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LAKES REGION MUTUAL FIRE AID ASSOCIATION
JULY 29, 2004 MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held on July 29, 2004 at the Plymouth Fire Station.

Meeting called to order at 19:03 hours by President Brunelle.

A Salute to the flag was given followed by a moment of silence for all of our brother and sister firefighters who had died in the line of duty.

ROLL CALL:

There were 28 Members from 10 Communities, with two representatives from the Communications Center and one guest in attendance.

WELCOME:

18C1 welcomed everyone in attendance. He commented that this might be the last Association meeting held at this station with the anticipation that Plymouth might soon be building a new safety building.

SICKNESS & DISTRESS:

There was none reported with the exception that it was noted that the New Durham Police Chief had passed away suddenly on Sunday July 25th.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the May 27th meeting were read. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as read. The motion passed on a voice vote.

TREASURERS REPORT:

The treasurer's report was read. It was moved and seconded to approve the report as presented. The motion passed on a voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

6C1 reported that the Committee is beginning to work on the budget for the next year. They will be integrating ideas that came out of a recent strategic planning session that will include enhancement of the services that can be offered both from the Communications Center and in the field. He also reported that the Town of Dorchester is our newest member. It took seven years for C1 to work with them to iron out some issues before they joined.

CHIEF COORDINATORS REPORT:

C1 reported that Lt. Darling has returned to work after a medical absence of several months.

We have received the \$25,000 grant from NHOEM to start work on the trailer. The trailer committee has already met to get back up to speed.

The radio interoperability program continues, but at a much slower pace now. Ambulance radios and the new portable purchases are now on hold as the Governor has appointed a review committee to oversee the project. He also froze all purchases relative to the project until the committee has time to get established and up to speed.

The Kearsarge transmitter site is on line. It is currently the primary site for three departments. The new transmitter for the Belknap back up is due any day now and will be installed as soon as the schedule allows. Tenney should be on line soon. We have a small problem with the Bristol site where we cannot use both a phone line and UHF link to the site. We are waiting word from Bristol that would allow us to operate the Uhf link by shutting down the phone line. Construction of the Gilman Hill tower is due to start this fall.

The microwave system has been tested and is 100% operational.

As was mentioned earlier Dorchester is our newest member, and since they do not have a Fire Chief, a Board of Selectmen member will probably be elected to serve on the Board of Directors.

The statewide task force master plan has been completed. The next step is to coordinate and hold a tabletop drill with an actual assembly of the various units to take place after that. This all needs to take place by June 30th to fulfill the grant requirement with which the project was done.

PROGRAM:

Ranger Lee Gardner gave a slide show overview presentation of the GPS program that the state does. After the presentation C1 inquired if the program could be used as a training in the system. President Brunelle asked if there was any interest from those in attendance about having this as training. The general consensus indicated that there was and Ranger Gardner was asked what it would take to have a class. He said the optimum class size would be 20 – 25 people. The class would probably be two – four hour evening sessions and one four-hour outdoor session. It could be set up for some time this fall. C1 stated that the Communications Center would sponsor the class.

DISPATCHER REPORT:

Lt. Faran from the Communications Center presented the Dispatcher Report. He highlighted the calls for service for the two-month period, which totaled 3,542, calls for service. This is an average of 56.2 calls per day. A lightning storm on June 9th accounting for 107 calls, and 235 calls over Motorcycle Weekend were detailed.

STANDING COMMITTEES

TRAINING & EDUCATION:

No report.

FIRE PREVENTION:

No report.

FORESTRY:

Ranger Gardner reiterated the importance of reporting all forestry incidents promptly and completely.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

INTEROPERABILITY TRAILER:

6C2 reported that the committee has met and is currently working on the design and layout of the mechanics and generator requirements. It has been determined that we will need an industrial sized generator to supply the proper amount of power to operate the trailer. The cost for that unit will run between 8 – 10K. As this was not allowed for under the original budget process, the committee was asking if the Association would be willing to donate some funds towards the purchase of the generator.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

President Brunelle stated that mailing out postings for meetings is getting expensive, (\$300.00 per mailing) and that we need to use the website more a tool for getting information out. The site is **www.lrmfa.org**. He also stated that there are discussions for a cookout in September possibly.

C1 announced that we are now streaming the audio from channel 1 on the internet.

Elections will be coming up soon. Nominations need to be completed by March so that the elections can be held at the annual meeting in May. We need volunteers to serve in the various positions.

The next meeting will be held in September at the Sandwich Station. The November meeting will be held at the Communications Center.

6C1 voiced a concern on the new committee recently appointed by the Governor to oversee distribution of the Homeland Defense Funds. His concerns centered around the formulation and motivation behind the committee. Except for one northern city fire chief there is no representation north of Concord on the committee. He felt that a letter should be sent from the Association and from each member department expressing our concerns on the issue.

18C1 noted that he is on the NH Fire Chiefs Association Legislative Committee, and that part of the problem that the Governor is concerned with is that neighboring communities were applying for and getting the same equipment that could easily be shared through a mutual aid system such as ours. Also fire departments were getting equipment that law enforcement agencies had applied for and were getting turned down.

18C1 also noted, as a separate issue was state protocols for EMS. These need to be reviewed and input given before something is put in place that no one agrees with. This could turn into a big issue in the future.

Further discussion suggested that a letter be sent to the Governor and that the Council members be sent copies of the letter after being personally contacted.

It was then moved by 6C1 and seconded that the President of the Association send a letter to the Governor stating our displeasure on the lack of representation in reference to the Homeland Defense Fund Oversight Committee. During discussion on the motion it was decided that President Brunelle and 6C1 would draft the letter with assistance from C1, and then be passed on to the Executive Committee for approval prior to it being sent. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

6C2 then made a motion, which was seconded by Lt. Faran to have the Association purchase a generator and associated electrical equipment for the interoperability trailer for an amount not to exceed \$10,000. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

DISTRICT REPORTS

DISTRICT #1:

No report

DISTRICT #2:

No report

DISTRICT #3:

No report

DISTRICT #4:

No report

DISTRICT #5:

No report

FIRE REPORTS:

None

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

None

The next meeting will be held on September 30th, 2004, in Sandwich, starting at 19:00 hours.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:49 hours.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
DAVID A. PAQUETTE, SECRETARY