

Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact

January 16, 2025, Compact Office 25 Triangle Park Drive

Chief Jim Morse Presiding

Roll call Attendance Towns: 16 Members: 27 Guests: 2

Call to Order 1900 - Welcome by Host Chief John Chisholm

REPORTS

Secretary's Report – Dept. Chief Newbery

- Motion to dispense with the reading of the November minutes. Motion and second to accept the minutes as posted and distributed. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report – Chief Yale

- Chief Yale reviewed the highlights of the budget that was distributed. The past month's expenses were normal at 40,697. For the year 2024 – actual expenses were 1,452,512.34 Budgeted was 1,610,710. % budget expended – 90.2%. Motion and second to accept the report as posted and distributed. Motion passed

Training Committee- Dept. Newbery

- Reminder that the DOJ training is scheduled for January 29th at the Compact office.
- Summary report of the Live Burn completed on January 11th in Loudon.
- Foam eductor training completed in December with Boscawen, Webster and Salisbury.
- Northwood is scheduling a Moving Big Water class this year. Contact them if interested.
- Carbon Monoxide training class in Hillsboro February 24th.
- Wide area Search training February 8th in Pittsfield Contact Chief Robinson for information

HazMat Report Capt. Costello

Three Consultations only. No responses. Team training this month on ammonia.

Fire Marshal's Report – Deputy Emily Crosby

December was a busy month for the office. Investigating CO and fire deaths. 7 CO deaths last year. Several CO deaths were originally assumed to be drug-related until autopsy confirmed CO. The office is tracking several LSRs – they will be posted on the website. The state received CO detectors on a grant and is working to get them installed in schools and homes.

NHFST & EMS Report – Matt Roblee

Reviewed the monthly report with highlights. Working on filling vacant positions. The academy applied for an AFG grant. The EMT class funding has expired. North Country Academy is offline due to construction. Academy working on a new website. They are monitoring 15 LSRs. EMS rules meeting

1/17/25. Working with the police academy on a mental health program. Please submit department rosters.

NHIAC Report – None

WEBSITE – Gary Sleeper

Normal activity on the site. The .gov platform will change next month for the website and a reminder that the emails for Keith and Guy have changed to .gov

Concord Hospital Report – None

Dispatch Report – Dispatch Supervisor Jen Beets

- New dispatcher Ellen Alexander has been hired. She has prior experience in both Rochester and Sanford Maine.
- Annual reports were distributed with a printed copy for every town.

Old Business Chief Gilbert

Communications – Currently there is a problem in dispatch with an echo. It's only impacting dispatch at this time. The Radio technician has been working on the issue.

Tower on Plausawa – new cell equipment was installed that impacted our antenna. The Chief explained that the same contractor installed our antennas and the problem would be corrected.

Radio Project – Chief Gilbert gave an update on the status of the Radio Project and the ARPA Grant. Seven vendors were notified of the project. Bids were received from two vendors, RCM and 2 Way. Both vendors presented their proposals at a committee meeting on 12/18/24. He reviewed each company's proposal with some details. He also explained and reviewed the scoring sheet that the committee used to rate the proposal. He also read the letter from our radio project consultant and his review of the two proposals. Both the Radio Committee and the Radio Consultant strongly support the RCM proposal as that was the only one that met the intent of the proposal. Several committee members spoke in favor of the RCM proposal. A motion by Chief Chisholm with a second by Chief Lambert to Adopt the RCM proposal. A roll call vote was completed with all towns present voting in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Overwatch Foundation – Chief Gilbert gave an overview of the project and the benefits of switching to the .gov format. A reminder that there is no cost to the town for the changeover and the support has been very good.

Recruitment and Retention – Chief Blanchette reported on the latest committee work. He believes that our members are making an impact by attending the Commission meetings. This past meeting the Assistant Dept. of Safety Commissioner met with the members afterward for a discussion. He reviewed the 2024 New Hampshire Fire Service Practice Analysis report. We did a brief survey of the members in the room to determine the number of current vacancies for full-time and per-diem openings. A rough estimate would be 53 openings in the Compact. He explained the problem with the low numbers of firefighters that the Academy is producing annually and why this is a Statewide problem. The Compact

recruitment committee is looking at a public relations firm to put together some digital content to be distributed on social media. The committee will be looking for several towns to assist them with the expense of this program.

F/F I and II Visiting Committee – As a member of the committee, Chief Blanchette presented some of the issues with the current program. Discussion on the online training versus seat time training. He asked members to contact him with feedback and suggestions on ways to improve the quality of the program and if additional hours are needed in what areas should those hours be spent.

New Business –

Nomination Committee – Chief Gilbert read the letter from the nominating committee. (Chief Stafford and Marshal Toomey) The current slate of compact officers seeks to be reappointed. President Jim Morse asked if there were any other nominations. Hearing none, a Motion was made with a second to adopt the current slate of officers and for the secretary to cast a single ballot. Motion passed and the Current board will remain in their positions. President Jim Morse, Vice President Ed Raymond, Treasurer Jeff Yale, Secretary Guy Newbery

Annual Compact Report. Chief Gilbert reviewed the annual report with highlights. The full report will be sent out tomorrow 1/17/25 to the towns.

Grant Authorization Chief Gagnon- Motion that the Capital Mutual Aid Fire Compact authorize the Chief Coordinator to apply for and accept any grants that become available during 2025. This motion authorizes Chief Coordinator Keith Gilbert, Deputy Chief Coordinator Guy Newbery, President Jim Morse and/or Treasurer Jeff Yale to sign contract documents for grant awards during 2025. Motion seconded and passed.

Incident Review - Northwood West Road Building fire incident, Boscawen Jarado Way commercial building fire, Bradford – West Main Street, a barricaded subject incident that developed into a multi-alarm building fire incident.

Next meeting – Henniker on February 20th.

Motion and a second to adjourn at 21:10