In the Matter Of:

NED IAFC

June 23, 2021

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DEPOSPAN'S TRUSTED LOCAL CONNECTION

1	NEW ENGLAND DIVISION
2	INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS
3	
4	ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
5	
6	June 23, 2021
7	Held at
8	Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel
9	Portsmouth, New Hampshire
10	15:30 Hours
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21	DUFFY & McKENNA COURT REPORTERS P.O. Box 1658
22	P.O. BOX 1656 Dover, New Hampshire 03821-1658 (603) 743-4949
23	1-800-600-1000

Page 3 Page 2 PROCEEDINGS country church that we go by and every now and then it 2 MR. DUROSS: Good afternoon. If you would has some pretty prophetic signs out front and one day please take your seats we're going to get started. it said, "We pray to God but only on the days that end Good afternoon. Welcome to the 99th annual in the letter Y," and so this is Wednesday, so let us 5 meeting of the New England Division of Fire Chiefs, prav. 6 now a division of the International Association of As we come together in your presence this 7 Fire Chiefs. I am the current president, John Duross, day, Almighty Father, we ask for your abundant from Saco, Maine. Chief Chuck Flynn we'll be up in a 8 blessings on our loved ones and our families without few minutes. We would like to welcome you today. whose support we could not successfully carry out our 9 10 I want you to know that we have a chosen profession. We are the fathers of the mangers stenographer here today, so everything you say is where danger can set upon us at any time taking us 11 12 being recorded. We also have a Zoom meeting going on away from our families and from those we love. We ask at the same time. It is 2021 after all. 2020 doesn't you for your blessings upon us, Lord, as we gather away from home to attend fire related training courses 14 count. That one is gone bye-bye. So, welcome to the meeting. At this time $\ensuremath{\mathtt{I}}$ 15 15 and meetings which will enable us to be the best that would like you all to rise and join me in reciting the we can be. May we be brave and may we be caring as we 16 16 17 Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. 17 ask for your protection while we face the challenges (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.) and the duties of being firefighters, the protectors 18 19 MR. DUROSS: Thank you. I would like to call of life and property, in the beautiful cities and 20 up Deacon Dick Martino to present the invocation and 20 towns that we proudly serve. 21 the reading of the roll call. Be mindful of what the profit Micah wrote. 21 22 DEACON MARTINO: Good afternoon. My wife and 22 May we act justly, love with mercy and walk humbly for 23 I go to Rhode Island a lot and there's a little 23 whom we serve and that we walk humbly with our God. Page 4 Page 5 Department; Chief Thomas Jacobs, Hill Fire Department; 1 We ask these things in your holy name. Amen. Assistant Fire Chief Dale Rook, Cornish Fire 2 THE FLOOR: Amen. 3 DEACON MARTINO: These past couple years have Department; Deputy Chief Richard Casey, Nashua Fire 4 been pretty difficult and we've lost some very special Department; and Chief Russell Jones, Alton Fire 5 people in these past couple of years. 5 Department. So, from the state of Connecticut we ask for From the state of Massachusetts we pray for 7 your prayers for Chief Michael Grant, New Haven Fire 7 Chief Scott Jepson, Somerset Fire Department; Chief Department; Deputy Chief Patrick Dragon, East Brooklyn Edward Hawkins; Chief David Wagstaff, retired, Fire Department; Chief Ted Smith, Beacon Falls Fire Wellesley Fire Department; Chief David Butler, Department; Assistant Chief Donald Davis, Ellington retired, Everett Fire Department; Chief Malcolm 11 Fire Department; Chief Jerry Connors, Ellington 11 McGregor, retired, Acton Fire Department; Chief Steven 12 Volunteer Fire Department. 12 Cutter, retired, Newburyport Fire Department; Chief 13 From the state of New Hampshire we pray for 13 Henry Michalski, retired, Middleton from the Ipswich 14 Brendan Burns, Assistant Fire Chief, Manchester Fire 14 Fire Department; Chief James Polito, Junior, retired, 15 Department; Chief Richard Chase, Pembroke Fire Sharon Fire Department; Chief Dennis Budd, retired, 16 Department; Chief Harold Paulsen, Pembroke Fire 16 Worcester Fire Department; Chief Robert Craig, Department; Chief Arthur Reynolds, East Derry Fire 17 retired, Acton Fire Department; Chief James Hollissey, 18 Department; Chief Darin Sabine, Newington Fire 18 retired, Brockton Fire Department. Department; Chief Winston Oren "Bud" French, Nelson 19 From Maine we pray for Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Fire Department; Chief Donald Dionne, Concord Fire Bangor Fire Department; Chief Gary Sacco, Oxford Fire 20 21 Department; Chief Donald Eldridge, West Ossipee Fire Department; Chief Gary Petley, Clinton Fire 22 Department; Chief Richard Heselton, Fremont Fire Department; Chief Carl Winslowe, Yarmouth Fire 23 Department; Deputy Chief Kendall Hawes, Milford Fire Department; Chief Arthur Kiskilligan, Cushing Fire

