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CHIEF WALTER O. NELSON
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**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the October 5, 2022 Meeting
Microsoft Teams**

Acting Chairman Chief Justin Alexander opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:05 am on October 5 2022, on Microsoft Teams. A roll call attendance followed.

Members attendance: Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Chief Frank Barresi, Chief Christopher Madden, Vice Chairman Firefighter Billy Cabral, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller (arrived late), Chief Justin Alexander, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, Lieutenant John Lombardo and Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Attorney Courtney Mayo, and Chief Dave Celino.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney, Director of Operations Dave Clemons, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Curriculum Specialist Sara Pragluski Walsh, Call/Volunteer Coordinator Chris Norris, Special Hazards Coordinator Paul Betti, Dennis Ball (arrived late) and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Chairman Chief Tim Nelson and Jason Cardoso.

Chief Alexander welcomed Attorney Courtney Mayo, the newest member of the Council, as Citizen of the Commonwealth.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty made a motion, seconded by Firefighter Billy Cabral, to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2022 Training Council Meeting. The vote passed in favor of the motion with one abstention.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

Deputy Fire Marshal Fournier noted the Council received Trust Fund reports from mid-August to mid-September. As reported in the past, we continue to be extremely busy with contracts from a variety of communities since contracted programs are funded through the Trust Fund and communities are charged after the program is completed the balance ebbs and flows throughout the year. Currently certification collections are \$24,571. No issues are foreseen for this coming month.

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

- Chief Nelson--representing part paid/part call – not present

- Chief Madden--representing metro Fire District 13 – nothing to report
- Chief Barresi--representing call – nothing to report
- Chief Justin Alexander -representing full-time – nothing to report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral—nothing to report.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller—arrived late
- Assistant Chief Ruchala—nothing new – the annual meeting is November 5.

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Assistant Chief Connerty— nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Lt. John Lombardo – nothing to report

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso—not present

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief Dave Celino— We had a very active fire season and implemented a new reporting system which allows us to report almost real time when accounting for the fires we've had. 923 wildfires recorded with 1,502 acres burned. Prescribed burns tallied about 52 burn operations throughout the state. We have targets in Miles Standish State Forest, in the Quabbin, and Freeport State Forest. We're starting to see staff positions coming back – currently we have three patrolmen positions in process. We're providing the subject matter expertise for communities to apply to a Community Wildfire Defense Grant that's funded by the infrastructure bill legislation. Conversations about training have resulted in offering Command of General Staff training. Lt. Lombardo asked about the cause/origin for wildfires. Chief Celino reported that 98% of the fires is human cause and would be happy to collaborate with the FPAM group. Firefighter Cabral shared that funding will be coming out from US Fire Administration for wildland urban interface. Funding for equipment and training will be available to fire departments.

Citizen of the Commonwealth

- Attorney Courtney Mayo – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- We will continue to track any fire service related bills or Fire Training Council related bills and will update the Council accordingly.

E. DFS Update – Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey

- Things continue to happen as we continue to be busy in all areas. The Deputy will report on the activities for the Academy.
- The largest Public Education Conference to date was held last month. We were also participants in the Hazardous Materials Conference at the same time. We worked with the Sprinkler Coalition to present side-by-side burns at the state day at the Big E. We were happy to have the opportunity to bring it to the public to show the effectiveness of sprinklers.
- A lot of good work is happening on the Active Shooter program with the Undersecretary and the Executive Office, in addition to the training.

- Working on amendments to the fire and electrical codes with the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations.
- Developing the FY24 budget – divisions have been assembling their proposals for FY24.
- The department has had success obtaining Assistance to Firefighter grants and I am happy to report the Search & Rescue building is being used successfully with the recent career recruit class in Bridgewater. We've seen some technical rescue courses using the prop.
- Two major projects in Bridgewater: 1) MEP contract – developing the work schedule for the mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades to administration building and quonset hut to extend the life of those buildings. 2) Working closely with DCAMM on the next steps for phase one master plan construction that will probably start in the late spring, early summer of 2023. Engine 10 has also been delivered to Bridgewater.
- Fire Prevention Week next week – teams are working to increase our messaging to raise awareness of fire prevention.

