



MINUTES

Southeastern Firefighters Association

Association des Pompier du Sud-est

Representing Albert, Kent and Westmorland Counties

Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

*Platoon Chief Paul Bruens – Moncton
Chief Marcel LeBlanc – Bouctouche
Maurice Belliveau - Bouctouche
Daniel Dupuis –ATR/ Dorchester
Greg Partridge – Dorchester
Dennis Reid – Dorchester
Gerald Boudreau – Memramcook
Dave Gallant – Saint Paul
Tim Gaudet – Saint Paul*

*Danny DesRoches - Cocagne
Adam Allain - Cocagne
Tim Dryden- Salisbury
Kent Steeves - Elgin
Brian Dunfield - Petitcodiac
Julien Boudreau - Dieppe
Chief Robin True - Riverview
Ray LeBlanc – Fire Marshal
Guy Richard – Saint Antoine*

This meeting was held via Zoom Virtual Meeting. The meeting was called to order by President, Paul Bruens.

There were 18 members in attendance representing 12 departments.

GUEST SPEAKERS

No Guest Speaker due to Co-Vid 19

- **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 29, 2020**

A copy of the meeting minutes were distributed to members via e-mail, posted on the website. The minutes were amended to add Riverside-Albert after Kathy Weir's name in the Attendees.

Motioned by: Kent Steeves

Seconded by: Dave Gallant

MOTION CARRIED

- **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

President's Report – Paul Bruens

Here are some important updates.

Regional Fire Dispatch – Update

Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 10:31 AM

To: Paul Bruens

Subject: Regional Fire Dispatch

As of today,

Our building has finally been equipped with the Fibre link and we should be operational (as far as network is concerned) next week. The only thing left is for us to get our computers updated with the latest CAD version (Fredericton is working on this now). Once that's done, we'll be up and running. Of course we'll have to coordinate with NB911 and Radio group for when on-boarding will occur. I'm not sure what will happen while we're in the red phase.

Dan Fougère

Manager - OCC PSAP

CIS Peer Support Group

The Office of the Fire Marshal, coordinated by Brian Brown is moving forward with a CIS Peer Support Program. Grant funding was received from Bell thru their Let's Talk Program. Anyone interested, please contact Brian directly thru the OFM.

Operation Covid Plans

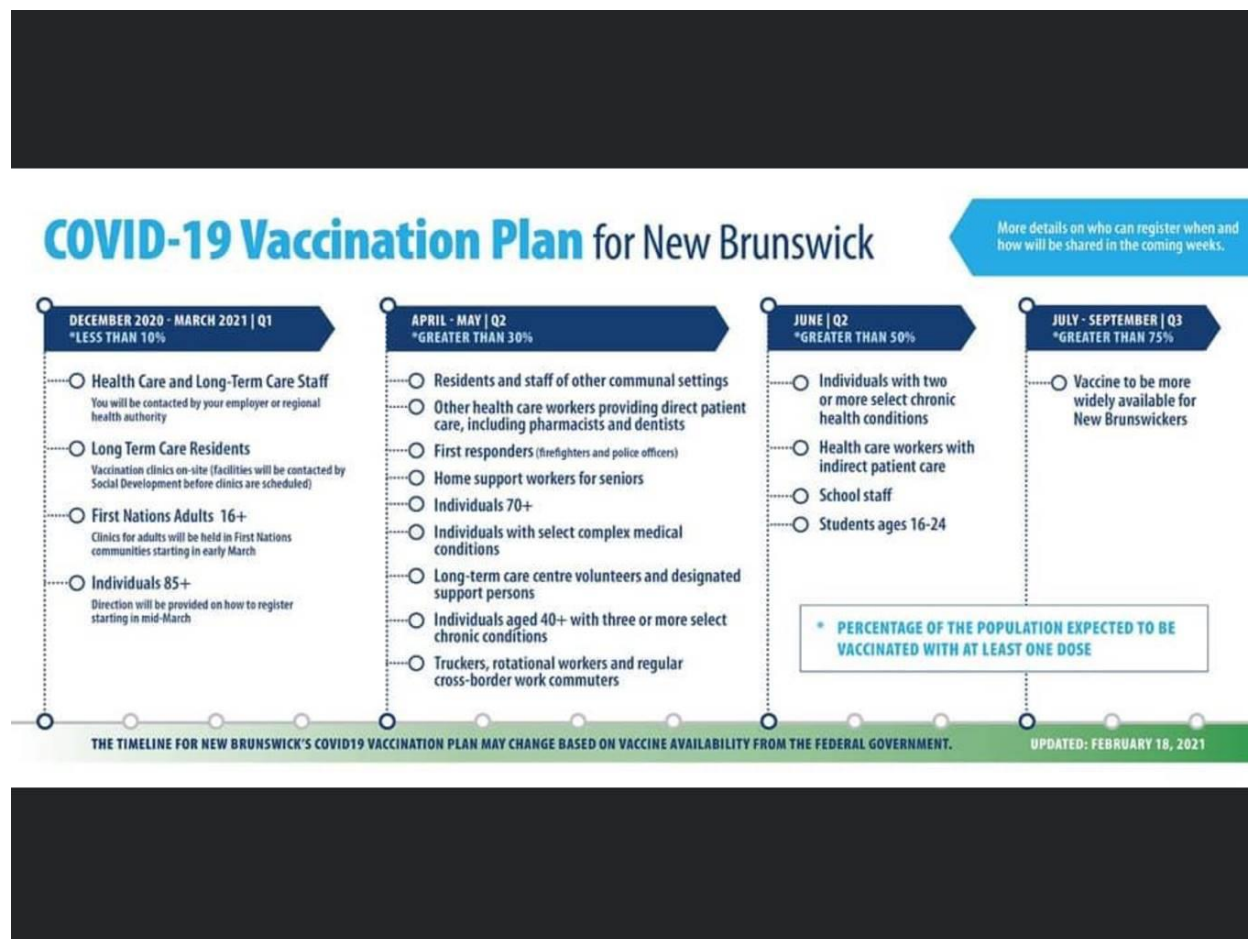
Reminder to all Fire Chiefs to ensure their Operation Covid Plans are in place for your members to follow. This is especially important as we face the evolving variant strains of the virus. Most importantly, WSNB have been doing periodic checks and FD's are not exempt from these.