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Page 7
                                                   Page 6
 1 Department; Chief Robert "Clay" Hunter, Newcastle Fire
                                                            1 do realize if we get bored with the content if we're
 2 Department; Chief Richard Baston, North Yarmouth Fire
                                                               on a Zoom call we can always surf the internet, so
   Department.
                                                               hopefully our speakers here will keep us interested.
                                                               I'm sure they will.
            We pray also for Russell Gray from St.
   Johnsbury, Vermont.
                                                                        As far as local resources, if you need
5
 6
            We also pray for those from Rhode Island that
                                                               anything, myself and my Assistant Chief will be here
   we don't have the list for yet, but we keep them in
                                                               in the hotel for the next day and a half, so certainly
   our prayers also.
                                                               reach out to us and we'll help you out. Let us never
9
                                                               again take for granted the fact or the ability to all
            May God bless them and keep them in the power
10
   of His hands.
                                                           10 be in a conference room like this in a meeting
            THE FLOOR: Amen.
11
                                                               together, so let's have a good meeting, and again,
                                                           11
12
            MR. FLYNN: Good afternoon. Chuck Flynn,
                                                           12 welcome to Portsmouth.
   co-president, along with John. I would like to
                                                           13
                                                                        THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
   introduce our special guest today from Portsmouth,
                                                                        MR. FLYNN: Next I would like to go through
14
                                                           14
15
   Chief Todd Germane, with some opening remarks.
                                                           15 and thank the sponsors who truly stepped up at the
            MR. GERMANE:
                           Thank you, Chief. Welcome to
                                                           16 beginning of May, end of April. At that time we still
16
17 Portsmouth. It's good to have everybody here. We're
                                                           17 weren't sure whether we would have a conference at
   certainly glad to welcome you. It's so nice to see
                                                               all. The DCU Center was still being used as a
  people in the same room together instead of in a
                                                               makeshift hospital at that time, so we decided on
  two-inch box on our computer screens. We don't have
                                                           20 Portsmouth, and thankfully our sponsors helped us out
21 to worry about passwords or what our background looks
                                                           21
                                                               a lot.
22 like or who's in it or whether or not our damn
                                                                        First, our corporate sponsor is AT&T. Thank
23 microphone is on, so that's kind of nice, although you
                                                            23 you, Lisa Bennett, if she's here. I would also like
                                                   Page 8
                                                                                                               Page 9
1 to recognize somebody that doesn't need any
                                                               Sales. Stryker. Mammouth Fire Alarms. Neptune
 2 introduction from the Association. We don't know
                                                               Uniforms and Equipment. The Fire Chiefs Association
 3 where he lives anymore because we never see him in
                                                               of Massachusetts. The Maine Fire Chiefs Association.
  Connecticut, but Mike Carr from FirstNet. Where are
                                                               Savelives.com.
 5 you, Mike? There he is. Thanks, Mike.
                                                                        Lastly, our Silver sponsors. L.W.
                                                              Bills/Alarms Engineering. National Fire Protection
            THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
                                                             7 Association. The Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association.
            MR. FLYNN: I would ask that you visit with
8
   our sponsors later today or tomorrow during the
                                                                        Now, before we go to the secretary's report
   conference between presentations and during breaks.
                                                               we've got a couple of quick presentations, but I would
9
10
            Next, our Platinum sponsors. Specialty
                                                               like to start on my far right and have the Board
11 Vehicles, Inc. Air Cleaning Specialists of New
                                                           11 members introduce themselves starting with the
   England. Greenwood Emergency Vehicles & Desourcie
                                                           12 immediate past president.
13 Fire Apparatus. Industrial Protection Services.
                                                           13
                                                                        MR. RICHARDS: Ken Richards, immediate past
  Hawill's Ltd. Autotonics, LLC. McNeil & Company.
                                                           14 president.
15
            Next, our Gold sponsors. Allegiance Fire &
                                                           15
                                                                        MR. HIGGINS: Tom Higgins, Fire Chief,
16 Rescue. RSC Insurance Brokerage Gowrie VFIS. Chimney
                                                           16
                                                               Bangor, Maine.
17 Scrubber. Firematic Supply Company. Butler Human
                                                           17
                                                                        MR. WHITE: Gerry White, Prescott Fire
   Services. American Safety & Supply. Lakes Region
18
                                                           18
                                                               Department.
19 Fire Apparatus. GIA Insurance Solutions. LION.
                                                           19
                                                                        MR. STARK: Keith Stark, Fire Chief,
20 GRONK Fitness Equipment. New England Marine &
                                                           20
                                                                Weymouth, Mass.
21 Industrial. Strategic Safety Operation. Globe &
                                                           21
                                                                        MR. DOODY: Charles Doody, Fire Chief, Canton
22 Bergeron. Shipman's Fire Equipment. Nederman. TSI,
                                                           22 Fire Department.
23 Inc. Hygenall Corporation. T-Mobile Government
                                                           23
                                                                        MR. DUROSS: John Duross, Fire Chief, Saco,
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Page 10
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 1 Maine,
                                                                         THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
 2
            MR. FLYNN: Charles Flynn, Fire Chief,
                                                             2
                                                                         MR. CARRIER: I had a speech prepared. I
   Suffield, Connecticut.
                                                                thought you did too, Ken. On behalf of the
                                                                Association, Chuck, we would like to present this
            MR. JONES: Ken Jones, Fire Chief, Meredith,
   New Hampshire.
                                                                gavel to you. I have no idea how to get into it, but
5
 6
            MR. CARRIER: Steve Carrier, Fire Chief,
                                                                I want to thank the Sergeant at Arms for taking care
 7
   Gilford, New Hampshire.
                                                                of it. There you go.
8
            MR. STARKEL: Pete Starkel, Fire Chief,
                                                             8
                                                                         THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
                                                                         MR. CARRIER: One thing that I've always
9
   Hebron, Connecticut.
10
            MR. McALLISTER: Kevin McAllister, Fire
                                                            10 appreciated myself, I did receive a gavel and it sits
   Chief, Windsor, Vermont.
11
                                                                on my desk in my office and, as I said, I certainly
                                                            11
