

1. Meeting called to order at 10:07 by Mike Hoisington, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our country.
2. Present were John Leonard, Tom Joslin, Rick Eichler, Karen Eichler, Mike Hoisington, Jeremy Thibeault, Larry Benoit, Tom Green
3. Absent were Corey Fecteau, Glenn Davis, Peter Donovan, Kevin VanNorden, Carl Huddleston, Robert Hebert, Chris Roy, Cliff Cray
4. Also present as observers – Buddy Chapman, by-law committee
5. Voted to dispense with the reading of February 17, 2017 minutes, and to accept as recorded. No vote taken.
6. Correspondence – Committee of Merit, Thanking us for generous donations over past 25 years. Their awards ceremony will be held September 25<sup>th</sup> in Concord. They are asking for monetary support. No vote taken. We will make the usual \$500 donation. Jeremy said this ceremony will be combined with the Academy Awards. Buddy Chapman is on the Committee of Merit; the date for the next meeting is May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1PM at the fire academy. Chris Roy has not been able to attend, so Mike will attend the May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
7. Provident report – Tom Green – not much to report. Claims are slower; 2 claims this week. All is going through fine; there have been no problems with the claims. Premiums were kept low the past few years and hopefully we can keep them low again for this year. Tom has added a lot of departments through policies of their own and he is encouraging them to join NHSFA. Orford and Pierment have been visited and should be coming on soon.
8. Secretary - Karen reports annual mailing will go out after the June meeting when we have some idea of when the annual business meeting will be and if there are any by-law changes.
9. The following bills to be paid – \$10 bank charge; \$1,000 transferred to the Memorial Fund to pay for gas; \$209.42 meal at February meeting; Corner Stone Associates \$540 for lockbox services for the year.
10. Treasurer's Report – Rick passed out report. No vote taken; Rick pointed out the gain for Putnam is \$6,969.93 so far for this fiscal year.
11. Reports:
  - Belknap – Tom Joslin – there is a new Director of Communitation, from Sandown John Goldman. A funeral in town for held for Tom Range; Tom Joslin thanked Tom Green for his help with the funeral.
  - Carroll – Carl Huddleston – absent
  - Cheshire – Robert Hebert – absent
  - Coos – vacant –
  - Grafton – Kevin VanNorden – absent
  - Hillsboro – Corey Fecteau – absent
  - Merrimack – Chris Roy – absent
  - Rockingham – Cliff Cray – absent
  - Strafford – Larry Benoit – nothing new to report
  - Sullivan – John McCann – absent
  - 2<sup>st</sup> Vice – Peter Donovan – absent
  - 1st Vice – Glenn Davis – absent
  - Public Relations – Tom Green – has been updating the website. Not much sent with constant contact, as he has had nothing to send. Tom is trying to send something once a week. Tom attends the Chief's Meetings every month and will send legislative information concerning the fire service he gets there. He feels it is important to send this information to all our members so they feel they are getting something for their membership dues. He has updated the rep information and needs uniform pictures of John, Carl and Robert and bios for the website. Tom will send out information on Deb Pendergast's 4 year renewal on her appointment. If you want anything sent, let Tom know. Tom is asking that we collect more emails for our members.

12. New Hampshire Fire Standards and Training Commission – Jeremy –
  - Director Pendergast got reappointed for a 4 year term.
  - The budget did not move from the House to the Senate. By fiscal year 2019 they are predicting a \$1million shortfall in the fire fund, which includes the Fire Academy and the Fire Marshal’s Office. Department of Safety proposed taking 1% of insurance premium tax to cover that; this has not been placed in the budget. What is in the budget is to increase the motor vehicle fees, which is how it is currently funded; however that number has dropped off, not significantly, but on a downward trend and our costs have remained flat for the past 5-10 years. If we go to 1% of the insurance it will not be sustainable for long but will be a 5 to 6 year fix until a solution is found. Division II of the House Finance Committee toured the all of the Department of Safety at the beginning of the month. Criminal Justice Committee along with the Public Safety Committee and a few others toured the Fire Academy and the IPOC on the 6<sup>th</sup>; it was good they asked a lot of questions. Last week, Jeremy sent a letter to Senate Finance Committee informing them they support the mission and we need more money. Jeremy is asking that we, NHSFA, do the same and send a letter of support.
  - Fire Truck has been delivered. The work on the ARF sight is done.
  - Hazmat, Fire Office III and IV and Fire Investigator are in visiting committee; moving along nicely.
  - Tom Joslin got a call from a local chief asking for a FFI asking if he knows of any classes that were going to be held. Jeremy said he hears a lot of people can’t get the classes they need, but they are not asking. There is a process they need to follow. They can call field captain. Tom Joslin stated he did advise them to call field captain.
  
