240 – is the PTSD bill, which we should support. This one has been retained in committee.
* House bill 224 – EMS death benefit has been put on the consent calendar.
* Senate bill 210 – reference to changes in definition of telecommunicators. This will insure the 911 call takers know what is going on – they will not be licensed.
* House bill 616 – voted out of EDA and passed- this is COLA for retirees.
* The governor gave his budget address yesterday. There is nothing earth shattering from our prospective in there. We will watch this. The Fire Marshal’s office is going to move out of the fire fund into the general fund.
* Tom mentioned that April 3rd is the legislative breakfast meeting with the chief’s at 7:30AM at the house. Tom will be there; unsure if Glenn will be there. Jeremy will try to attend.

1. Committee reports:
   * Conference/annual meeting committee – Larry reported they are waiting from the chief’s. Neither Tom or Glenn has heard from them. Jeremy said the Chief’s annual meeting is in April. Tom said we need to decide what we want to do; meeting, convention? Larry will meet with the others. There was discussion on ideas.
   * Memorial Committee – Haven’t heard anything from Earl lately.
   * Fundraising Committee – We are set for Texas holdum in Nashua– no dates yet. Tom is still thinking about an ad book; but needs to find a company to do that.
2. Old Business – None
3. New Business –
   * Rick noticed that PFFNH had a table set up at the Committee of Merit awards night, as well as a couple of others. He is suggesting that we have one also, as we are a contributor. Tom felt it would be good to have one. Not sure of the date; but last one was September.

* The secretary’s computer crashed. A motion is needed to purchase a new one. Tom will call dell to see if we can get a nonprofit discount. Jeremy mentioned that we get Office 365 with additional licenses so we can share items. Tom will set up a google drive so we can all access forms and documents. Motion by Cliff Cray to spend up to $1000 for a new computer and sofware. Seconded by Larry Benoit. All in favor. Motion carried.

1. For the good of the order - none
2. Next meeting Executive Board meeting April 18, 2019 at 6:00 PM , North of the notch; TBA.
3. Adjourned at 12:09. Motion by Larry Benoit, seconded by Cliff Cray. All in favor. Motion carried.