12
            MR. CHRISTOPOULOS: Chris Christopoulos, Fire
                                                            12
                                                                appreciate it. I look at it often because I have to
   Chief, Lebanon, New Hampshire.
                                                                because I walk by it all the time, but I think it's
13
14
            MR. FLYNN: Chief Bob Gowans is on the Zoom
                                                                interesting now that Chuck could gavel John because
15
  call and was unable to be with us today, but he's
                                                            15 he's out of order or John could gavel Chuck because
                                                               he's out of order, so either way that's an interesting
16
   listening and paying attention.
                                                            16
17
            Before I turn it over, I would ask Chief
                                                            17
                                                               fact, so congratulations.
  Richards to come up followed by Steve Carrier.
                                                                         THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
                                                            18
19
            MR. RICHARDS:
                           Thank you, Mr. President. On
                                                            19
                                                                         MR. DUROSS: Thank you. Next we'll do the
20 behalf of the membership and the Board of Directors of
                                                            20
                                                                secretary's report. Chief John Wood.
21 the Association I would like to present this gavel to
                                                                        MR. WOOD: Good afternoon. Nothing to
                                                            21
22 Chief Duross for his past year of leadership and
                                                            22 report.
23 dedication to this organization. Thank you.
                                                            23
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: I'll make a motion to approve the
                                                  Page 12
                                                                                                               Page 13
1 secretary's report.
                                                             1 haven't gone on-line to register this would be a good
2
            MR. STARK: Second.
                                                                time to do it because other Divisions can then move
 3
            MR. DUROSS: The minutes of the April 8 and
                                                                into the headquarters hotel. And you may not be able
 4 May 20 Board meetings, do you want to approve those at
                                                                to get in, so if you haven't done it already you may
 5 this time? They were presented in writing to the
                                                               want to do that soon and if you can't, let me know and
   Board.
                                                               I might be able to help out.
 6
 7
                                                             7
            I will make a motion to approve the minutes.
                                                                         Normally we have a luncheon at FRI. We
8
            MR. STARK: Second.
                                                             8 haven't been having a luncheon lately mainly because
            MR. FLYNN: So one thing I have to ask is
                                                               of COVID. All of the Divisions voted separately not
9
10
   that when you speak, because the stenographer is
                                                            10 to have a luncheon this year, so we won't have a
   making a record, please stand and state your name and
                                                            11 luncheon. There will be a small hospitality suite
11
   where you're from so she can record the thing. So
                                                            12 meeting room, and we'll get more details out on that
12
13
   that was Chuck Flynn and Keith Stark.
                                                                later, but as I said, it will be at the Westin for
14
            Any opposition to the motion? Seeing none,
                                                            14 those of you that are traveling. How many actually
15 the motion is passed.
                                                                signed up already to go to FRI?
16
                                                                (Hands raised from the floor.)
            MR. WOOD: So the Charlotte, North Carolina
                                                            16
                                                            17
17 FRI, there was some debate about whether we were going
                                                                         MR. WOOD: That's a good amount. If you want
18 to have that or not. In April we decided to have it.
                                                            18 to get your dates down for next year, the Expo will be
19 We should have gotten some information out. Our
                                                            19
                                                               in Worcester at the DCU Center and it will start on
20 Division is at the Westin Hotel. They do not have a
                                                            20 June 22nd and go through the 25th. We'll have the
21 block of rooms for the other Divisions this year
                                                                same hotels that we had for this year. The Hampton
                                                            22 will be the headquarters hotel and there will be a
22 because everything was done in such a short period of
23 time, but that's the headquarters hotel. If you
                                                                schedule coming out soon. If you keep an eye on the
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Page 14 Page 15 1 web page you'll get an opportunity to see what's Overall we aren't losing any money on the 2 happening and what the training is going to be for Expo because in 2019 we started collecting deposits that program. and payments for the Expo and for the exhibit space and when we cancelled in April of 2020 we refunded a That's the end of the secretary's report. 5 Now the treasurer's report. The total considerable amount of that money and then when 2021 6 income according to this report -- normally we do an came along they all signed back up again and when we annual report, but the fiscal year for the Association cancelled in April of 2021 we then refunded again some is October 1st through September 30th, so I started of the monies that we had received. The majority of this report from October 1st to the current time so the vendors actually moved their money from the 2020 10 you would have an idea of what's going on currently Expo to the 2021 Expo and then from the 2021 Expo to 11 with the budget and the treasury. The total program the 2022 Expo, so the accounting on that was a little 12 income for that timeframe, October 1st to June 16th, 12 bit of work by itself. was \$49,497.47 and our total expenses for that same 13 With this meeting and seminar that we're timeframe were \$51,714.70, leaving us in the red at 14 having now we've already overcome that deficit that we 14 15 \$2,889.45. 15 had just in the last week, so we're in pretty good 16 shape. It may not look like it, but according to the Now, what's happened, because of COVID we 16 17 cancelled the 2020 event and we just canceled the 2021 17 balance sheet with all bank accounts, all assets, we event, so we had a lot of refunds, either partial or have \$588,819.74 in the bank. That concludes the full refunds, for vendors at the exhibitor's space. 19 treasurer's report. 20 So, some of that money will come back or all of it 20 MR. FLYNN: Can I get a motion on the 21 will come back, but at the present time we're showing 21 treasurer's report, please? 22 a deficit because those kinds of events didn't take 22 MR. LOCKE: Steve Locke, Burlington. Move to 23 place. accept the treasurer's report. Page 16 Page 17 MR. FLYNN: Is there a second? the fire houses dealing with COVID. We just felt it 1 2 MR. PARTINGTON: Second. Chief Partington was important to get back together in person and I 3 from Narragansett. appreciate your being here. We would also like to MR. FLYNN: Anyone opposed? I don't hear thank John Wood who is the secretary-treasurer. He's 5 anyone opposed. The motion passes. the glue that's holding this organization together. MR. DUROSS: Now Chuck and I will share the THE FLOOR: (Applause.) 6 president's report. First and foremost, I would like 7 MR. DUROSS: So back in February of 2020 to thank Chief Bob Bradley who just walked in. Where under the direction of Chief Carrier and Chief did you go, Bob? There you are. For those of you who Richards the New England Association of Fire Chiefs 10 were unable to participate in the golf tournament, it 10 and the New England Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs through a vote by all of was great. Thank you very much, folks. It was good 11 11 to get together. Again, thank you. 12 you merged. We unified the fire services in New 13 THE FLOOR: (Applause.) 13 England. It was a huge step, and based on the turnout 14 MR. DUROSS: For the last nine years I've 14 in this room and the participation, we feel it was the 15 been participating in this meeting and this has to be right step. We're on a great path moving forward and the largest crowd I've seen at an annual meeting of I want to thank you for your participation and your 16

