

NBAFC Meeting

January 22, 2021

Virtual meeting - Bongo

Attending: Charles Kavanaugh, Mike Walton, Scott Poupart, David McKinley, Jody Price, Yvon Pelletier, Tim Corbin, Roger Pitre, Brian Brown, Brian Hunter, Lynne Gallant-Valley, Harry Farrell, Ivan Corbett, Jeremy Stuart, James Brown, Kevin Theriault, Mike Lewis, Serge Gallant, Paul Bruens

Absent: Quentin McGrath, Guy Paulin

Motion to accept minutes Mike Walton 2nd by Brian Hunter
81% yes

Motion to accept agenda Paul Bruens 2nd by Kevin Theriault
100% yes

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - CHARLES KAVANAUGH

We had an online meeting with Work Safe - how they justify adding coverage for cancers. We are not taking the right avenue. Maybe we should be meeting with the municipalities.

Met with Minister Flemming, Public Safety Minister, an introductory meeting. I attended in person and the rest of the executives were online. He seems to be open to any suggestions. We talked about the priorities that we had on the list. Work Safe issues were discussed. May need to establish a committee for this. It may be good to have a person who this has affected on the committee. Conversation took place as to who may be beneficial to reach out to or have on this committee.

I attended some regional association meetings. I encourage everybody to have meetings now. I think it is important to be having the virtual meetings. Fire Scene Security and renewal of local assistant were topics that came up. I was asked why the NBAFC was not bringing this to the government. I explained how concerns and issues are given to the Board and they decide on a few selected priorities to bring to government. Next meeting Feb 13.

Last board meeting I had received a letter looking for nominations for senator. I submitted Rob Simmons' name and his application was accepted. He later felt he was not qualified. I felt it was an interpretation issue, but he declined to proceed with the process.

I did an interview with CBC on the radio last week on issues with recruiting. I move the adoption of my report. Motion to accept report – Tim Corbin 2nd

CAFC - DAVID MCKINLEY

A Meeting of the NAC occurred on Dec 16. Subjects included:

- National Research Council discussion on the Cost of Fire project
- Vaccinations
- Fire Codes (mass timber)
- Dangerous Good Training (VR)
- Suicide Prevention Line
- Sleep and Fatigue Study
- Strategic Plan
- Round table discussion (COVID, foreign workers, advocacy for priority vaccinations, E-Shipping project)

Another meeting occurred on January 20th. The agenda for that meeting was:

- National Risk Assessment presentations from Public Safety Canada – the first phase will cover earthquakes, floods, wildfires. First draft of the report is expected in 2022.
- Round table discussion
- Strategic Plan including upcoming virtual town hall

MFCA – CHARLES KAVANAUGH

Virtual training last Wednesday Jan 13 with Rich Gasaway was well attended. Over 250 lines connected, some that were in groups. A lot of positive comments. Topic was Situational Awareness. Conference will be virtual this year. Will be offering more virtual training. Will be having a meeting with general membership.

FINANCE & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE - MIKE WALTON

Return is 7.4% - 8.29% since Jan 2020. Have added \$125,000 in the fall for a total \$301,878.85. Made \$26,878 in 18 months. Mike mentioned that the investment is secure and that we could be more aggressive if we wanted to.

Balance of the Bank - \$129,673.35

Amount raised from Fenety - \$63,753

I talked to Lynne and the executive, maybe we will look for an accountant in the Bathurst area. This will save travel for Lynne. Lynne will try to be using the Sage accounting program more effectively.

FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION – JODY PRICE

The website is being moved from the community college over to the Fire Marshal's platform. Testing has been postponed. We are doing association visits. Working on a presentation that we will be able to deliver in one of the platforms at meetings. Associations will have to commit time for this delivery over the Internet. We have 81 certificates issued, 49 Awareness, 20 Operations, and 12 Instructors.

Paul Bruens - Question for Jody Re: Hazmat Tech. Certification, any updates?

Jody – We have moved the file to a member for an IFSAC review. They have presented all the information to a person who is familiar with us, she was here for our 1st review. Pro Board is status quo, still waiting for our information to be handed off to a team for review. We are at the mercy of Pro Board and IFSAC. Any other points Serge?

Serge – No, just waiting for them to accept what was submitted and get the accreditation. Then we will issue the certificate to the ones that passed as soon as we get the seal.

AWARDS COMMITTEE - YVON PELLETIER

No nominations yet, they are due by March 31st. What are we going to do for the awards? Bursary?

