

**NEW MEXICO FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
RUIDOSO CONVENTION CENTER - SEPTEMBER 28, 2019**

Call to Order

President James Salas called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.

Present

Pete Bellows, Captain – Organ VFD
Craig Brashear, Fire Chief – San Jon FD
Darwin Chenault, Fire Chief – Floyd FD
Cassie Drumm, Battalion Chief – Clayton FD
Justin Drumm, Fire Chief – Clayton FD
Jeff Fell, Assistant Fire Chief – Silver City FD
Joe Adam Gallegos, Fire Chief – Santa Clara FD
Jonathan Garcia, Fire Marshal/Battalion Chief – Rio Rancho FR
Roger Groves, Fire Chief – Tyrone VFR
Nick Hempel, Fire Chief – Dona Ana County FES
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief – Mesilla FD
Chris Holguin, Lieutenant – Deming FD
Raul Mercado, Fire Chief – Deming FD
Lawrence M. Montoya, Jr. – Fire Inspector – SFMO
Michael Nolen, Fire Chief – Clovis FD
Joseph Owen, Lieutenant – Deming FD
Justin Powell, Fire Chief – Dexter FD
Eloy Prada, Fire Services Coordinator – SFMO
Joe Reeser, Fire Chief – Sedan FD/Union County
Derrick Rodriguez, Fire Services Support Coordinator – SFMO
Phillip Rodriguez, Battalion Chief – Luna County
Doug Scioli, Fire Chief – Texico FD
Jason Smith, Deputy Fire Chief – Las Cruces FD
Rodney Stoner, Deputy Fire Chief – San Jon FD
Bob Sullivan, Southwest Regional Director – NFPA
Raymond Torres, Deputy Fire Marshal – SFMO
Randy Varela, Deputy Fire Marshal – SFMO
Randy Villa, Fire Chief – Grant County
Adolf Zubia, Fire Chief Ret. – Las Cruces

NMML Staff

Jackie Portillo, Support Services Coordinator/NMFCA Staff Liaison
Anita Tafoya, Support Services Director
Mariah Valdez, Meetings/Exhibit & Sponsorship Coordinator

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Deputy Marshal Cherry and seconded by Chief Hoban to approve the agenda.
Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

President Salas asked the membership to review the Minutes of the September 30, 2018 NMFCA Business Meeting. Motion to approve as presented was made by Chief Gomez and seconded by Chief Brashear. Motion carried.

Financial Report

President Salas reviewed the Profit & Loss Statement for the membership and stated the following: Balance as of July 31, 2019 was \$33,352.79. This balance included a total income of \$6,201.32 and expense of \$5,247.89. He stated that the Association was in good financial standing. Motion to approve financial Report was made by Chief Gomez and seconded by Chief Lizardo. Motion carried.

Fire Agency/Committee Reports

Fire Protection Grant Fund

President Salas stated that the makeup of the Fire Grant Council has changed slightly with a few new members being replaced. New members are Mike Daniels of Las Cruces, Robert Larranaga of Rio Rancho and Paul Dow of Albuquerque. He added that there may be more changes to come. President Salas indicated that there is \$10,000,000.00 available in the distribution and recommended they get their applications in as soon as possible. Applications will be reviewed November 26th - 27th and awardees will be notified January 1, 2020.

Statewide EMS Advisory Board

President Salas stated that Chief Hamill was unable to attend the conference, so he asked Captain Bellows to give a brief update on the Statewide EMS Advisory Board. Captain Bellows stated that the EMS Advisory Board met in July and to date, not much had changed. Ann Martinez, Fund Act Coordinator for the EMS Bureau, had previously reminded everyone that the application process is completely electronic. Captain Bellows said that the application had been revamped by former Lovington Fire Chief James Williams and that applications were being accepted now.

President's Report

President Salas stated that the Board and Association Members have been busy working on legislation to move the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) out from under the Public Regulation Commission (PRC). He reminded everyone that this attempt had been made last legislative session but efforts were blocked by the Professional Firefighters Association. He expects that the same issue may occur in the upcoming Legislative Session. The former PFFA President is now one of Governor Lujan Grisham's Chief of Staff and we expect to continue seeing a resistance in making SFMO a standalone.