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23 Chuck.

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the Association, so thanks to all of you for coming and participating in this meeting and staying through

tomorrow and participating in our educational benefit

seminar. We felt it was important for us as the Fire

21 Chiefs of New England to step up and be the first to

22 get together for an in-person meeting after a year and

23 a half of what I'm sure was a very busy time in all of

contributions to the Association. I think this

direction, so thank you.

MR. FLYNN: No.

Association is solid and moving forward in the right

Chief Flynn, do you have any words?

MR. DUROSS: You're never short on words,

Page 18

So, when I did the introductions earlier I 2 welcomed you to the 99th meeting of the Association. 3 Next year will be the 100th anniversary of the New 4 England Association of Fire Chiefs. We are planning a special 100-year anniversary celebration and we hope that all of you will be in the room when that happens, so put that on your calendar.

8 There's a special committee assigned. We're going to meet in Worcester. You were given the dates. 10 So, it will be the 100th anniversary of the annual meeting of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs 11 12 and we look forward to seeing you there.

13 Now I would like to call on Chief Chuck Flynn to talk about VCOS. 14

MR. FLYNN: First, I would ask that the past president of the Association as well as the Division please stand to be recognized for your past service to the organization, so the past presidents of the Association and the Division, please stand.

20 THE FLOOR: (Applause.)

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21 MR. FLYNN: Just quickly, on the VCOS 22 Symposium in the Sun, it's a great conference that's coming up in November. The planning is already going

Page 19 on. Originally we thought we would have about three

fifty, but we're going to see that number go up.

We're waiting to find out the details. I'll let you

know. There's a number of scholarships that will also

be available. There were scholarships available for

FRI. I know we pushed for it hard out in Connecticut

and across the country and there were two

applications. Fortunately or unfortunately for me,

they're both from Connecticut.

10 Elections were just completed and they'll be sworn in at the Charlotte event. Other than that, 11 that's what I've got for the VCOS right now.

At this point I will ask the treasurer from 13 Vermont, Steve Locke, for the IAFC to come up. 14

15 Steve's doing a pretty good job. Steve, come on up.

MR. LOCKE: Good afternoon. I'll keep it at 16 17 a high level so Chris can talk about some of the other

stuff. My name is Steve Locke. Three years ago I was

representing you on the IAFC Board of Directors as the International Director following many years with Chief

Bradley with a little bit of Chief Deel (phonetic) in 21

the center there in between us, but I made the

decision to run for the treasurer's seat. At that

Page 20

1 time the IAFC was about a two million dollar a year 2 organization. We were looking to do business in 3 Dubai. We had just opened up a new office over there,

the place was humming, to say the least, or it certainly seemed to be. A month after becoming

treasurer-elect, in an executive board meeting we

discovered that we were going to finish the 2018

fiscal year with a \$1.8 million dollar deficit. We

found that out three months into FY '19, so we had no 10 idea that we had just completed the fiscal year in the

11 red by \$1.8 million. This was around March or April

12 of 2019, and so by the time we were able to take real

13 action we ended up with -- even though we made some

staff changes we finished FY '19 with a \$1.2 million

15 dollar deficit -- I'm sorry -- a \$1.5 million dollar

16 deficit. So in two years we lost close to \$4 million

dollars. That was not sustainable, so in March we 17

18 developed a budget that was going to be a balanced

budget for FY '20, and then COVID hit and, as some of

you know, we receive about 45 percent of our revenue 20

from FRI, and also the sponsorships dried up. People

weren't sure what they were going to spend their money

23 on, and on a Sunday night in mid April we passed a

Page 21 budget via Zoom with a \$1.2 million dollar deficit and

directed the treasurer through the interim CEO at the

time to find at least half of that through cuts. We

were lucky enough to receive just over a million

dollars of PPP money, the Paycheck Protection Program

loan program. We cut fifteen or so staff and finished

with -- it hasn't been audited yet, but we're very

confident we're going to finish FY '20 with a \$211,000

surplus. So not a lot but certainly way better than

what we had done the two previous fiscal years with a

really crappy year and a lot of bad things happening.

Someone asked me how it was going and I said, I think

13 we finally stopped bailing water out of the ship.

14 So your legislative department is still

the database, so it's tough to say a lot of positive 16

things. I'll let Chris speak about the positive

18 things, but from the treasurer's standpoint, to finish

representing you well. Membership is struggling with

19 the fiscal year where we're at, I'll take it. And

I'll say this. On the 15th of every month I get a

very detailed treasurer's report. We now sub out all

our finances whereas before we had an in-house CFO.