13. By-law Committee – Glenn reported to Mike; plans to have a committee meeting in mid-May. Tom Green had a question on the bylaws. He thought they were on the website and he wants to make sure he has the most current ones. Karen will send Tom for the newest copy. 2015 is the latest version. The 60 day timeline to file a Provident Insurance claim is in the rules and regulations, not the by-laws. Tom got a call a few months ago, from a member who was on one fire department and was working on another department as an administrative person. This member stated he did not know about the benefit and went over the 60 days. Tom stated they needed to follow the rules of the NHSFA. He advised he could put in a claim, but that it could be denied. The claim is 2 years old. If a claim comes in, Tom will make Mike aware.
  
14. Conference/annual meeting committee – Mike spoke with Peter; first meeting is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 at Gilford Fire Department. Larry said there were 7 members of the committee.
  
15. Old Business –
  - Patches – Rick – patches have been ordered and should be in shortly.
  - Legislative report – Jeremy – nothing to report. Bills have crossed and we in the limbo period where everything starts over fresh. Mike asked about the license plate. It has passed the House; now waiting for Senate. Next year will should try to attach something to the bill for the use of the funds. Tom Greens believes it is waiting to be sent to the Governor for signature. There is work being done on the design of the plate.
  - Michal Brigg’s law update – Tom Green – no update.
  - Ads, “Friends of the Association, Advocate Members – Tom Green – Tom asked if we want to do an application for advocate members; the Chief’s Association has one for their advocate members. Tom has a list of prospective advocate members and will send out a letter. They would return a form with \$150 and logo, which will be put on the website. Tom said there could be about \$3000 in income from this. Mike gave Tom permission to go ahead with this.
  - Fundraising letter – Pat Lefebvre & Tom Green – nothing to report.
  
16. New Business –
  - National Volunteer Fire Council – Tom Green has been involved with them. The NH Chief’s Association has sponsored the NVFC for NH for the past 20 years. They have a director and alternate director. He has spoken to the Chief’s and they have not made a decision yet. Tom felt with the Chiefs sponsoring this, the volunteers were not represented. Even though any Chief can be a member, it made up mostly of full time chiefs. Since our organization represent both full time and volunteer on call firefighters, Tom said it might be a good mix if the NHSFA did this. Tom Green spoke with the current president and past president about moving this over. The initial cost is \$500 per year. Right now there are only 5 NH fire departments that are members. Most departments don’t know what the NVFC is all about. The NVFC is heavy on legislative issues. Because Tom is a member, he gets are emails on the legislature going through. The biggest issue this year is the Safer and AFG grants; which has a sunset clause on them, which have them expiring in January 18, 2018. . They are trying to get this removed, so it doesn’t go away. They have spoken with Jean Shaheen to co-sponsor the bill with McCain to get the bill revised. Tom feels it is something we can tag onto to get information to both our full time and volunteer members. The Chiefs put aside \$3,000 for this (this includes membership and travel expenses) and actually spent about \$2200. There is not much return on investment. They had a grant writing symposium in NH a few months

ago, so NVFC brings a lot to the table. It would cost \$500 for the state membership. Tom felt it was something to talk about. Individuals can join for \$29 a year and includes a \$10,000 death benefit from Provident; \$24 without the death benefit. There are other discounts available that Tom will check into. Tom said it is just discussion. Members of the Board could talk to the Chief's to see if they are going to give it up.

- Mike got a call from Fire Marshal Degnan. He is going to put together a committee in June with the Fire Chief's, the union, NHSFA, and the Fire Academy to go over a bunch of topics; like safety and firefighter cancer. Mike will talk to Frank Fretzl about NVFC at this meeting. Mike will ask Tom Green and the 2 VP's to go to this meeting. Mike will send everyone involved, the date when it's confirmed.
- Replacement of Coos County Representative. Mike spoke with Peter and Peter has been canvassing the area. Buddy Chapman is interested. Mike appointed Buddy Chapman. Buddy accepted the position. He will fill the remainder of term.
- Explorer academy is cancelled this year. Mike has several meetings on this at boy scout meetings. The committee running it has issues on putting this together, so they called Mike. Mike met at council headquarters. Mike said he would work with the committee to get whatever help they needed. The Fire Academy was already booked with recruit school; apparatus was already booked. They will revamp the program and it will be back next year.
- Elections will be coming up. Mike Hoisington announced that he will not be running. He feels now that he is not a member of a department, it is hard to keep up with the issues. Tom Joslin is also thinking of stepping down; but hasn't decided yet.

17. Next meeting will be held Friday, June 23, 2017 - 10:00 AM at Hart's Turkey Farm, Meredith.

18. Meeting adjourned at 11:02.