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CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council  
Minutes of the November 2, 2022 Meeting**

Chairman Chief Tim Nelson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and began the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:05 am on November 2, 2022, at the DFS Bridgewater campus.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Jason Cardoso, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Chief Frank Barresi, Chief Christopher Madden, Chief Justin Alexander, Lieutenant John Lombardo, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Attorney Courtney Mayo, and Chief Dave Celino.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey (arrived late), DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Recruit Coordinator Dennis Ball, Career Recruit Assistant Coordinator Jim Hagerty, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Vice Chairman Firefighter Billy Cabral, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, and Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe.

**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Assistant Chief Ruchala made a motion, seconded by Chief Alexander, to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2022 Training Council Meeting. The vote passed in favor of the motion.

**B. Fiscal Affairs Report – Deputy Marshal Fournier**

The September to October report was distributed. We continue to be extremely busy with contract training with different communities. We set our budget at the beginning of the year based on the number of contracts. Funds are used to pay to the training costs and we bill the community when completed. We do not expect any issues and expect to come out in the positive at fiscal year end. The Trust Fund ebbs and flows throughout the fiscal year with some months negative, some positive.

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

- Chief Nelson--representing part paid/part call – nothing to report
- 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—not present

### **Mass Call/Vol**

- Assistant Chief Miller—not present
- Assistant Chief Ruchala—nothing new

### **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—Our company manages an arson watch reward program and has a calendar contest each year. We have redesigned the program this year and instead of making the banquet an open event, we are going to the winners of each school to invite them to attend the banquet. In the past, the calendar printing had been outsourced but we have transitioned it to in-house design.

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

- Chief Dave Celino— We are pushing end of the year fire reporting into the system and are at roughly under 1,100 fires with around 1,600 acres burned. Prescribed fires – we've been trying to rebound from the drought; so far, we have about 65 prescribed fires projects this year. Working on burn units in Blue Hills, Quabbin, and Miles Standish. Goal is 3,000 acres. We were able to hire three Firefighter Patrolmen in just a couple of weeks.

### **Citizen of the Commonwealth**

- Attorney Courtney Mayo – nothing to report

### **D. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney**

- No new updates with regards to legislation. We will continue to track legislation relative to the Council. The next session begins January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **E. DFS Update – Deputy Marshal Fournier for Fire Marshal Ostroskey**

- Annual Firefighter of the Year is November 18 at Mechanics Hall. The Council is welcome to attend.
- The 100th Call/Volunteer class graduated last night. The class was excited and it was a great turnout.
- Work has started in the large classroom in Bridgewater which will eventually become two classrooms that will open up to make one large classroom. Mechanical upgrade work on the administration building and quonset hut will begin this winter and run into the spring. We will use Building A if this building is not accessible during this time.
- The Bridgewater master plan study is in its final stages review with DCAMM to start in the spring/summer months on infrastructure projects like plumbing, heating, electrical, underground systems, burn building, and the water reclamation system. We will be looking for a funding package to make this happen.
- We delivered our first Structural Collapse Rescue Training last week in Bridgewater with a class of 30. Students and instructors felt it was a highly successful class. We are planning for another delivery in the spring and will plan for two 8-day classes every fiscal year of 30 students.
- There is a canine graduation here tomorrow. A couple local communities are participating.

- Staffing – we have a considerable amount of openings at the agency; contract and full-time employees. We’re hiring another 28 instructors and are getting ready to post for another 12 openings to encompass recruit and other programs.

#### **F. Academy Activities Report – Deputy Fire Marshal Fournier**

- Career Recruit Assignment list: Stow and Bridgewater filling June; Springfield is filling March.
- Question from Chief Madden: What is the feasibility of a waitlist for other programs, not just recruit? Deputy Marshal Fournier explained that the notification list gives a 48-hour notice before the class opens. The new Fire Instructor Coordinator has been able to schedule up to 24 offerings of Instructor I. The MFA doesn’t have the staff to manually check a list for specific classes. There was much discussion with members about if there was a way for LMS to allow long-time fire personnel first choice of enrollment in sessions that are very popular and hard to get in to.
- The question of class sizes was asked: In Stow, we deliver 10 Career Recruit classes per year; 24 students per class with two classes running. 24 student class size in Bridgewater; 5 classes per year. In Springfield, up to 32 per class with 5 per year.
- MFA Director update - applicant has been selected and completed background check. The Deputy Marshal hopes to make an announcement in early December.

#### **G. Old Business**

- Teams channel shared folder for Council members is having technical difficulties but we are working to get members access to view Training Council policies.

#### **H. New Business**

- Discussion of annual report per M.G.L. Ch. 6, Sec 164—DFS Counsel Rooney is requesting submittal of an annual report which is the Training Council’s statutory obligation. Last year, the annual report included notable agency achievements, changes in the Council, and DFS statistics. The statute also allows for any recommendations on legislation. Attached is a draft of the report for review and discussion. If there are any recommendations, they can be raised at the December meeting for the report to be submitted in January.

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

#### **J. Review of Correspondence**

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

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 11:00 am at our Stow campus.

#### **K. Public Comment**

- Fire Marshal Ostroskey expressed an open invitation to take a walk around the Bridgewater campus for those that have not been there before.

#### **M. Adjourn Meeting**

- Chief Celino made a motion, seconded by Chief Alexander, to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.