23 We now contract that out to a company and on the 15th

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Page 25

Page 22

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1 of every month we get a very detailed report that
2 shows forecasting to the end of the fiscal year, and
3 very early on -- in fact, on Monday of this week we
4 learned that we already had over a thousand
5 registrants for FRI in Charlotte which is almost where
  we need to be in order to be profitable, so we're
  feeling good about that. We're going to make money in
  Charlotte. Ultimately that's where the money is at -
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in conferences. We took some very important steps recently. We sold our building in 2018 or 2017, actually, and 11 went into a really -- I'll just say it needed a lot of work because it was outdated, so we moved into a brand new office complex. Unfortunately, the pandemic hit and we went fully remote at that time and we had to cut our workforce in half and we were into a ten-year 16 lease on that building that was just about twice as big as what we needed. So, just two weeks ago we were able to exit that lease through a tenant on the upper floor who needed the space, so we've been able to save

22 so we don't have the burden of the remaining seven 23 years on that lease. So, that's a long way of saying 1 re-election next year. I can't imagine anyone wanting

\$500,000 on lease payments and we're out of the lease,

2 to come into this right now anyway. It's an interesting time in the IAFC. We 4 have a new CEO, we're trying to get back on solid 5 footing, and the staff, while very limited and very much lighter, whatever it's been, they continue to 7 work hard for you. 8 So with that, that's the report as treasurer.

9 THE FLOOR: (Applause.) MR. FLYNN: Next will be the International 10 11 Director on my left, Chris Christopoulos.

MR. CHRISTOPOULOS: You said it all, really. 12 13 Steve did talk a lot about the financial part of the

14 15 Almost two years to the day, I attended my 16 first Board meeting representing you folks on the IAFC Board of Directors and I was told about some of the 18 financial issues and where we were at that time, and

I've got to admit, I was sitting in a hallway at

Foxwoods, and I'll never forget it, I said to myself, what the hell did I get myself into. It's been a

challenge for the last two years. I don't think I've

23 ever been more proud to be part of a board of

Page 23 we're back in the black. I would say we're back on

track, but it has not been -- I was just telling Roger

it has not been a fun two years or two and a half

years, and certainly there were some pretty dark days

this last year trying to figure out how we were going

to balance the organization's budget.

Our current cash balance is almost \$4 million dollars. At the height of the organization we probably had about \$10 to \$12 million in the bank, so it's leveled out which is good. The other thing that's good, every section, the assets of all of our sections because of VCOS are essentially more. If COVID did anything, the members kept paying their dues and none of the sections were really spending money. 14

15 So, I'll end with one last thing. Three years ago when I decided to run for treasurer I called 16 17 John and I said, hey, are you ready to run a national campaign, because initially there was very little

competition, and so my campaign will kick off here 20 today. I have submitted my paperwork to seek

re-election. I don't know who would want this

friggin' job anyway, to be quite honest. So, with

that I will announce that I will be campaigning for

Page 24

directors that has worked so hard to ensure that its members come first in every decision we've made over

the last two years. And it's not easy, you know,

reducing staff. I mean, some of you are in

organizations where you've had to do staff reductions.

It's not an easy thing, but we had to make the tough

decisions. And we didn't always agree and we still

don't always agree, but that's healthy for a board of

directors, but I think we're on the right track.

10 Steve alluded to FRI. We're very excited to 11 go back face-to-face at FRI. I had hoped to have the exact numbers from Rob, but I haven't gotten back to 13 Rob today, Rob Brown, our CEO, which, I've got to be

14 honest with you, we went through a transitional period when our current CEO or our then existing CEO retired

and we put in a gentleman by the name of Rob Brown as 16

our interim CEO. We went through a search process for

the CEO and then COVID hit and the Board had to make

19 some decisions financially on what we thought we could

afford for our members and we chose to -- I don't want 20

to say abandon the search, but to kind of take a time

out and put a pause on the process and see where

things went, and I'm extremely pleased to say that Rob

Page 26

1 Brown stepped up to the plate in my opinion. And I've

- 2 been a champion of Rob from the get-go. He's done a
- phenomenal job to ensure that this organization, the
- 4 IAFC, is on the right track and I'm extremely pleased
- 5 to say that the Board made the decision earlier this
- year -- I don't remember the exact date that we
- formally did this, but we removed the "interim" title
- away from Rob and I think he's doing great things and
- that he will continue to do great things on behalf of
- 10 its membership.

11 The other, I'll call it, little bit of 12 elephant in the room, as an IAFC member for a number of years, the consulting company, ESCI, we owned six

percent of ESCI, and we really hadn't had a lot of

representation from the ESCI board for our membership

or our Board of Directors and the financials were very 16

17

confusing. That's probably the nicest way I can say

it. I don't really need to be nice here, but it is 18 19 what it is. So, the IAFC Board decided that we would

20 as the Board of Directors reconstitute Global Public

Safety Solutions. So ESCI is the parent and GPSS is 21

22 the profit portion.

23 GPSS was formed for two fundamental reasons.

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1 of you, a fire chief, is to make sure that your

2 interests, the members' interests, come first and that

3 we repay our return on that investment that the IAFC

4 made a number of years ago, and if for some reason we

5 can't make it, then we'll just get rid of it, but

we're not in that position right now. IAFC is doing

extremely well, and interestingly enough with ESCI our

president and CEO resigned. We negotiated an

agreement with the IAFC to take over our CEO services,

10 so not only is Rob Brown our CEO for the IAFC, he's

11 also the CEO for ESCI, so it kind of creates a

synergistic relationship between the organizations to

13 make sure that again our members come first and our

14 member relations come first.