Lynne – we did get 1 application for the bursary. If no convention, we can do something informally whenever visiting associations. When we do have a convention, we can get them to come and do the formal presentation if they wish.

Serge – Charlie and I spoke earlier this week in reference to a virtual convention. We will have to get a group of 4 or 5 together for this. We can hold off on the awards until we can do the in-person thing.

Yvon mentioned this would be his last meeting, elections in his association are coming up.

TRAINING EDUCATION – JODY PRICE

Nothing to report, no accident

HAZMAT - MIKE LEWIS

Nothing to report, we have not had any deployments since the last meeting. We did get approved for a second stage of funding for the project. Manifest. Need for this training.

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER – JAMES BROWN

Met in Nov., had a presentation – Pub - Ed Shed with Laura King. Annual convention cancelled for this year. Submitted an application to FireSmart Canada for education training funding. Laura King will give a NFPA Fire and Life Educator Level 1 course (certificate course). We are in need of representation for the Acadian Peninsula, Chaleur, Miramichi, Riverview, and Fredericton areas.

We had met with Minister Carl Urquhart about establishing a fire prevention officer educator at the OFM. We would like the NBAFC to advocate the government for his position.

James also mentioned about buddying up the billing for the NBAFPO with NBAFC annual membership invoicing. This would help with lack of membership for them.

NOMINATIONS & RESOLUTIONS - KEVIN THERIAULT

No report. Is there a cogency plan for elections? We are currently missing a member. Charles mentioned they were looking into the options for voting and to still send in any nominations.

CONVENTION & GAMES – SERGE GALLANT

No report

FF PLATES - LYNNE

Still coming in but much slower than last fall. Charles - it's important to let your chiefs know that if their lists are not up to date, it gives Lynne problems.

PERMANENT CHIEFS - JODY PRICE

No report

INDUSTRIAL CHIEFS - JEREMY STEWART

- No IFC meeting since last AFC.
- Next meeting is scheduled virtually for late February with Serge's help.
- 2021 goals are limited because of pandemic. Target is to facilitate fire training for those members who were not able to do so in 2020 if safe to do so.

ABORIGINAL FIRE CHIEFS

No report. Looking for new rep.

TRAINING STANDARDS & REVIEW – SERGE GALLANT/JODY PRICE

No report

RFD/TMR/NG911 – DAN MCCOY/ CHARLES KAVANAUGH

Lengthy conversation took place. Examples were given where there was concern about the coverage. Scott mentioned that they have used it in his area with great coverage. It was discussed if a committee should be established. Was decided it would not be needed. Jody will work on drafting a letter to send to the chief to gather who is having issues and get details. These issues can also be gathered by their regional rep when meeting with their associations.

OFM - MIKE LEWIS

Invoicing/Billing – Grant Monies/Fire Scene (\$5,000) and Overages charges - this can all go on 1 invoice. If I could get that in the next 2-3 weeks that would be great.

Vaccinations - FF are in 2nd group. Looking at March-May time frame. At this time no differentiation between the volunteer or a career, both are being treated equally. We're going to push for that if anybody asks me for differently.

Red and lockdown - We had some questions come up with respect to training in red and lockdown areas. Right now, there are 7 departments that have been affected - either FF that are positive or in quarantine. The risk is quite real. 4 health zones are impacted. It was not one that we took lightly to suspend training, but it was one that we feel is necessary for a few more weeks or a month before we re-evaluate. They can do virtual training.

We have access to priority screening. Wait times are accelerated. Booking for testing can be done online. Very efficient.

Looking at hosting more online training on the Fire Marshall page.

Transitioning for 2010 - 2015 National Building Fire Code, not a huge change. Biggest is 6-story wood frame construction.

Cross Boarder mutual Aid, FF would be exempt from quarantine.

Mike Walton has asked Mike Lewis if it's possible to get the Fire Scene fund upfront (\$5,000) and we will bill any cost we incur after the \$5,000 as they are incurred. Mike Lewis agreed this would be acceptable.

