

Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact  
Meeting Minutes March 21, 2024– Concord FD  
Chief Ed Raymond Presiding

**Roll call** Attendance Towns: 16 Members: 25 Guests: 1

**Call to Order 1900** with the Pledge and - Welcome by Host Chief John Chisholm

**REPORTS**

**Secretary's Report – Dept. Chief Newbery**

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

**Treasurer's Report –**

- Motion and second to accept the report as posted and distributed. Motion passed.

**Training Committee- Dept. Newbery**

- Forestry pump training planned for Loudon April 15 at 1800 and Henniker April 29 at 1800. Evolutions to include extended hose lays and forestry pumps.

NVFC Hazmat Grant funded class scheduled for July 12 and 13 Friday and Saturday. No cost and lunch included. Class will be at Compact office on Triangle Park Dr. Concord

Lithium-Ion battery classes were well attended. Several more requests for presentation.

Next Chiefs meeting the rep from HSEM for most of Merrimack County will attend.

**Hazmat Report Mick Costello**

- Report on the latest activity and training. One phone consult

**Fire Marshal's Report – Marshall Toomey**

- Updates on legislation at State House – Fire Code passed. – eliminated fire sprinkler requirements for 3-4 families. Building Code passed – Energy Code will remain at 2018. Building and Fire Codes will be locked in at the time of permitting. Report on three fatal fire investigations – Littleton, Litchfield, and Northwood. Foam take-back maybe in June? Hazmat Conference March 17 and 18. 2024 ERG copies should be available soon. Summary of changes available.

**NHFST & EMS Report –**

- **No report**

**NHIAC Report – Jim Heinz**

- Fentanyl-laced letters are now a threat. Stolen FD hydraulic tools being used in a burglary. Any issues with drone interference please notify IAC. A reminder that 4/20 is the anniversary date of the Columbine HS incident.

### **WEBSITE – Gary Sleeper**

- 284 unique website visits.

### **Concord Hospital Report –**

No representative. No report

### **Dispatch Report – Jen Beets**

- Jen was introduced as the new Dispatch supervisor. The process has now started to fill the open dispatcher position. Improvements in the 911 – Pre-Alert system working about 90% of the time. More improvements are expected. Work continues in signing up Departments on the use of Crew Force. Still fixing some problems with the system – encourage more Department use. A reminder not to clear the last unit.

April -14-20 is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Stop by and visit.

### **Old Business**

- Crew Force – Chief Gilbert- He is available to help departments with set-up and training. Making some adjustments to the system for self-dispatching feature. Dispatchers are currently entering road closure information when available.
- Foam Grant - D/C Newbery —Most of the foam eductors and foam have been delivered, and information on the foam and SDS have been sent out. Training will be provided after the trailer is delivered.
- Compact Towers– Chief Gilbert – New Plausawa Tower is up. We will be arranging with contractors to install equipment. Henniker Tower is up and will be making arrangements to move equipment. South Bow Tower – we will have to plan on spending money to move our equipment over to the new tower later this year.
- Radio Project – A review of the meeting that took place with SWMA. Each District will pursue its own funding. Congressional Funding (earmarks) requests are due this week and we will apply. Hazardous Mitigation Plans for the Towns should include a portion on communications needs.

### **New Business**

- Compact invoices are out this week. Chief Gilbert
- Fire Mobilization – Chief Gilbert - Activation for Solar Eclipse – Pittsburg. Planned event activation. Appreciate Loudon FD participation still looking for help.
- Meeting request - Chief Gilbert - has met with six towns from SWMA that expressed an interest in joining Capital Area Compact. They are somewhat dissatisfied with their current system. Discussion followed. – Suggestions that we wait until we fix our current system before adding any other towns. Chief Gilbert doesn't think we can provide good service to all those towns.

Expenses may not offset projected revenue. Nothing will happen until he comes back to a meeting and gets approval.

- First Due - Chief Gilbert- Company requests to attend one of our meetings. Bow and Concord currently using. Concord suggests that we wait until they complete fixes with the current product.
- Dunbarton Four Alarm Fire – Chief Wiggin – Thanked the responding departments for their assistance. They did save a historic property. In Lessons Learned, he did note that there were some problems with needless ventilation. Also, issues getting help with filling air cylinders and unanswered radio messages. Suggest leaving one member at the cascade system.
- Goffstown FD apparatus and Station number changes – Chief Wiggin – Goffstown has changed apparatus numbers and that will impact run cards.
- Adding an additional Dispatcher position. Chief Chisholm explained that the City has requested, through the budget process, adding an additional dispatcher. He explained this would be for peak dispatch periods and to assist the Supervisor. Discussion followed – it was expressed the need to coordinate expenses with the Compact. Deputy Folsom explained some of the dispatch challenges and call volume at peak times. It was expressed how well the dispatchers managed the simultaneous fire incidents in Warner and Dunbarton. It was requested that the executive committee meet and invite Chief Chisholm to do some strategic planning.
- Rehab Vehicle Chichester – Chief Quimby noted that many towns are not utilizing the vehicle for rehab but instead utilizing the crew for interior firefighting.
- Dispatch Outage. Chief Colburn – Expressed concern about the recent dispatch internet outage. Chief Gilbert explained that the intent was to have multiple back-ups if one provider went down. With the system offline we lose IAR and closed incident reports. He is working with Rick Wollert and Tyler CAD to accomplish backup systems. They have reported some challenges in completing that.

Motion Made by Chief Colburn – Direct the Coordinator and the City to coordinate the purchase of First Net failover switch at the dispatch center. Authorize the expense of up to five thousand dollars to come from the Compact budget. The motion was seconded and voted on with all in favor.

- Contact Information for Cable providers Comcast and TDI - Paul Sanborn requesting contact information. Chief Blanchette provided some phone numbers that he has had success with.
- NASCAR Event Loudon – June 21,22,23. Chief Blanchette – He will be requesting help on those dates and the current pay rate is \$35.00 per hr.

**Next meeting – Location Dunbarton April 18, 2024**

Motion and a second to adjourn at 20:18