15 So it's been a whirlwind two years. Chief

16 Locke and I were talking yesterday. I do plan on

trying to stick this out for another term next year

18 when my seat is up on the IAFC Board of Directors. We

still have a lot of work to do, and I appreciate

everything that you all have done. I've gotten some 20

21 heated phone calls.

22 The last thing I'll say is during that year

23 the IAFC board was hit with our president-elect at the

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- Chief Locke talked about some of our work in the
- Middle East. Part of it was some of the for-profit
- things we were doing in the Middle East or what we
- thought were for profit things in the Middle East. As
- far as the ownership portion of ESCI, GPSS was looking
- to put new members on the ESCI Board of Directors.
- sounds like a ponzy scheme almost in some respects
- because it's a little bit screwy. So, I was asked by
- a couple people on the Board if I would step up and
- take a position on the ESCI Board of Directors and I
- did and we had some pretty interesting meetings. 11
- Fundamentally ESCI was bought for about \$1.5 to
- \$1.7 million. That was IAFC's investment into that
- company and we really technically hadn't received a 14
- 15 return on our investment even though ESCI is a very
- 16 profitable company. I'm happy to say with some
- 17 changes that the Board made over the last year that we
- have paid out \$400,000 or so in dividends back to the
- IAFC to start bringing that loan down. Through some
- difficult conversations somehow I became the chairman
- of the board for IAFC, and I don't hesitate in taking
- that on. It's been a lot of work and a lot of time,
- 23 but ultimately my goal as an IAFC board member and one

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time, Rich Carrizzo, Chief Carrizzo, taking a leave of absence from the Board of Directors as the president

of the IAFC for personal reasons. And he was very

specific. He asked us as a board to not announce that

I've taken some pretty heated phone calls from some of

our members wanting to know why the Board doesn't have

a current president. We were asked to honor their

request and we did honor that request. Chief Ken

Stuebig out of Halifax, Nova Scotia has stepped up as

10 the acting president and has done a phenomenal job and

will be our incoming president in Charlotte. 11

So I don't want to keep talking here, but if 12 13 there's any questions or anything anyone has to say,

14 I'm happy to do my best to answer them. Good. No

15 questions. I like that. Thank you.

16 MR. FLYNN: At this time we'll call for the 17 committee report starting with the constitution and

18 bylaws committee. Chief Charles Doody.