BRIAN BROWN - BELL LET'S TALK

NBAFC applied to the Bell Let's Talk Community Fund and received \$20,000 to go towards the creation of a peer support program. The official launch for Bell Lets Talk day is the 28th of February. There is a media piece I will try and get put out and circulate just to come out of the program. The idea with his program would be to provide a 24 / 7 / 365 telephone answering service for members that are in distress. Stuff that falls outside the usual system. We know that issues arise that creep back into the job and might impact how the members are able to work. Got some great response from volunteers. The goal is that we'll get all the applications reviewed by the end of January. Then have this up and going by Spring or early summer. Volunteers will triage the calls and help guide them through what mental health services they may need. Hopefully there will be someone in their area to walk them through it. We'll have a 1-800 number that everybody will be able to dial. It will provide service options in either French or English. If it is a 911 type of call the volunteers will send it off.

NBCC - SERGE GALLANT

Virtual classroom being used. Put a pause on exams. We're asking people to slow down the training. We don't want members to write several exams back-to-back.

Pre enrolment is launched for FF course. Instructor hired. Full class already of 12.

To use this platform for our convention we can have 2 sessions that would allow for 150 per session. Would have to watch registration numbers, Chiefs or Alt. I can monitor for the English side. Translator for French could work from home and translate with their mic. It should be a nominal fee. Would be good to have it spread over several days or weeks and not all weekend. Voting can be done by email once the conference is done. Then results can be emailed to members. Should have a test run.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT - IVAN CORBETT

I am transitioning out of the Local Services Manager role and transitioning into Director of Local Services. It has been busy November to now. We will have some new staff to name shortly. An invitation to the NBAFC Executive to meet with Minister Allain on February 2nd has been extended.

We have ongoing projects, paving, standby generators, that sort of thing. Going to have to look at firetrucks in the coming weeks and months. Working closely with the OFM to let them know with are here to support them if needed. In Fredericton area, I am pleased with what everyone is doing in these very difficult circumstances that we're all in.

DENR – MATTHEW RUFF

No report

ABORGINALS

No report – Looking for replacement

REGIONAL REPORTS

SOUTHEAST - PAUL BRUENS

Our last meeting was in Nov. 2020 using Zoom.

During our meeting, a motion was made to look into establishing a Communications Committee for SEFFA and to arrange a meeting with Regional Fire Dispatch on a semi-annual basis. Codiac Manager OCC PSAP Dan Fougere has been facing several issues, which are connectivity, computer programs, training, and COVID-19, which has slowed the process down immensely.

Members were reminded to reach out to the Fire Marshal's office for any pandemic consumable supplies. An email with procedures on how to order supplies was sent out and also attached with the minutes.

Chief Danny DesRoches has returned as the Fire Chief for the Cocagne Fire Department - congratulations Chief DesRoches.

Chief Robin True has accepted the position of Fire Chief for Riverview Fire effective Feb 2021. Denis Pleau is retiring in February after serving the Town of Riverview for 10 years and the fire service for 37 in total. I would like to personally thank Chief Denis Pleau for his support and leadership

and wish him the best of luck as he kicks back and enjoys life in Riverview and during his world travels.

Training has become challenging, but our ATR is moving forward and has offered:

- Level 1 via virtual training with 29 students signed up with a January start date.
- Level 2 in Sackville is now completed and are awaiting review and exam.

WSNB and Firefighter Compensation - recently a firefighter in SEFFA suffered a heart attack while responding to a call. Once again, frustration has surfaced with the support they have received from WSNB and their response to the member's documentation submitted. Especially with the WSNB Officer's interpenetration of the legislation. To date the member still hasn't received word on if his claim is accepted; for the past 30 days he hasn't been contacted by WSNB or received a formal response. We as leaders need to ensure both our firefighters/fire officers and their families are supported during these times.

CHALEUR - SCOTT POUPART (FOR QUENTIN MCGRATH)

Last meeting was actually a face-to-face in November. Small crews were able to have it in St. Anne Regional Hall. COVID procedures followed. Attempting to pull a zoom meeting in January but the response has been very poor. Will have it by end of February to have continuity within the association and we do have some issues we have to address. Our biggest question right now is whether we have a quorum to vote on everything. We're presently examining our constitution because we do believe that we may have some language in there that would allow us to meet even with a small number. We had 12 recruits in September and these people are thirsty for knowledge and want to get going. Not being able to provide them with some sort of training whether it's virtual or otherwise, you know we're going to lose people.

ACADIAN PENINSULA - GUY PAULIN

No report

NORTHWEST - YVON PELLETIER

Having virtual meeting Jan 27, going in lockdown January 23.