Senate Memorial 114 was created to bring together a working group comprised of DHSEM, DPS, OSI, PRC, SFMO, NMFCA, NMFEMA, NMSFFA, NMEMT, NMFMA and NMPFF to evaluate relocation options for the Fire Marshal Division of the Public Regulation Commission (PRC). As many desired it be a standalone department, the consensus of the group was for SFMO to move to DHSEM. Discussion ensued regarding the concerns of moving SFMO to DHSEM and the dysfunctionality and turmoil within the department.

NMFCA Past President Adolf Zubia asked if there was still time to modify Resolution 2019-37 – Concerning Moving the State Fire Marshal's Office out of the Public Regulations Commission. He stated that he had concerns regarding the administrative fees that would follow SFMO to DHSEM. He also asked if there was support from legislators. President Salas stated that the NMFCA would ask the NMML to lower the prioritization of this resolution. The resolution has already been adopted by the NMML Public Safety Committee and the NMML Membership and cannot not be withdrawn. He indicated that although the NMFCA was the driving force to move the SFMO out of PRC, and in light of the good working relationship with the current PRC Chief of Staff and the Advisory Council, it may be best for SFMO to remain at PRC. He stated that the move to DHSEM was strongly supported by legislators.

Other Legislative Issues – Former Chief Zubia spoke about the Return to Work legislation and that it should be reintroduced with a caveat. Current legislation punishes many retirees, almost 40,000 people, and that COLAs were being significantly reduced. He asked that the Association be aware and that the NMML support legislation for return to work.

Old Business

President Salas assured members, that although the NM Fire Service Accreditation Program was not on the forefront in 2019, the Board plans to revisit, test out and complete the Program in the upcoming year.

New Business

President Salas recognized Bob Sullivan of the NFPA for an update. Mr. Sullivan's update included the following:

- NFPA recently published a new standard: NFPA 855 Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems
- 2018 NFPA 1, Fire Code contains a new Chapter 38 that addresses marijuana growing, processing and extraction facilities.
- New report available on website, titled "Renovations Needs of the US Fire Service". This report addresses the Fire Service's aging infrastructure i.e. fire stations.
- NFPA encourages the installation of residential fire sprinklers.

Mr. Sullivan asked the membership to visit the NFPA website, www.nfpa.org. All the information regarding what he referred to in this presentation and much more could be found there, as well as other resources and information regarding Active Shooter, Community Risk reductions, Food Trucks etc. He told everyone that he would be happy to come out to their department to let them know about everything NFPA has available.

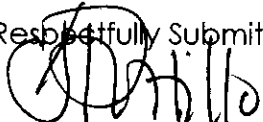
Election of NMFCA Officers (4 - 2 Year Terms & 1 - 1 Year Term)

- **President** – Motion was made by Deputy Marshal Cherry to elect James Salas for another term as President and was seconded by Chief Hoban. Nominations were open from the floor and there being none, Chief Nolan made a motion that nominations cease and that Chief Salas be elected by acclamation. Motion was seconded by Chief Hoban and carried unanimously.
- **President-Elect** – Nominations were open from the floor for the President-Elect position. There being none, Chief Nolan nominated Chief Gomez, seconded by Chief Hoban to elect Chief Gomez by acclamation. Motion carried.
- **Director I** – Nominations were open from the floor for the Director I position. There being none, Chief Nolan was nominated by Chief Hoban, seconded by Chief Chenault, carried unanimously.
- **Director III** - Nominations were open from the floor and there being none, Chief Lizardo was nominated for reelection by Chief Powell, seconded by Chief Gomez, carried unanimously.
- **Director II** – Chief Gomez having been to the position of President Elect, leaves one year remaining to serve out term for Director II. President Salas called for nominations from the floor. Chief Nolan nominated Chief Brashear to fulfill the remainder of the term and the motion was seconded by Chief Hoban. Motion carried by unanimously.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Chief Hoban and seconded by Chief Lizardo, motion carried. There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Jackie Portillo, NMML/NMFCA Staff Liaison