19 MR. DOODY: There's not a lot to report from

the constitution and bylaws committee. We reviewed 20

the bylaws of several sections and divisions with some

changes that they wanted to make and presented those

to the Board for approval and that was done. Other

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Page 30
                                                                                                              Page 31
 1 than that there's nothing much happening, so we're
                                                               seconds that.
 2 good. Any questions? Great.
                                                            2
                                                                        MR. FLYNN: Thanks. Any discussion? Anyone
            THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
                                                               opposed? So, the motion passes to support Chief Locke
            MR. FLYNN: You're only clapping because that
                                                               as treasurer of the IAFC.
                                                                        THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
  was short.
 6
            MR. RICH: Chief Rich, North Farms. With the
                                                                        MR. FLYNN is there any new business to come
 7 last year and a half with COVID going on it's been
                                                              before the Association? Is there any old business to
  really quiet. We've had very few calls. There's new
                                                               come before the Association? No? Okay. Let's move
   ownership there, so please get involved with it. You
                                                               now to the election of officers. Chief Bradley.
   get some pretty good deals there and we get money back
                                                           10
                                                                        MR. BRADLEY: Question. In support of Chris
11 for the Association, but as I said, it's been really
                                                           11 Christopolous' bid to seek re-election is it
12 quiet. We've had very few meetings on Zoom or even
                                                           12
                                                               appropriate now to offer that support?
   teleconferences on it.
                                                           13
                                                                        MR. FLYNN: Chief Christopoulos, now or next
14
            MR. DUROSS: Now let's go to elections. I
                                                           14 year?
15
  don't know if there's been a report submitted yet.
                                                           15
                                                                        MR. CHRISTOPOULOS: Next year.
   Charlie, did Bob send anything out? No? Okay.
                                                           16
16
                                                                        MR. FLYNN: Are you sure?
                                                                        MR. CHRISTOPOULOS: Yeah. I've got one more
17
            Moving on in the agenda to new business, is
                                                           17
   there any new business to come before the Association?
                                                               good year in me, but thank you, Chief Bradley. I
18
19
            MR. FLYNN: I make a motion that we support
                                                           19
                                                               appreciate that.
20
  the re-election campaign of Steve Locke as the
                                                           20
                                                                        MR. FLYNN: Last call for any new business.
21 treasurer of the IAFC on behalf of the New England
                                                           21 Last call for any old business.
22 Division.
                                                                        All right. Let's move to the election of
23
            MR. RICH: Chief Rich from North Farms
                                                           23 officers. I'll look to the secretary-treasurer. Do
                                                  Page 32
                                                                                                              Page 33
1 you have a prepared slate or do you want to read off
                                                            1 have seconds for both. Is there any discussion? Any
 2 of the agenda?
                                                               additional nominations from the floor? No? Okay.
            MR. WOOD: You mean for president?
                                                            3 I'll call for a vote. Anybody opposed? The motion
            MR. FLYNN: So again, we're going to share
                                                               passes. Congratulations.
 5 the presidency and the transition will take place, so
                                                                        THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
   the nominations are for president from Massachusetts
                                                                        MR. FLYNN: For 1st vice-president I'm
 7 Chief Charles Doody and from Vermont Chief Robert
                                                               looking for a nomination.
   Gowans.
                                                                        MR. WOOD: I nominate Chief Darrell White
9
            THE FLOOR: Point of order. Are you making a
                                                               from the Presque Isle Fire Department for 1st
   motion? Because typically someone has to make a
                                                           10 vice-president
11 motion for each of them. I think that's what you were
                                                                        MR. FLYNN: John Wood makes a motion for
                                                           11
  trying to get to. Thank you. I'm new here.
                                                           12 Darrell White to be 1st vice-president.
12
13
            MR. FLYNN: No, you're good.
                                                           13
                                                                        MR. HALL: Donald Hall from Conentry. Second
14
            So, I'm looking for a nomination for Chief
                                                           14 the motion.
15
   Charles Doody for co-president for the upcoming year.
                                                           15
                                                                        MR. FLYNN: We have a motion and a second.
16
            MR. RICHARDS: Chief Ken Richards. I'll make
                                                           16 Any discussion? Any additional nominations from the
17
                                                               floor? Anyone opposed? No? All right. The motion
  that motion.
                                                               passes. Congratulations, Chief White.
18
            MR. LOCKE: Steve Locke. Second the motion.
                                                           18
19
            MR. FLYNN: Chuck Flynn. I nominate Bob
                                                           19
                                                                        THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
20
   Gowans from the State of Vermont as the co-president.
                                                                        MR. FLYNN: For 2nd vice-president from the
                                                           20
21
            MR. JONES: Ken Jones from Meredith. I'll
                                                           21 the state of Rhode Island I nominate Chief Bob Bradley
                                                           22 from Providence, Rhode Island. Is there a second?
22 second that.
23
            MR. FLYNN: So we have two nominations and we
                                                                        MR. HALL: Chief Donald Hall, Coventry, Rhode
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                                                                                                               Page 35
 1 Island seconds the motion.
                                                             1 Department, for another term as state director from
 2
            MR. FLYNN: We have a motion and a second for
                                                                the state of New Hampshire.
   Chief Bob Bradley. Any discussion? Any nominations
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: Is there a second?
                                                                         MR. CHRISTOPOULOS: I'll second it.
   from the floor? Anyone opposed? No? Thank you.
   Congratulations, Chief Bradley.
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: Thank you. Any discussion? Any
 6
             THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
                                                                other additional nominations? Anyone opposed? No?
            MR. FLYNN: State directors are needed for
                                                                Congratulations, Chief Jones.
   the state of Rhode Island. Is there a nomination from
                                                             8
                                                                         THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
   the state of Rhode Island for state director?
                                                             a
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: Looking for a nomination for a
10
            MR. BRADLEY: I would like to nominate from
                                                            10
                                                               renewal of the director's position for the state of
11 the town of Bristol, Rhode Island Chief DeMello as the
                                                                Connecticut. Is there a nomination?
                                                            11
   Rhode Island representative as state director.
                                                            12
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: Chuck Flynn from the state of
13
            MR. HALL: Donald Hall from Coventry seconds
                                                                Connecticut will nominate for renewal Chief Starkel.
                                                            13
   the motion.
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: Is there a second?
14
                                                            14
                                                                         THE FLOOR: I will second that motion.
15
            MR. FLYNN: Any additional nominations?
                                                            15
   Anyone opposed? No? The motion passes.
                                                            16
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: Thank you, Chief. We have a
16
17
   Congratulations, Chief.
                                                            17
                                                               nomination and a second. Is there any discussion?
18
            THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
                                                                Are there any additional nominations? Anyone opposed?
19
            MR. FLYNN: Looking for a renewal of the
                                                            19
                                                                No? Thank you very much. Congratulations, Chief.
20
   state director from the State of New Hampshire. Is
                                                            20
                                                                         THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
21
   there a nomination?
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: That is our slate of officers.
                                                            21
22
            MR. CARRIER: Steve Carrier. I would like to
                                                            22
                                                               We will now have the swearing in of the officers.
23 nominate Ken Jones, Chief of the Meredith Fire