Training

Several members have expressed frustration over the inability to have their members tested, who are enrolled with NBCC in their FF 1 program.

WSNB / Form 67 and FF Compensation

Recently a claim was submitted to WSNB for a Firefighter who was injured. This process was very frustrating for both the individual and Fire Chief. I've had several discussions on the matter with Fire Chief Charlie Kavanaugh, President of the NBAFC. The NBAFC Executive will be meeting to discuss this process next week. I have suggested that an FF/FD Advocate be formed, as well as, a review of the legislation. In addition, presently the NBAFC does not have a Committee formed to deal with matters that may arise. This is an important topic and could affect any member and his/her family.



Vice President, Kent County – Adam Allain

No report submitted. Dave Gallant will be acting VP in the interim and will be contacting departments in the near future to touch base.

Vice President, Westmorland – Derrick Fillmore

No report submitted

Vice President, Albert County – James Lyman

No report submitted.

Financial/Treasurer's Report – Tim Dryden

Transactions listed below and distributed via the meeting agenda:

Date	Chq #	Amount	Payable to	Purpose
		\$33,518.93		OPENING BALANCE
		\$230.00		Zoom Membership
		2.25		Service Charge
		\$33,386.68		CLOSING BALANCE

Motioned by: Marcel LeBlanc

Seconded by: Dan Dupuis

MOTION CARRIED

NBAFPO – Tim Dryden

No report submitted.

OFM – Raymond LeBlanc

- Auxiliary award finalized. Form will be distributed-people can apply for this award who are not eligible for existing provincial or federal medals.
- Green lights on personal vehicles (Sent out this week-no green lights allowed for personal vehicles)
- Good response on online course delivery. Hoping to expand into fall 2021.
- FIRS system expanded to include insurance company reports (Linked to incident)
- Looking to link FIRS reports to fire incident reports
- Train derailment-Reminder to all chiefs that THEY are the sole responsible party (Not CN, etc).
- Flood planning 2021 (Just a heads up that this will be coming)

Priority access of vaccines for Family members of Firefighters

- At this time, firefighters (career and volunteer) have been included in New Brunswick as a phase 2 priority vaccine group on the basis that they provide an essential service, and that they have a greater likelihood of infection given the potential for patient contact. Mike Lewis will confirm if the family members of the firefighters will be included as well.
- Decisions on vaccine priorities are made by the department of health by an epidemiologist. I will bring forward your concerns to that group for consideration.
- Ray will confirm if those on WCB or nurses are included for the vaccines as well.

