



Southeastern Firefighters Association

Association des Pompier du Sud-est

Representing Albert, Kent and Westmorland Counties

Sunday, June 12, 2016

At Riverview Fire Department

This meeting was held at Riverview Fire Rescue. The meeting was called to order by Denis Pleau, interim president.

There were 20 members in attendance representing 14 departments. Raymond Leblanc and Claude Hachey from OFM were in attendance as well.

1. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting were passed out to those who needed them.

Motioned by: Daniel Dupuis

Seconded by: Dave Gallant

MOTION CARRIED

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – DENIS PLEAU

Denis Pleau expected this would be his last meeting as an interim president. Conrad Landry could not attend and has resigned from his position as President. Denis agreed to be the interim president for the short term but feels he cannot fairly represent the 28 volunteer departments in this association and believes it should be a volunteer fire chief. Denis indicated that he would not accept any nominations for president at the election portion of this meeting.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT – TIM DRYDEN

Present balance is \$22,775.51. Cheques issued recently for pizza (Local Assistant training), Raymond Leblanc, Conrad Landry, a money order for \$3,600 US for the instructor for Saturday training, June 12 BBQ, supplies for spring training and porta-potty.

Motioned to accept by: Gary McCarthy

Seconded by: Marcel Leblanc

MOTION CARRIED

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice President, Westmorland County – Position Absent

No update.

Vice President, Kent County – Danny DesRoches

Level 1 is completed in Bouctouche

Vice President, Albert County – Denis Pleau

Denis mentioned that there has been some media attention to two water rescues that were false alarms. Actual scheduled training.

Dieppe and Riverview looking to have first level boat instructors by end of 2016 and next year Swift water rescue instructors certified from Rescue Canada. Anybody looking to get a boat and requires training could use these instructors.

Albert County training. Date not confirmed. When date is known, asked to e-mail Tim Gaudet for the minutes.

ATC Report – Daniel Dupuis

Level 1

Level 1 course in each county is complete. Let me know if anyone is interested in starting a level 1 course in the fall. Re-writes to be done on June 23 or 24.

Level 2

Level 2 courses are complete. Let me know if anyone is interested in starting a level 2 course in the fall. Will coordinate as needed.

Spring Training

Our spring training took place on May 14. Thanks to everyone involved! I want to give a special thank you to Moncton and Riverview fire halls for lending their facilities, to our instructors for giving their time and expertise, as well as to the 80+ students who attended the training.

Instructors got together for a recap of the event and we discussed what worked well and what we could improve.

There were some issues with equipment being stolen while the site was unattended during lunch.

Will need to have someone filling air bottles for future training.

We will put together a checklist of the items covered at the Moncton station and send to the chiefs so that the log books can be signed off. Items covered at the Riverview fire hall were already signed off.

If anyone has additional feedback (good or bad), please let me know.

Officer Training

We have an opportunity to host an Officer Training course if enough people are interested. We can put together a block 5 hazmat ops training so that more people have the pre-requisites for this officer course. Let me know if you would like to participate in a block 5 hazmat so that we can line this up for the fall.

The pre-requisites for the Officer Training course are Firefighter Level 1 and Level 2, 5th Edition. Also, for those seeking IFSAC certification hazmat awareness ops, Instructor 1 IFSAC, FF1 and FF2 are required.

The course spans over 2 full weekends and includes 40 hours of theory, homework assignments and JPR's. Current officers are strongly encouraged to sign-up for this course. The cost of the course will be divided amongst the departments based on their number of students. We can decide on a central location based on where students will be coming from.

Other

Daniel mentioned he got an e-mail from Serge to do training with RCMP and looking for instructors for Train the Trainer for the Meth Labs.

Volunteer Chief Report / NBAFC Report – Dave Gallant

Dave Cail is the new interim Chief for Harcourt.

Jury duty – some have been told it pertains only to career firefighters and not volunteer. Dave noted that with Saint-Paul we have provided a letter to the firefighter and they were exempt from jury duty.