                                                            23
                                                                         Chief Gowans, are you still on Zoom? No?
                                                  Page 36
                                                                                                               Page 37
                                                                off that cheat sheet there. Just kidding.
1 Okay. We'll do his later.
                                                                Congratulations, Bob.
2
            Okay. At this time I would ask the treasurer
 3 of the IAFC from Burlington to come forward to swear
                                                                         THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: Congratulations, Bob. I have a
 4 in the members of the Board of Directors. Chief
                                                                small present for the incoming president. Chief
 5 DeMello, do you want to join us, please?
                                                                Doody, come forward, please. I am presenting to Chief
   (Whereupon, the members of the Board of Directors were
                                                                Charles Doody from the New England Association of Fire
7
   sworn in.)
                                                                Chiefs, a division of the IAFC, your gavel to preside
8
            MR. FLYNN: Congratulations, gentlemen.
                                                                over the meetings of the Association. Congratulations
9
            THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
                                                            10
                                                               and best of luck to you.
10
            MR. FLYNN: The oath of office for our
                                                                         MR. DOODY: Thank you, Chief.
   president, Chief Gowan, will be done at a later time.
11
                                                            12
                                                                         THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
12
            MR. FLYNN: Would Chief Doody's family like
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: Bob, on behalf of the Association
13
   to come up and be a part of this? Just come on up
                                                            13
                                                            14 and Division I also have your gavel that I'm going to
   here and stand to the side, please.
                                                               keep for you in a box so we don't lose it. We wish
15
    (Whereupon, Charles Doody was sworn in.)
                                                               you well. Charlie's gavel is a dud. Yours has got
16
            MR. FLYNN: Congratulations, Chief.
                                                            17
                                                                the noise.
17
            THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
                                                            18
                                                                         MR. DOODY: Thank you, Chief Flynn.
18
            MR. FLYNN: We can try to do Bob now. John
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: Continuing with the
19
   Wood is here.
                                                            19
                                                            20 presentations, Chief Ken Richards, would you join me,
20
            MR. FLYNN: How you doing, Bob? Good to see
                                                                please. Presenting to Chief Ken Richards, President
21 you again.
                                                                of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, a
22
   (Robert Gowans was sworn in via Zoom.)
                                                            23 division of the IAFC from April 2019 through
23
            MR. FLYNN: You did a great job of reading
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                                                                                                               Page 39
 1 April 2020, we would like to present you with this
                                                                Association continue to move forward, so I want to
   gift and also thank you for your leadership and hard
                                                                thank them both. Let's have a round of applause for
   work throughout the year, especially for your work in
                                                                both.
    the merger along with the committee of the two
                                                                         THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
    Associations. Ken, thank you very much.
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: First, I want to present this
            MR. RICHARDS: Thank you.
                                                                gift to Chief John Duross, president of the New
7
             THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
                                                                England Association of Fire Chiefs and the Fire Chief
                                                                of Saco, Maine. Chief, congratulations and thank you
             MR. FLYNN: Chief Carrier, come on up. On
   behalf of Association as co-president for 2019-2020
                                                                for all your hard work.
    congratulations and thank you for your service.
                                                            10
                                                                         MR. DUROSS: Thank you.
11
            MR. CARRIER: Thank you very much.
                                                            11
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: Next I want to present this to
                                                                Chief Charles "Chuck" Flynn, president of the New
12
            MR. FLYNN: So, we're going to present these
                                                            12
   gifts to our outgoing presidents. First, I would like
                                                                England Association of Fire Chiefs, for all his hard
13
                                                            13
    to present this gift to -- first of all, I would like
                                                                       Thank you, Chuck. Good job, fellas.
                                                                work.
                                                            14
    to say about these two outgoing presidents, they
                                                            15
                                                                         THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
   really had a challenging year with the pandemic
                                                            16
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: Anything else that needs to come
   obviously trying to keep the Association moving
                                                            17
                                                                before the Association before we conclude? No?
17
18
   forward after Chief Richards and Chief Carrier got
                                                                I'll ask Deacon Martino to come forward with the
                                                            18
    these two Associations to merge. We've got to keep
                                                                closing prayer. I caught him off guard. He wasn't
                                                            19
    that momentum going. These two Chiefs were challenged
                                                                prepared.
   with keeping it going and they did a great job, and
                                                            21
                                                                         DEACON MARTINO: Dear Lord, we ask you to
   the fact that we're all here in person at this meeting
                                                            22
                                                                continue to help us be successful. The outgoing
   is a testament to how hard they worked to make this
                                                                presidents had a bear of a job this past year as
                                                  Page 40
                                                                                                               Page 41
    everybody did with COVID and they did a great job
                                                                meeting of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs.
   keeping it together. We ask your blessings upon us as
                                                                At this time I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.
   we all continue this endeavor to merge the two groups
                                                                         MR. BRADLEY: So moved.
   together for the common goal of protecting life and
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: Chief Bradley had made a motion
   property and we ask these things through Christ, our
                                                                to adjourn.
                                                                         MR. STARK: Second.
7
             THE FLOOR: Amen.
                                                                         MR. FLYNN: Chief Stark seconds the motion.
                                                                Anyone opposed? No one's opposed. Thank you, all.
            MR. FLYNN: One quick announcement from the
   Board. Please stay put. John has asked for some
                                                             9
                                                                         MR. DUROSS: Once again, thank you.
10
   pictures and immediately following we'll have a
                                                            10
                                                                         THE FLOOR: (Applause.)
   presidential reception. I'll just ask John for the
                                                            11
                                                                (The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.)
12
  details.
                                                            12
13
            MR. DUROSS: The presidential reception is
                                                            13
   going to be out in the hallway here. As you go out
                                                            14
   you'll see the tables and there will be a cash bar and
                                                            15
    some finger foods. It's a great time to network with
   friends you haven't seen for awhile, so just enjoy it.
                                                            17
   Sorry there's no dinner. At 6:30 you're free to go
                                                            18
   off to wherever you would like to go, have a free
                                                            19
20
   night and enjoy it. So that's it.
                                                            20
             MR. FLYNN: Thank you, John. On behalf of
                                                            21
   the entire Board and myself and Chief Flynn we would
                                                            22
23 like to thank you for attending the 99th annual
                                                            23
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1	CERTIFICATE	
2		
3	I, Laurie A. Gelinas, RPR, a Licensed	
	Court Reporter and Notary Public for the State of New	
۱,		
*	Hampshire, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a	
	true and accurate transcript of my stenographic notes	
5	of the proceeding taken at the place and on the date	
-	hereinbefore set forth to the best of my skill and	
6	ability under the conditions present at the time.	
7		
	I further certify that I am neither	
8	attorney nor counsel for, nor related to or employed	
	by any of the parties to the action in which this	
9	deposition was taken, and further that I am not a	
-		
	relative or employee of any attorney or counsel	
10	employed in this case, nor am I financially interested	
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	LAURIE A. GELINAS, LCR #35, RPR	
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