ROYAL - BRIAN HUNTER

Royal has not met since our last meeting. Members have a few questions. The Royal Firefighters Association is looking for clarity on the following topics:

- RFD/TMR the letter to the chiefs and the committee for improvement.
- NBCC online learning for FF Lv.1 so members of their departments can work on their certification at their own time. (Accommodating shift workers, traveling for work etc.)
- Newly released Local Governance Reform and how it may affect the fire service.

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/local-governance-reform.html>

Hoping to set up Bongo meetings. Each association has their own sandbox. No cost. Platform is available to all. Items discussed.

FUNDY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION - KEVIN THERIAULT

No meeting since October. RFD/TMR has slowed down since Saint John had its cyber attack. Chiefs are not receiving much info. A new schedule Level 1 course online, starting next week with approx. 30 students. New pamphlet has been developed for first responder families with info on recognizing signs of stress, how to support the first responders, when to be concerned, and who to contact. These will be sent to stations soon.

MIRAMICHI VALLEY - ROGER PITRE

Quiet this winter, met in November. Trying to figure out our annual meeting for voting issues. Not exactly sure what our wording in the constitution is. We're exploring whether to vote a new executive or revote the old executive in however that turns out.

CAPITAL DISTRICT - HARRY FARRELL

Met on November 9, 2020 at Upper Kings Clear Fire Department with just Association Executives and Chiefs for each department. Able to do this with good social distancing and masks worn throughout the meeting. Had Fire Marshal and two of his assistants also attend. Had good discussion on two topics: 1. Local Assistance and 2. Scene Security. Also, Fire Marshal gave us updates on COVID and about ordering supplies for each fire department.

As the Association, we felt it was good meeting with the Fire Marshal. It was also mentioned by one of the chiefs that chiefs need to support OFM by going to our MLA, Ministers, etc., to help OFM in getting more manpower to help Fire Service when chiefs need someone from that office. Also had the President from NBAFC attend this meeting.

As for Association Training, we still have one more exam night and practical training for students to do when we get back to yellow phase. The Association is looking at doing other Level 1 and Level 2 when we go back to yellow.

CENTRAL VALLEY - MIKE WALTON

We met in October. We are doing a virtual in February, otherwise quiet in Central Valley.

NEW BUSINESS

STORAGE UNIT FEES

Paying storage unit in Oromocto that stores items for the convention. Monthly fee \$136 - \$1,636 yearly. Discussion took place to see if a trailer should be purchased for the storage. This would also save the cost of movers as Nadine hired a mover to pick up and return items to the locker unit.

Discussion took place and Mike Walton gave 2 options on trailers that he had found.

Motion by Brian Hunter that the NBAFC purchase the trailer from Mike Walton for storage of NBAFC items. 2nd Jody Price. Charles repeated the motion. Vote passed with a yes vote.

TRANSLATIONS

New company for translations has approached us. Discussion took place. Scott - if we are saving money, we should try. Serge asked, "Can you send them some test translations, 2 items French to English and English to French?" Lynne will send some out.

EMAIL - BETH HENDERSON

School District - Template for readiness - preparation for FF career. Looking for someone to review her draft. David did call her today and is working on it.

COVID

Some departments have not made changes for COVID. If ever one of those departments gets shut down for not following COVID procedure and they come to the NBAFC for help, they are definitely not going to get help from the president. I think it should be across the board. If you're not following procedures and they get in trouble they're on their own. They have been notified enough so that people should be taking precautions.

Scott: If we have departments that are not following protocols and do not have operating plans that are up to snuff, they have to be called out. We cannot wait until there's a department shut down. We are all stretched to the max right now with this COVID stuff.

Jody: If they unknowingly request mutual aid, they are putting other departments at risk.

WORK SAFE

Discussion on Work Safe and claims took place. Need to find a better way to have claims transferred to the Firefighter Compensation Act. Need a person who is in the know.

Mike Lewis: I have a couple of contacts, I will check around. Someone who knows the system.

PERMANENT CHIEF MEETING

Billing list? Continue billing. Jody will provide updated list for Lynne to bill.

WORK SAFE NB

Mike will look into finding a contact. Once we have a contact name, we should find a person with real life experience to sit on the committee also. Jody and Paul will help with this.

CELL PHONE

2nd phone - has been closed. Was used by Nadine's husband and Nadine paid. Lynne will call around on pricing.

INSURANCE

AFMNB - to cover at the board of directors - Liability Insurance. Will be looking at pricing in the fall before the next renewal.

Next Meeting - April 23, 2021