

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

May 12, 2011

Board of Directors Meeting
Sheraton Hotel
Springfield, MA

Members Present:

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

Guests

Bruce Johnson, Regional Representative ICC
Fred Stanley

International Director
Roger Bradley

State Directors:

Steve Locke, VT
William St. Michel, ME
Chris Christopoulos, NH
George Farrell, RI (Not Present)
Michael Varney, CT
David Jarden, MA

Immediate Past President
Gerard Dio, MA

President O'Neil started the meeting at 08:00.

Pledge to the Flag and Invocation by Chief David Sayles.

David Jarden introduced Robert Spurr, Chief of the Department, Avon, MA. Chief Spurr is the recommended replacement for Chief Jarden as the director from MA. Director Steve Locke moved and Director St. Michel seconded a motion to accept the nomination of Chief Spurr to fill the remainder of Chief Jarden's term as the Director from MA. Motion passed

Secretary Report

Minutes of the February board meeting approved.

Motion by Chief Varney to have the president sign the contract between the NED and the NEAFC for the joint conference, seconded by Chief Christopolus motion passed.

Secretary reported there was a 19% reduction in membership over the last year. Membership drives by the division should be started using the State Directors with the 2nd Vice President responsible for membership over all in the division.

Discussion began regarding the IAFC Executive Edge Leadership Program cost of the program is very expensive, some States are already doing similar programs, and some thought that attendance would be low because of cost. Before we bring a program to New England we should

pay for one of our officers to attend the program in Atlanta during FRI. Chief Spurr moved to have the division pay the expenses to send 1st Vice President Steve Carrier to the program; it was seconded by Chief Varney motion passed.

Secretary Wood announced he had been asked by IAFC President Jack Parow to chair the Division Task Force committee. A short report was provided as to what the committee discussions have been to date. One of the issues discussed was should the divisions consider the governance within the organization and should it be changed with the demands we all face today. Communication is a problem, time constraints for the board of directors is greater today with do more with less at their local departments and communities, membership benefits are slipping, and various other topics were discussed. One way to address these issues is to consider a governance structure similar to what the IAFC does with governance. The possibility of half time or full-time staff that could attend State Fire Chiefs Association meetings on a more regular bases, work to promote the division with State Fire Chiefs conferences within the six New England States, enhance the communications between the membership the division and the IAFC. After a considerable amount of discussion the board does not want to consider any changes in the governance of the division at this time.

Treasurer Report

The report was submitted in writing to the board. A motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay all bills was moved by Chief Varney and seconded by Chief Carrier motion passed (see attached report).

President Report

President O'Neil reported the schedule for the June conference is out, the flags are in, but we need a banner and carrying case. Fred Stanley will take care of the booth and has a schedule for the officers.

Vice Presidents Report

1st Vice President Carrier reported that he attended CSFI, the IAFC Strategic Planning Program and felt there was good information at both programs.

International Director's Report

Chief Bradley provided his report in writing; see attached report.

State Directors Report

Chiefs St. Michel, Christopolus, and Locke submitted written reports.

Chief Varney reported that CT is reorganizing public safety with fire academy, emergency management, and homeland security.

Committees

Chief Gerard Dio is completing his term with the IAFC Elections Committee and would like President O'Neil to appoint a new member. President O'Neil appointed Chief Robert Spurr as the new member to the Elections committee.

Chief Chris Christopolus reported that he emailed a GPO report to the directors earlier. The NED has a poor effort in using GPO and that more information regarding the program needs to be shared with the State Fire Chiefs Association and members.

Chief David Sayles provided a written report regarding the By-laws committee. Life membership will be changing in the near future. See written report attached.

New Business

Bruce Johnson, Regional Manager for the ICC attended the meeting to speak about the changes with section within the ICC. Fire Code Council will be reviewing the fire code and our representative is to the council is Chief St. Michel. Codes and Standards Council has 20 members from different disciplines of trades serving on it. There are still regional working groups, the division has three seats which have been appointed by President O'Neil they are from MA, CT, and VT.

Meeting adjourned 13:20