

**New England Division
International Association of Fire Chiefs**

February 4, 2010
Board of Directors Meeting
Springfield Sheraton, MA

Officers Present:

1st VP Michael O'Neil
2nd VP Steve Carrier
Sec/Treasurer John Wood

Guests:

Fred Stanley, Past President
IAFC Second Vice President Jack Parow

International Director
Roger Bradley

State Vice Presidents
Steve Locke, VT
David Sayles, RI
Chris Christopoulos, NH

Exhibitors:
Tom Simonelli, Secretary

Not Present:
David Jardin, MA
Michael Varney, CT
President Gerard Dio
Roger Audette, ME

Past President William St. Michel

First Vice President O'Neil called the meeting to order at 8:30.

Pledge to the flag followed by invocation.

Secretary Report

The board approved the minutes for the November 5, 2009 meeting. Motion made by Chief O'Neil and seconded by Chief Bradley.

The web page has been updated and is up and running, please take a look at and get back with suggestions.

The conference contract with the NEAFC has been signed by the Association; President Dio will need to sign the contract. The contract is for a one year extension with no changes.

The annual conference and meeting discussion continued, but focused on the Division's annual meeting and how to fit it in with the Association's annual meeting. The conference schedule is tight and trying to fit in two annual meetings is getting difficult while trying to get participation for the meetings and the conference from our members. Some of the issues are that there is very low attendance at the Division's annual meeting as few as 10 members. IAFC officers travel to the meeting to report to the membership each year and candidates for second vice president do as well to speak to the membership, however, there are very few members to share information with. Because the schedule is so tight business is rushed, and the meeting usually follows an event that restricts members' attendance.

Alternate meeting times and places were discussed; it is difficult to find another time at the June conference for the meeting. Discussion and consideration about having the Division annual meeting at FRI took place. Attendance at FRI meeting are always higher and range from an all time low of 30 at Dallas in 2009 to as high as 120, but normally there is an average of 90. Other divisions have their annual meetings

at FRI and the officers of the IAFC are already in attendance as well as candidates for office, who are also in attendance. In addition, there are sponsors who attend the meeting at FRI.

The board felt that moving the annual meeting to FRI would be a benefit to the members of the Division by having more members present at the meeting, better representation by the six States that make up the New England Division, and it would be more cost effective for the Division and the IAFC, there would be better communications between the IAFC staff, and officers of the Division. There was a motion by Chief David Sayles, seconded by Chief Michael O'Neil to move the annual meeting to FRI each year and have the secretary investigate any issues that might affect the annual meeting being held at FRI, motion passed. The By-laws committee met to review what changes needed to be made to the by-laws for the annual meeting to be held at FRI. The committee is making the following recommendations (see attached by-law changes). Chief David Sayles made a motion to accept the change as presented the motion was seconded by Chief William St. Michel, motion passed. Motion by Chief Chris Christopolus to have the recommended by-laws changes read at the Board of Directors June 2010 meeting with a vote to be taken at the annual meeting in August, motion seconded by Chief Steve Carrier, motion passed. The board meeting will be June 24, 15:30 at the Sheraton before the annual conference. The officers will be voted in at the annual meeting in August. This will mean that President Dio will hold office until August, however, to allow the outgoing president the opportunity to have family, fire department members, and community leaders to attend the presentation of gifts will take place at the June conference, presented by the incoming president, in this case it will be Chief Michael O'Neil. All other activities will take place at the annual meeting in August.

Treasurer Report

Chief Wood distributed the treasurer's report showing that the checking account had a balance of \$28,793.46 as of January 31, 2010. The two CD's and the money market account had a combined value of \$41,851.29, making the total cash available at \$70,644.75. A more detailed account of the records is attached. Motion was made by Chief O'Neil and seconded by Chief Carrier to pay all bills and to accept the treasurer's report. Motion Passed

Second Vice President Report

Chief Steve Carrier attended two GPO conference calls this past quarter. Crosby is leaving GPO for work with NFPA. There is a short video available regarding GPO and how it works, the group is also working on contracts with additional vendors.

International Directors Report

Chief Roger Bradley submitted a written report that is attached to the minutes.

State Directors Report

Chief Steve Locke submitted a written report, attached to the minutes.

Chief David Sayles reported that bids for the fire academy in RI were opened and they all came in low. The RIFC have designed a candidate physical ability test. They are willing to share the test with anyone that would like to use it. Chief Sayles attended the NFPA code council meeting.

Chief Jack Parow reported for Chief Jardin that Tom Leonard is retiring from the marshal's office. The new fire academy will come on line for use in August, the cost of the academy was 28 million.

Chief William St. Michel reported for Chief Audette that anyone that may have a request for change in code to contact him as he sits on the ICC committee. The Maine fire academy is in the process of hiring a director. There is a legislative bill in for requiring fees to fund the 911 system, and another for survivor benefits.

Chief Chris Christopolus reported the NHAFC continues to watch several major pieces of legislation poised to have a significant impact on the NH Fire Service. Among them are:

- Residential Fire Sprinklers – The State of NH Building Code Review Board which oversees changes in the State Building Code voted to adopt the language in the ICC Residential Code which would mandate sprinklers in 1 and 2 family dwellings effective in 2012. Note: this change must still be voted on by the NH legislature.
- HB 1191 - This bill would eliminate residential sprinklers from the building code.
- HB 1486 - This bill would prohibit and repeal a local residential sprinkler requirement by a local municipality.
- HB 1131 – This bill will eliminate the State of NH training requirement for full-time firefighters of C2F2 and make FF II the minimum level of training for full-time firefighters.
- HB 1135 - This bill requires the fire standards and training commission to perform self-reviews of its membership. There was an amendment presented that would effectively eliminate several Fire Service organizations from representation on the NHFST.

The following is a list of upcoming NH Association of Fire Chiefs Meeting:

February 11, 2010 – New London

March 11, 2010 – Bedford, NH

April 8, 2010 – Annual Meeting at the New Hampshire Fire Academy

Committees:

Seminar committee is still working on development of a program, but plan to have one in April the mailing should go out within a couple of weeks.

Chief David Sayles will be attending the Constitution and By-laws committee meeting in Fairfax next month. He will bring our proposed changes for discussion.

New Business

First Vice President Jack Parow will be going in as the president of the IAFC while in Chicago. He is requesting and would like all to wear class A uniforms to the presidential celebration. The program will be improved this year.

The partners program will be better this year, but will be a la carte. Chief Parow is asking that the directors take this back to the states and promote the partners program. He reports the best way to get around in Chicago will be by bus for the show, because they have dedicated routes.

Exhibitors Report

Membership is down and the group is starting to work on redefining the organization. There has been discussion about a two tier pricing for expo prices, such as; for those vendors that belong to the exhibitors association and a different price for those who don't. The group is working on electronic registration for the conference. Easy pass will help with registration at the front gate.

Meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully Submitted,
John G Wood Jr., Secretary