F. Academy Activities Report – Deputy Fire Marshal Fournier

- The MFA continues to be extremely busy going into the fall.
- We've completed a HazMat Tech A course and are about to start a HazMat Tech B course.
- We are working hard to bring everything together for our launch of our Structural Collapse course at the end of October. 30 students have registered.
- We've offered 143 skin cancer screenings – Dr. Kannler found something on one person last week that is being followed up on.
- Referring to report on Academy activities, there are 264 recruits on the assignment list; we're booking into June for Stow and Bridgewater and January for Springfield.
- We just completed orientation for 23 new instructors and are interviewing for another 23 instructors.
- We are looking at instructors that haven't worked in a while and Staff Services is reaching out to them. We want to know if they plan to return to work and if not, asking for resignation or we are terminating their contract.
- We will continue to hire in small batches so instructors can get their audit time completed and get out to programs that need their help.
- Firefighter Cabral – he's asking if we can add more sections or establish a waiting list for Fire Instructor I. Deputy Marshal Fournier noted that we have a notification list that folks can sign up for. We pushed through 177 people in FY22 and are offering 30 sessions by consolidating communities. We cleaned up the notification from 900 to 267. We would not be able to manage a waitlist. There is a higher demand than there are sessions offered. Lt. Lombardo asked if we could hire people outside of the fire service. Deputy Marshal noted that we can hire non-fire instructors for courses that do not have certification tied to it. Also, Lt. Lombardo asked about prospective outlook for FPO courses being offered. Deputy Marshal will provide info to him. Assistant Chief Connerty noted that there used to be priority selection and their problem is folks are taking Fire Instructor I they don't need and those that need it aren't able to get in.
- Update on Director's position – finalizing the offer and when person fully accepts, Deputy Marshal will make the announcement.

G. Old Business

- Deputy Marshal Fournier noted the most recent Training Council Policies were distributed to all Council members. Any new members can receive a binder to hold the policies. We've also developed a secured Teams Channel to upload all the policies. Sue will be following up with you regarding the best email to send the invite to the channel.

H. New Business

- Review and Vote for Approval by Council on donation from the Northampton Fire Department of a Keiser Force Training Machine. Procedurally, the Training Council is required to approve any donation as

it pertains to training. Assistant Chief Connerty made a motion to approve the donation of the training prop, seconded by Firefighter Billy Cabral. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

J. Review of Correspondence

- Letter from Chief Russell Anderson, Southwick Fire Department – Chief Alexander expressed the content of the letter - should the Academy be offering other types of SCBA or can recruits be allowed to bring their own?

Deputy Marshal Fournier noted that this topic has come up in the past and the Academy staff has concluded that we teach the fundamentals of SCBA; proper use of the equipment, donning/doffing. We do not demonstrate a specific brand. If the department uses something other than the product we use, they would have individual training at the departments. Chief Alexander added the letter asked why Call/Vol is able to bring their own and why not Career? MFA Deputy Director Klucznik expressed that past practice we have always provided SCBA to Career Recruit. If departments were to send more than one recruit, it would be strenuous on the department to provide air packs and spare bottles. Years ago, we were able to purchase a large amount of SCBA through AFG funds so that we didn't have to tax departments. Firefighter Cabral expressed that departments use different equipment for all areas of firefighting and basic training on Academy equipment needs to happen. Assistant Chief Connerty noted that his department follows NFPA standards. Lt. Lombardo noted that it's incumbent upon the department to train on their equipment. Assistant Chief Miller asked if there has been any discussion from other chiefs in FCAM about this topic. Chief Frank Barresi made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Connerty, to accept the letter from Chief Anderson and provide him a response from the Council based our discussion. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 11:00 am at our Bridgewater campus.

L. Public Comment

Fire Marshal Ostroskey announced the Firefighter of the Year ceremony at Mechanics Hall on November 18, 2022.

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Firefighter Billy Cabral made a motion, seconded by Undersecretary Thorpe, to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.