

**FIRE SERVICE COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
May 21, 2020**

The Fire Service Commission held a meeting on Thursday, May 21st, 2020 via Conference call per COVID-19 Guidelines under Mass. General Law Chapter 30A, Section 20.

**Present** at the meeting were the following Commission members:

Chief Gregory J. Burns  
Chief Alan J. Roy  
Ms. Roberta Fitzpatrick  
Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe  
FF Richard D. MacKinnon, Jr.

**Absent for this meeting:**

Captain Michael McCullough

**DFS staff present** at the meeting:

State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey  
Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier  
General Counsel Steven Rourke  
Deputy General Counsel Glenn Rooney  
Alanna Malatos  
JoAnne Caruso

**There were no guests present.**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Chief Greg Burns at 10:04 a.m.

**AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes of the April 27, 2020 Meeting**

A motion was made by FF MacKinnon and seconded by Chief Roy that the minutes of April 27, 2020, meeting be approved as written.

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. Credentialing/Re-Credentialing Process**

A motion was made by Chief Roy and seconded by FF MacKinnon and to award re-accreditation to the following:

1. Re-Credentialing –
  - Captain Kenneth Case – Weston Fire Department
  - Deputy Fire Chief Justin Woodside – Weston Fire Department

The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**C. General Issues and Updates from DFS**

Marshal Ostroskey explained that most of Department staff remain working remotely as we wait for guidance on how to address and anticipate reopening.

The COVID-19 First Responder Testing sites have tested over 10,000 people in Foxboro and West Springfield and call center personnel are working seven days a week. Deputy Marshal Fournier has done an amazing job leading the charge on this important mission.

The Department plans to reopen training at the Massachusetts Fire Academy after it was suspended at the end of April following the disruption with instructors testing positive for COVID-19. The career recruit hybrid training schedule includes virtual lecture and hands on training components and will begin June 8<sup>th</sup>. All three campuses will have recruit sessions running with 54 students moving through every four weeks. Other training courses may begin in early July. The waitlist will be handled in order and it is currently at 250-270 students. No new applications will be taken for approximately two months.

The Commission discussed how the goal is ensuring that the training is as robust with the new protocols and that curriculum has not changed, just the order of delivery. It still remains a ten week program.

The Marshal invited the Commission to join the Massachusetts Fire Training Council for an informational session where staff would be able to demonstrate the software that will be used for virtual lectures and will provide a more comprehensive explanation of how the new training model will be structured. That meeting will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. A formal notice will be sent following the conclusion of the meeting.

#### **D. Determination of Next Meeting Date and Adjournment**

The date of the next meeting of the Fire Service Commission is tentatively scheduled on June 18th at 10:00 a.m. via Conference call.

A motion to adjourn was made by FF MacKinnon and seconded by Ms. Fitzpatrick.

Said motion was approved by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

The meeting of the Fire Service Commission concluded at 10:42 a.m.