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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the April 6, 2022 Meeting
DFS, 1 State Road, Stow**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council with the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:10 on April 6, 2022.

Members attendance: Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Chief Frank Barresi, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, Chief Tim Nelson, Chief Richard DeLorie, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Chief Justin Alexander and Firefighter Billy Cabral (arrived late) and Jason Cardoso.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Curriculum Specialist Sara Walsh, past FPAM member Mike Swain, Media Specialist Christina Mitchell, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Chief Sheri Bemis, Ret., Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Dave Celino, and Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Assistant Chief Andy Connerty made a motion, seconded by Chief Rick DeLorie, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022 Training Council Meeting. The vote was eight (8) in favor of the motion and one abstention.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

Deputy Director Klucznik noted the MFA Trust Fund is fluid and dynamic and constantly changing and the report is a snapshot on that particular day. We have quite a few contracts that we are processing and, as a result, quite a few scheduled classes. Our new Registration Coordinator is busy producing quotes and we expect more contracts to be signed. Nothing unusual; the Trust fund is healthy.

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

- Chief Nelson--representing part paid/part call – nothing to report
- Chief Delorie--representing metro – nothing to report

- Chief Barresi--representing call – question on whether there will be priority selection on upcoming Tech Rescue classes. Marshal noted that the Tech Rescue council needs to check in about this topic and that there will be varying memberships, essentially we don't know who's on the teams yet. There is some pre-requisite training on some teams but we're not ready to set priority selection requirements at this time.
- Chief Justin Alexander -representing full-time – no report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral— arrived late
- Lieutenant Medeiros— still working on budget for PFFM. We did the B-fit challenge where members could get a CT scan and we continue to promote early detection of cancer.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller—not present
- Assistant Chief Ruchala—nothing to report

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Assistant Chief Connerty—MIFDI met in person on March 23 at the Burlington Fire Department with a presentation by a former ATF employee on the agency's procedures. Asst Chief Connerty would like to see more active training officers on the MIFDI committee; many members are retired firefighters. They meet 10 times a year and folks can go to the MIFDI website for more information. Burlington Fire Dept. ran an ASHER drill at the Burlington Mall. It was a very involved training that emphasized the importance of good relations between police and fire personnel.

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Position open

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso—nothing to report.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief Dave Celino—not present

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis—not present

Undersecretary Report – Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe

- Working on Marathon, US open and the July 4th events.
- Working on the ASHER program with various stakeholders.
- Finished a rebuttal to Homeland Security to increase funding.
- Continue to work on cyber programs for the Commonwealth.

D. Legislative Update –DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- Work continues on the House budget with approval by end of April.
- Watching a couple pieces of legislation related to the agency.
- MFA Trust – extension order to allow for citizens to donate tax refund.

- Open meeting participants can continue to meet either in person, full remote or hybrid until July 15. At that time, meetings will go back to in person attendance absent any legislative action to amend MGL Ch. 30A, prior to that date.

E. DFS Update – Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey

- Sad news for DFS and the Commonwealth; it was a tough month of fire fatalities; we lost children and a total of 16 citizens have been lost so far in this calendar year. We are trying to re-enforce the public service announcements.
- Working with EOPSS on active shooter standards and adoptions statewide. We will hear more about that in near future.
- Several DFS employees represented the agency at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg for week long training.
- Closing in on an updated Fire Code going from current edition to most recent edition. We also continue to update the Building Code going to the 10th edition – staff is working hard on these projects.
- Bridgewater – we’re making good progress on the search & rescue prop. We received the first delivery of 50% of the building. Tech rescue training and Mass Maritime training will use building. Anticipated to be completed mid-May.
- FY23 Budget presentation – reviewed funding sources, MFA trust revenue, will be adding the Tech Rescue Trust fund; FY22 Accomplishments and new hires include AFG awards, PFAS projects, Cancer Screening program, Bridgewater campus development, Fire Equipment Grant Program for fire departments. FY23 House 2 budget \$34,753,324 – 1.6% increase. Initiatives – Structural Collapse training at Bridgewater campus, Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing at BW campus, FY23 AFG application, increase career recruit class size, and an increase in programmatic support for youth firesetting initiative.

F. Academy Activities Report – Deputy Director Klucznik

- There are currently 251 individuals on the career recruit assignment list. The number will drop by 43 when classes 302 and BW20 begin on Monday. We are filling S29 which begins on August 15, BW23 on November 7, and 308 on November 28.
- Career Recruit Class 300 will be graduating this Friday in Stow and Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe will represent the Training Council and in Bridgewater, Chairman Medeiros will represent the Council for Class BW-18.
- We currently have 3 Call/Volunteer Classes in session at each of our campuses. All are progressing well. Bridgewater Class 097 will be graduating on the evening of Monday, May 23rd.
- The next two Call/Volunteer Classes will begin in mid-June. Class 100 will be in Stow and Class 101 will be held in Fall River.
- As of this past weekend, 108 Cancer Screenings have been completed. 2,569 Firefighters have been screened, and 408 were recommended for follow-up visits. 56 Firefighters have opted for PSA bloodwork and 167 have taken advantage of CT Scans.
- There has been an effort to solicit volunteer physicians to assist in the Cancer Screening project. Dr. Christine Kannler has been handling the bulk of the work. There is a conference of the American Academy of Dermatologists in Newton today, and Dr. Kannler along with our Abby Baker will be trying to bring some doctors onboard to this worthwhile venture.
- We currently have 3 Instructor I programs in session or scheduled to begin this month. We completed two programs in March.

- Certification continues to be consistently busy. We had 15 testing dates for exams in March, 14 are scheduled for April, 36 in May and 27 in June.

G. Old Business

H. New Business

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, May 4, 2022 at 11:00 am in person at the Department of Fire Services, 1 State Road, Stow, in the Boards & Commissions Conference Room.

K. Public Comment

- Mike Swain announced that the FPAM conference in be held on May 9 & 10 at the Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center.
- Chief Nelson noted that Counsel Rooney gave a very good legal presentation for the Western Mass HazMat team.

M. Adjourn Meeting

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