Local Assistant Appointments

- Our position continues to be that having a Local Assistant appointment remains a benefit to municipalities and local service districts by offering provincial indemnification for activities done in good faith. We will continue to work with any fire service that wishes to have an appointment, the training of which is now offered in an online format. We will accept local assistant appointments for any chief or qualified senior designate.
- Mike Lewis will reach out to those departments who have expired in 2020.
- Ray will send Kent additional information on the benefits of having a Local Assistant.

Training and Examinations

- We recognize that the initial policy of not allowing provincial examinations during orange, red or lockdown phases of New Brunswick's COVID-19 Recovery plan posed challenges to fire departments. Being able to efficiently train and certify firefighters is essential to recruiting and retaining volunteers, and providing a service.
- As a result, earlier this week we distributed an update examination policy that allows for exams. We have committed to clearing the backlog of individuals awaiting exams in a timely manner- even if means bringing on additional proctors or paying for additional sessions to do so.
- We are looking at alternatives so that examinations can continue, even if the province returns to the red phase in the future. Firefighter certification is an important feature of firefighter training, and it is essential that examinations remain impartial.
- For that reason, it is not feasible to consider having fire departments self-administer examinations. If a department needs an examination, we will provide it- even if it means bringing on more proctors or screeners- we have allocated additional funds for this purpose.

• COMMITTEE REPORTS

ATC Report – Daniel Dupuis

Level 1

Due to Covid, we have been doing Level 1 via virtual training. It has been slow going due to exams not being able to get done (red zone), we will be pushing some exams over the next few weeks so students can move to block 2 so hopefully we can get back on schedule. Instructors have been providing theory (only) online with students. Exams will be hosted at NBCC campus with set protocols.

Level 2

Sackville has completed their level 2, awaiting review and exam.

Due to Covid, same as level 1, we have been doing online training on Wednesdays, the course is almost completed.

Basic Off-Road Rescue

Please advise if you have any firefighters interested in doing the course (same drill, online theory only)

Low Angle Rope Rescue

Please advise if you have any students interested in a new course (same as rest, online only)

Auto Extrication

We have also had requests for an auto extrication course, again, please advise ATR if you have any firefighters interested in this course, pre-requisites are firefighter level 1 (not enough students at this time)online theory only

Officer and Instructor Courses

These are also available if we can get enough students for a course online and theory only

Spring Training

We have cancelled the spring training this year due to covid

Training

Training as a whole has been very challenging this year. Moving into the fall, we will have to adapt to new ways of training in order to minimize contact with others. WE MUST KEEP TRAINING. We owe it to our communities we serve, to be knowledgeable and ready to do our jobs.

Some of these online trainings would be good for your firefighters and some can be provided on your training nights. If you have any ideas for training, please advise. We may be doing online training as an association if the demand is there.

If you have any training ideas or have firefighters interested in attending mentioned training sessions, please advise me ASAP so we can start planning these sessions.

Firefighter.dan@hotmail.com 506 875 3540

• UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Communications Committee for SEFFA

Arrange meeting with Dan Fougere to create a Radio Committee with preferably 1 rep, Paul Bruens and 1 alternate rep and invite Radcom.

There was a motion to table who the committee reps should be until the chiefs can discuss with their departments to bring forth nominees to the Communications Committee. Nominations can be done by the chief.

Motioned by: Dave Gallant

Seconded by: Tim Dryden

MOTION CARRIED

• NEW BUSINESS

- Alternates for other committees – Paul to discuss with Tim Dryden for NBAFPO, Dave will attend the Fire Chief Meetings on behalf of the volunteers.
- Paul will confirm and coordinate with Dan on the possibility of online guest speakers and instructors or evening workshops.
- Paul to speak with Dan on the possibility of coordinating either brainstorm meetings or think tank meetings to assist with the recruit and retention process. Possibly have demo days to help recruit as well.
- Kent will speak at our next meeting on our current insurance program

➤ Dan will confirm the following with Serge:

- If a 17 year old can take the Level 1 course as long as he turns 18 when complete.
- Question-Answer period, testing done at NBCC, sign up for exam with Proctor – similar to the Coaching and Boating courses. Paul will bring up at NBAFC as well to improve Level 1
- Possibility for Seffa to piggy back with either Fredericton or Oromocto for Level 1 and 2 Courses (FF's on other blocks come in via Zoom to their courses)

• **NEXT MEETING – APRIL 18, 2021 AT 7:00PM VIA ZOOM**

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: Robin True

SECOND BY: Marcel LeBlanc

MOTION CARRIED