

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MITIGATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE ADVISORY BOARD

January 22, 2018

10:00 a.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

Department of Fire Services
Boards and Commissions Room A101

Board Members Attending:

Chief Tim Bailey, Chairman
Chief Bob Czerwinski
David Clemons, Operations Section Chief
Designee Nick Childs
Robert Rooney
John McCarthy

Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts
Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts
Department of Fire Services
Department of Environmental Protection
Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Association of Hazardous
Materials Technicians

Board Members Absent:

None

DFS Employees Attending:

David DiGregorio
Timothy Gallagher
Paul Betti
Korina Senior

Director, Hazardous Materials Response
Deputy Director, HazMat
MFA Training Coordinator
Program Coordinator

Guests Attending:

None

Bi-Monthly Board Meeting

Agenda Item #1:

► **Call to Order and Introductions – 10:08 a.m.**

Chief Bailey began opened the meeting and introductions were made by attendees stating their capacity.

Agenda Item #2:

► **Approval of November 22 Commission Meeting Minutes**

A Motion to accept the Meeting Minutes from November 22, 2017 was offered by Robert Rooney. The motion was seconded by Chief Czerwinski. All were in favor.

Agenda Item #3 New Business:

► **a. Hazardous Materials Technician class scheduled to start February 26, 2018 in Springfield ends May 11, 2018.**

Paul Betti discussed the great response up to 39 candidates have applied. It is going to be a full class. First priority will be given to District 5 and District 4 members.

Dave D asked the future of Hazmat technician and requalification classes?

Paul B. replied they are trying to focus on one tech class a year and add adding another requal class. Only exception on having 1 technician class per year would be if there is a municipal class held.

Chief Czerwinski speaking for Pittsfield they are excited to have 7 from Pittsfield, 4 from North Adams and 2 from Lenox. A bunch of people are retiring soon from District 5 so it will hold them right around 30 – 32 members.

► b. Vote to appoint new Hazmat Technicians to fill team vacancies.

DiGregorio states on page 5 we received a letter from the District 2 steering committee recommending three new District 2 members: Stephen Almeida from Malden, William Brown from Revere, and Ian McMakin from Wellesley.

A motion to accept the three members was made by Robert Rooney. Motion was seconded by Jack McCarthy. All were in favor.

No other submissions were made but there are vacancies.

► c. FY18 First half stipend payments.

The stipend payments went out and should have been received by all of the department. There is a list of members that are still eligible for their stipend once they receive 40 hours of training.

► d. Members' Status

There is a District 6 member who is not communicating with the team or the office. He has had 2 opportunities to attend a physical. We are looking for a phone call saying that he will be attending a medical evaluation in April. Robert Rooney suggests we wait until his physical in April. Dave D.: he is current on his medical until April. The office will continue to reach out to the member to schedule his medical evaluation. If he does not attend his physical in April it will be addressed at the May advisory board meeting.

► e. Vote on Technician waiver request.

An individual is requesting Hazmat Technician class from the military to count as the state Hazmat class. Dave D. Recommend individuals go through the 305 hour course. There is nothing that can be found requiring they go through the 305 hour course. The certification does not tell how many hours were attended. The Massachusetts course is geared towards issues that occur in Massachusetts. Robert Rooney made motion we do not accept the waiver request. Motion was seconded by McCarthy. Clemons made motion to amend saying this body supports/endorse the Massachusetts standards for all members. All were in favor of the amended motion.

Agenda Item #4 Old Business:

► a. Discuss and vote on the requal aka requalification of prospective Hazmat team applicants.

Dave D. read the minutes from the previous meeting. Currently, there is nothing found in writing that states they have to go to the requalification courses. Some applicants are skipping as many as 6 or 7 requalification classes. Will this board be willing to require applicants to go annually? Discussion on how frequent this happens. The office does not have exact number of times but it is frequent.

Paul Betti explained how the requalification classes are run and the importance of changing the class based on Massachusetts findings. The technology is constantly changing. Concerning that some individuals being selected do not have the modern knowledge of Hazmat.

Chief Czerwinski suggests making it a requirement that requals will be required on an annual basis. He made motion as of July 1, 2018 members must take the requal class on an annual basis.

Discussion regarding the logistics of the change. Maybe every two years to help with Fire Department budgets. Concerned about tracking and people putting it off and continuing what they are doing now. The Academy would be able to requal 72 members a year. Three classes with 24 participants each class. David Clemons says we can add a class to accommodate everyone on the list. We can limit how many people are on the waitlist.

The upcoming retirements should help diminish the wait list.

Question on how the members are selected. The office does not have any say in who is selected. The decision lies with the steering committees.

Decision was made to hold off until next meeting to see how many members are on the list.

► **b. Fentanyl Issue: Further Discussion**

Director DiGregorio mentioned there is one update on fentanyl in the past few weeks, the reach back programs from our instruments is being utilized live on scene providing presumptive results during the incident.

Agenda Item #5 Any matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair:

1. No additional matters to discuss.

Agenda Item 6:

► **Next Meeting Date**

Monday, March 19, 2018

Agenda Item #7:

► **Adjournment 10:52 am**

■ **A Motion to adjourn was offered by Robert Rooney. Seconded by Jack McCarthy.**

Approved. Meeting adjourned.

Prepared by:

Korina Senior

January 23, 2018