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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS  
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council  
Minutes of the October 6, 2021 Meeting  
Stow Campus**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council with the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:07 am on October 6, 2021. The Chairman asked for all to remember the 13 fallen military service members.

Roll call attendance: Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Richard DeLorie, Chief Richard Donovan, Fire Marshal Michael Swain, Fire Warden Scott Bassett, DCR designee for Chief David Celino, Jason Cardoso (remote), Firefighter Billy Cabral-arrived late (remote), Chief Tim Nelson (remote), Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala and Retired Chief Sheri Bemis (remote).

Also present were State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, DFS Counsel Steven Rourke, DFS Deputy Counsel Glenn Rooney, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Special Hazards Coordinator Paul Betti, Curriculum Specialist Sara Walsh, Media Specialist Coordinator Christina Mitchell (remote), online host Linda Crowley, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, and Chief Frank Barresi.

**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chief Richard Donovan made a motion, seconded by Chief Rick DeLorie, to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2021 Training Council Meeting. The roll call vote was seven (7) in favor of the motion and three (3) abstentions.

**B. Fiscal Affairs Report**

Chairman Medeiros presented the MFA Trust Fund report. Included in the MFA Statistics report are the current Career assignment numbers.

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

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –online - nothing to report
- Chief Delorie – We have been meeting in person which has been great
- Chief Barresi - representing call – not present
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time – we are not meeting in person yet.

**Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts**

- Firefighter Cabral – online – late arrival – Currently planning for the convention at the end of the month.
- Lieutenant Medeiros – We lost a couple of icons Joe Cantalupa, who did so much for so many people. And Joe DiFranco - he was trustee of the PFFM. Attending the convention at the end of the month will be difficult without these individuals. A 911 memorial took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We continue to remember those

### **Mass Call/Vol**

- Assistant Chief Miller – MCVFA have been holding their regional meetings and the annual meeting has been announced to be held on October 23 in Carver.
- Assistant Chief Ruchala –nothing else to report

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

- Assistant Chief Connerty – We have started meeting in person on the fourth Wednesday of month. We include an education piece at every meeting, a business meeting, and lunch.

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

- Fire Marshal Michael Swain – FPAM has started last month. Attendance was huge. We have noticed an uptick in membership as a result of the Fire Prevention classes being offered.

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

- Jason Cardoso – online -nothing to report

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

- Scott Bassett – representing Dave Celino – sent some folks to Montana to help with a fire. Waiting for a 7-man crew to come back from the Caldor-Dixie fire. We sent several crews out west over the last few months.

### **Citizens of the Commonwealth**

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – online - nothing to report

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

- Nothing to report at this time; most items are in committee. Will keep you updated.

### **E. DFS Update - Marshal**

- Happy Fire Prevention week – the Marshal appreciates everyone’s work over the last 2-1/2 years; no child deaths during that time. We thought there would be an increase in fires during the pandemic but statistics show that didn’t happen.
- Work on building and fire code updates continues. Updated version of fire code is with the board of fire regulations.
- Deployments out of state – 10 local firefighters responded to help hurricane efforts in Louisiana. Several other response requests – emac deployment. – 14- day mission. Successful Carlisle and Dalton. Worked with MEMA to support.
- The agency has held successful Pub Ed and HazMat conferences over the past month.
- Academy Director position is drafted and will be posted in the very near future.
- Staff is now back four (4) days per week in their respective locations. MFA is starting to address the back log in every class as we ramp up class deliveries.
- The agency is working through the attestation process with respect to employees.
- Two props have been approved for AFG funding; a new maze trailer and a driver simulator.
- We’re looking forward to the groundbreaking of search & rescue prop in BW. The contractor has created the drawing and anticipate a late winter, early spring start.

- The Marshal made a request to meet in-person for the next training council meeting in order to give the master planning effort report.
- A question was asked if the search and rescue prop will be similar to the Springfield prop. The BW prop is a conex-style rather than modular-style like Springfield.
- The Marshal recognized DFS Counsel Steve Rourke for his years of service as he plans to retire on November 1. Chairman Medeiros acknowledged Steve's efforts on the Training Council.

The chairman called a recess at 11:50 for audio difficulties. Re-started again at 12:05.

#### **E. Academy Activities Report –Deputy Director Klucznik**

- Three recruit class graduations are taking place this Friday; next Tuesday, classes will begin in all three campuses.
- Two Call/Vol classes will be graduating; 093 in Fall River on 11/1 and 094 at MFA on 11/2. 095 in Hamilton and 096 in Leicester will begin in a couple of weeks.
- MFA brought on 19 new instructors specifically for Bridgewater but are able to teach any program.
- New group of instructors will be hired soon for Paul Betti in the Special Hazards group.
- Bids for the CT scanning offerings for the Cancer Awareness program have been received and are being reviewed. An award should be forthcoming soon.
- The Chief Fire Officer program began last week. It will be held on Thursdays here in Stow, with the program concluding on January 20<sup>th</sup>. There are currently 39 individuals enrolled.
- Business is back to almost normal; there are three Instructor I classes running back to back. In addition, Certification has picked up the pace.
- Assistant Chief Miller asked if Call/Vol in Springfield has been scheduled. Not scheduled yet but it will get scheduled.
- Chief Donovan asked if any formal action came out after the Worcester report. Nothing on agency's end.
- Chairman Medeiros was asked if the Career Recruit program was affected by the withdrawal of Quincy from the program. Deputy Klucznik noted that MFA will make the adjustments. With regard to SCBA, the Marshal noted that the department can't support many different brands of SCBA.

#### **F. Old Business**

- Assistant Chief Connerty asked if folks on a notification list can be put on an assignment list similar to Career Recruit. Firefighters on his department are having difficulty registering after being notified because someone registers first before they can register. Would like to see a better way for people that have been waiting for a long time to take the class. Deputy Klucznik noted that creating an assignment list would be difficult to manage. Assistant Chief Miller suggested we notify folks a week in advance that the course is being opened. Paul Betti explained the LMS process.

#### **G. New Business**

- On behalf of Governor Charles D. Baker, State Fire Marshal Ostroskey read A Proclamation recognizing the week of October 3-9, 2021, as Fire Prevention Week.
  - The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations was conceived 75 years ago this week.
  - The Massachusetts Fire Training Council was recognized for 50 years of service this week.
  - The Fire Service Commission and the Department of Fire Services was established 25 years ago this week.

**I. Policy Presentation/Adoption**

**H. Review of Correspondence**

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

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be in-person on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 11:00 am on the Stow campus.

**L. Public Comment**

**M. Adjourn Meeting**

- Chief Donovan made a motion, seconded by Chief DeLorie, to adjourn the meeting at 12:40.  
The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.