The “law” says firefighter. Not distinguished between career or volunteer.

The Volunteer Chief's committee will approach the NBAFC to do a form letter to be used for jury duty.

There were two representatives speaking on the mall collapse in Elliot Lake. Laura King, Editor of Firefighting in Canada and Brad Bigrigg, Fire Chief of Town of Caledon, spoke of the communication issues between emergency response teams, the media and public. The group performed various exercises on how to relay information to the media through social media and briefings.

Chief Gallant is in favour of automatic mutual aid. Alma, Riverside Albert and Hillsborough use automatic mutual aid and it works well for them. They do not have an agreement. They just do it. The departments each hear the calls.

Four departments in the northwest part of the province have been utilizing automatic mutual aid and are having great success.

Some departments reported issues with new vehicles (i.e. 911 seat, handle on dump valve).

There have been problems when government amalgamates departments (i.e. Millville and Keswick Valley - one department uses UHF and the other VHF and cannot communicate with one another.) The government needs to work with the departments to resolve issues before they amalgamate.

At the Volunteer Chief's meeting, Chief Ben Morin mentioned that his term for the position of Chairman for the Volunteer Chiefs is up and asked if anybody was interested or wanted to nominate someone for the position. Chief Dave Gallant was nominated but was not eligible because he is not bilingual. Chief Gallant has issues with that because the NBAFC Executive does not follow this practice. When the NBAFC has meetings there is usually simultaneous translation available. Chief Gallant asked Chief Morin to approach the NBAFC with clarification and feels this should be open to all fire chiefs in New Brunswick.

Local Assistant Training – Raymond Leblanc noted it has been going well but not finished yet. More courses will be held in the Fall.

The Fire Marshal spoke of the difference between a Fire Prevention Officer vs Fire Prevention Educator. Every dept has a FPO but they are actually only educators. There are only a few people qualified as a Fire Prevention Officer. A Fire Prevention Educator cannot enforce policies.

NBAFC Bursary has been renewed. There will be two \$1,000 bursaries available. Do not have all the details at the moment regarding qualifications.

Fire Department ID cards. Would like something provincial. Nothing in the works per Raymond Leblanc. Dave thinks that having a standard card for firefighters is a great idea.

The NBAFC Conference will be run by the NBAFC going forward and held in Fredericton for the next 3 years (2017, 2018, 2019). This will allow better pricing on hotels, catering, etc.

Provincial Volunteer Recruitment campaign has been narrowed down to one logo for NB. It's the campaign they started in Manitoba and has been successful.

Fennety Marketing campaign brought in \$81,408 as a fundraiser for the NBAFC.

Dan McCoy attended some NB911 and TMR meetings as well as mental health for first responders.

CAFC 2016 initiatives:

- Working with National Advisory Council
- National Volunteer recruitment program called "answer the call"
- NAC has adopted the terms and references to provide direction

- CFO program re-vamped and should be out in early 2016
- National mental wellness advisory workgroup established consists of CAFC board, NAC and IAFF and mental Health Canada. Will do a roundtable discussion with the Minister of Public Safety.
- Minister Goodall convened around the discussions and stakeholders including presence from fire, police and medical association.
- Not all fire departments pay for a membership to CAFC but it is important to be a member and support them.

NBAFC 2016 priorities:

- Dept of public safety - completion of regional fire dispatch
- Maintenance of existing funding support
- Mental health initiatives for first responders
- Optimal staff for the OFM to meet mandate of Fire Prevention act
- Department of post secondary education and labour – looking at PTSD as presumptive in the province
- Maintain funding for NBAFC training site in Miramichi
- NBAFC have a seat on the provincial Worksafe NB board and memo of understanding signed with PETL and NBAFC for the long term use of the NBAFC training site
- Local Government – Firefighter training; manpower for daytime response; creation of committee with local government, NBAFC, and public safety to develop a provincial recruiting retention program and provincial gap analysis.

