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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS  
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council  
Minutes of the January 15, 2020 Meeting**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:05 am on January 15, 2020 at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance were: Jason Cardoso, Firefighter Billy Cabral, Captain Andrew Connerty, Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Chief Tim Nelson, MFA Director Dave Evans, Chief Rick DeLorie, and Chief Fire Warden Dave Celino.

Also present were DFS Counsel Steven Rourke, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Director of Operations Dave Clemons, and MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik.

Not present: Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis Chief Frank Barresi, Chief Richard Donovan and Undersecretary Jeanne B. Thorpe.

**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Captain Andrew Connerty made a motion, seconded by Director Dave Evans, to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2019 Training Council Meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. Fiscal Affairs Report**

Director Evans presented the MFA Trust Fund report for the period of 11/24/19 through 12/21/2019. The Fund changes from month to month. Contracts with municipalities have increased and certification income is increasing due to an increase in RAP programs.

**C. Update of Affiliated Members - Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts**

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –nothing to report
- Chief Delorie - representing metro - Ret. Chief Dave Butler is losing his battle with cancer. Our speaker for the next metro meeting is Wayne Miller, author of Burn Boston Burn. If MFA is ever looking for a SFOF speaker, he would be excellent. Metro departments would like to hold a recruit training starting in July to help relieve the Academy's assignment list.
- Chief Barresi - representing call - not present
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time – not present

**Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts**

- Lt. Medeiros – It's been a rough couple of weeks with the Somerset and Milford fire departments. We may need to look at peer support and critical incident stress management in a different way. The PFFM and FCAM are looking to put working groups together to discuss ways to help.

- Firefighter Cabral – We lost Paul Lestage who was Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus for the PFFM and a great guy.

### **Mass Call/Vol**

- Assistant Chief Miller – Not present
- Assistant Chief Ruchala – Not present

### **Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors**

- Captain Connerty – Cambridge Ret. Chief of Operations John O'Donoghue passed away. He was a good guy, a member of MIFDI, and a long-time MFA instructor. Our next meeting is at NFPA and the presentation will be on the Coconut Grove fire.

### **Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts**

- Position open

### **Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry**

- Jason Cardoso – nothing to report

### **Bureau of Forest Fire Control**

- Chief David Celino – We're working with the MIFRS system to track last year's wildland fires. In 2015, there were over 2,500 fires and in 2019, there were under 500. Prescribed fires program is solid with 51 across the state. We're involved in the statewide mobilization plan and we have staff developing training. We're suggesting providing a S131 Advanced Firefighter Course for wildland or municipal firefighters that will give experience in tactical training, leading a crew. Folks will receive a National Wildfire Coordinating Group certification (NWCG) from the 12-hour training. Question regarding Australia – what is the impact for us? Only federal employees are deployed through a national interagency agreement. We got an inquiry from the Governor's office if can happen here – answer is yes, if the science is right with the same conditions.

### **Citizens of the Commonwealth**

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – not present

### **D. Legislative Update –Counsel Rourke**

- The bill concerning an act to give people seeking sanctuary in houses of worship as temporary residents is rescheduled for a hearing on January 24. We are asking that people pay attention to this bill. The Marshal submitted his objection to the bill to the legislature. We believe it will undermine what is in place as a safe approach for everyone.

### **E. DFS Update –Deputy Marshal Fournier**

- The agency has met the last deadline for DEP regarding our PFAS response and now we have some action items. We don't know what the source of the problem is. At this time, we are getting our water from the Town of Sudbury and not White Pond. It's very expensive to dispose of the contaminated water.
- Updates on Bridgewater: career recruit starts next Tuesday; we're working to resolve the HVAC problems; cables, computers and phones are being installed.
- The agency has reissued the extractor grant applications to municipalities. We will open it up to all departments once departments that did not receive a first round grant apply.
- The governor will release the FY21 budget at the end of January. The executive office will prepare a presentation for the Training Council.

### **F. Academy Activities Report –Director Evans**

- Career Recruit Graduation - Stow Class #279 – 1/10/2020
- Bridgewater BW-1 day 0 1-16-20

- RFO for Stow 2/3/20
- Career Recruit Assignment List:
  - Stow – 145 \* Filling out to July 2020
  - Springfield – 46 \* Filling out to July 2020
  - Bridgewater – 52 \* Filling out to August 2020
- Call/Vol Class #080 graduation is 2/24 in Stow
- Call/Vol Class #081 graduation is Grad 2/25 in Essex County
- Chief Fire Officer graduation is 1/31/2020
- AFG Grant: We are working on the design and specs for the Search & Rescue prop for the Bridgewater campus.
- Upcoming course offerings:
  - Fire Instructor 1: Stow 1/7, Brookline 1/8, Springfield 3/5, Hamilton 3/7, Leicester 5/9
  - Fire Instructor 2: Stow 1/10, Springfield 3/16, Stow 5/6
  - Company Officer 1: Wrentham 1/4, Wayland 1/28, Southborough 2/5, Stow 3/2, Springfield 3/2, Bridgewater 3/3, Brookline 3/12
  - Company Officer 2: Stow 5/1, Springfield 5/1, Bridgewater 5/5
  - Fire Prevention Officer 1: Stow 3/19 & 5/1
  - Fire Prevention Officer 2: Stow 3/14 & 5/7
  - Cancer Awareness course is #1 course offered at this time.
- NFA: Scheduling the new FY 21 - 9 courses (March) & 6 Day Regional course (March)
- Managing Fire in 2 ½ Story Dwellings: Wayland 2/20/20 – I will be attending the course
- Advanced Fire Investigation: April
- Maritime: Paul Betti continues to work with MMA staff to coordinate schedules and courses
- Hazmat Requal: Online program/practical scheduled for the end of the month
- Positions: Instructors: We continue the hiring process for the final 36 spots
  - Certification: Currently – 4 Applicants
  - Advanced FF Skills: Currently – 3 Applicants
  - Maritime: Currently – 3 Applicants
  - Curriculum Development/Certification: Continue to work with HR to post position
  - Adjunct Faculty Positions: Currently working with the EXO on possible positions for the SFOF/CFO programs, Fire Prevention Programs and Health & Wellness/Cancer Awareness
- Attending Pro-board conference January 23-25

## **G. Old Business**

## **G. New Business**

- Election of Chair and Vice Chair of Training Council: Director Evans nominated Lieutenant Paul Medeiros for Chair of the Training Council. The nomination was accepted by Lt. Medeiros. The vote was unanimous in favor of the nomination.  
Director Evans nominated Chief Tim Nelson for Chair of the Training Council. The nomination was accepted by Chief Nelson. The vote was unanimous in favor of the nomination.

## **I. Policy Presentation/Adoption**

## **J. Review of Correspondence**

- The Chairman read a letter from the Chief of Falmouth Fire expressing his concern of the Council's policy to hold "John Doe" seats for the Academy for departments that receive SAFER grants to fill new positions.

**K. Determination of Next Date and Location**

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, February 5 at 11:00 am at the Stow campus. There will be a Certification Sub-Committee meeting at 10:00 am before the regular meeting to hear an appeal.

**L. Public Comment**

**M. Adjourn Meeting**

- Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Chief Nelson, to adjourn the meeting at 12:30. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.