NBCC update

Remi St. Coeur is the newly appointed fire service coordinator for curriculum. Will make Serge's job a bit easier.

NBCC has a pre-employment training this fall and FF workshop is Sept 9-10. Registration forms are now available.

NBCC launched new info on their website on training. Dave believes they plan to include instructor names etc.

They are also asking if fire departments have a change to their department's information regarding the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief or Acting Chief to contact their office so they can keep their records up to date.

From the Fire Marshall's office – FIRS – inactive and junior FF should not be in the FIRS system. Raymond said if we don't pay for the presumptive insurance then they should not be included in the FIRS system. Inactive and Jr. FF should be removed.

LSD fire apparatus – there are new models that will be available. Dave asked Raymond to elaborate. Metalfab got the 2 rescues, and someone in Ontario got 6. Will be going out to look at them. Chief

Partridge said he understood that if you are an LSD, you get a certain truck and if you want something else you need to apply.

Police received a grant from the Department of Public Safety. Fire service looking to do the same.

Trying to get fees dropped for transfer of firefighter license plates. Firefighter plates are currently considered personal plates.

Securing the scene – after 3 or 4PM if you call the OFM to get a fire investigated, they will not show until the next day. The “chain of custody” has to be kept until that time. The Fire Chief has the legal responsibility to secure a scene until the Fire Marshal arrives. If it is deemed criminal then the RCMP takes over.

OFM – Raymond Leblanc

TMR Radios is ongoing. Training was done in Fredericton and tested in the field. So far it is going well. There is an abundance of radios in storage in Fredericton and once it is decided which concept they will go with, the radios will be distributed to the fire service.

A demo is available if interested to explain what the TMR system can do for you. They are going around to associations. Demo is about 30 minutes. Dave said we should have someone come in to demo the system. Raymond to arrange to have the demo set up.

Soon there will be a Chief Regional Fire Marshal and the 4 Regional Fire Marshal’s will report to that person.

Raymond introduced Claude Hachey who now handles Technical Inspection Services (TIS) which is now part of the Fire Marshal’s Office. Claude reports to Mike Mallory.

There are 6 Fire Prevention Officers in the province per the Fire Prevention Act. Technical Inspection Services does inspections for a community centre, restaurant, bar, daycare, nursing homes, special care homes, apartment buildings, arenas. A building that occupies 50 or more people.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Denis mentioned that Kent Steeves has concerns that the Fire Marshal’s office is dumping more responsibility and work on the Volunteer Fire Departments. He has concerns regarding the responsibility of securing a scene.

The Fire Chief should notify the OFM. The OFM does not attend all fire calls reported. If the Fire Marshal and the Chief decide together that a fire needs to be investigated, the scene must be secured. If the Fire Marshall and the Chief discuss the situation and it is not deemed suspicious, they may decide together that it is not required for the Fire Marshal to go to the scene.

6. ELECTIONS

The following positions were nominated and accepted:

President – Chief Dave Gallant

Vice President, Albert County – Peter Murphy

Vice President, Kent County – Chief Danny DesRoches

Vice President, Westmorland County – Gary McCarthy

Treasurer – Tim Dryden

Secretary – Colleen Gallant

ATC – Daniel Dupuis

NBAFPO – open. Will vote at next meeting. In the past, Mitchell Short has had this role. Will be deferred to next meeting regarding this role.

A question was asked regarding the length of term. We will look into this and advise.

7. NEXT MEETING

It was discussed to have the next meeting after the NBAFC Executive meeting. However, the NBAFC Executive meeting will be at the end of October.

President Gallant has decided that we will keep the schedule as per past meetings and have a meeting in September rather than wait until November. The next SEFFA meeting will be on Sunday September 18.

Motion for Adjournment

Moved by Charlie Leblanc

**NEXT MEETING, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2016 @ 2:00 PM
Riverview Fire Rescue, 650 Pinewood Road, Riverview, NB**