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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the May 5, 2021 Meeting**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council via webex with the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:02 am on May 5, 2021.

Roll call attendance: Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Fire Marshal Michael Swain, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Retired Chief Sheri Bemis, Firefighter Billy Cabral, Chief Richard Donovan, Chief David Celino, Chief Richard DeLorie, Jason Cardoso, Chief Frank Barresi, and Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala.

Also present were Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, DFS Counsel Steven Rourke, DFS Deputy Counsel Glenn Rooney, DFS Director of Operations Dave Clemons, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Assistant Chief Tim Choate, Educational Specialist Sara Praguski Walsh, Call/Vol Coordinator Chris Norris, Linda Crowley (host), and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Vice Chairman Chief Tim Nelson

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Firefighter Billy Cabral made a motion, seconded by Chief Rick DeLorie, to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2021 Training Council Meeting. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

Deputy Fire Marshal Fournier presented the MFA Trust Fund report for the period of 3/28/21 through 4/17/21. Nothing much has changed; we continue to deliver contract training. There are no issues with the trust fund.

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

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –not present
- Chief Delorie - representing metro –we’re going back to in-person meetings.
- Chief Barresi - representing call – nothing to report
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time – nothing to report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral – waiting for the FY22 budget to come out.

- Lieutenant Medeiros – I got a question from one of the members if the Academy did certification with any other entities.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller – nothing to report; hopefully next month we'll have more to report.
- Assistant Chief Ruchala –nothing to report

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Assistant Chief Connerty – nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Fire Marshal Michael Swain – reminder the virtual annual meeting is May 10 & 11; 146 registered for day 1 and 138 registered for day 2. Our goal is to start meeting in-person in September.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso – nothing to report; continues to be slow, losses are low due to the pandemic.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief Celino – It has been an active fire season. Updated number of fires are 588; acres burned is 492. Other data impacts values at risk and prescribed fires went up. We've had some significant training efforts in the last month with the new Statewide Fire Mobilization plan. Second phase of training was to develop leadership; we trained 25 fire department officers.

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update –Counsel Steve Rourke

- Nothing new to report; bills continue to be assigned to various committees. Hopefully there will be something to report next month. Lt. Medeiros mentioned the commission that was formed relative to police reform and civil service. Not sure if there will be a direct impact but it may have an impact on training/certification and hiring procedures. They have until 9/30/21 to present a report. Chief Vuona from Shrewsbury FD is on commission; the Council may want to keep an eye on the matter going forward.

E. DFS Update –Fire Marshal Ostroskey

- We continue to work the budget process and legislative activity is early in the process.
- There's been good progress on the Bridgewater master planning process; meetings have been productive.
- We're continuing on with the PFAS project however we are getting further support. It's been a huge effort to manage the process and it was noted by the Executive Office that the project is better suited for DCAMM.
- Extensive work is on-going on commissions with regard to fire codes and building and model codes. We're seeing emerging energy technologies that present interesting problems with fire.
- The Executive Office has re-invigorated the Active Shooter training. The program is being re-developed as there is an uptick in mass shootings. Chief DeLorie – will the Active Shooter re-development involve law enforcement? The Executive Office is taking the lead and, yes, there will be a refreshing of the membership of that group.

F. Academy Activities Report –Deputy Fire Marshal Fournier

- Director’s position: begun interviews for round 1, finishing up Friday. Will update the Chairman after that.
- So far, we have approved approximately 470 firefighters for the CT scan program and they are still coming. We may be moving some of those funds into FY22 in addition to new funding.
- Assignment list: next class starts May 10 – total 157. Stow filling October; Bridgewater filling August; Springfield filling July. Starting in May, Stow will increase to 24 from 18; Springfield can fill up to 32; Bridgewater will stay at 18 for now.
- There was a question at the last meeting regarding the Fire Instructor I program. We are updating curriculum to the new standard and we have several sessions scheduled for FY22; will probably offer session in summer to help with backlog.
- Billy Cabral – how is MFA filling recruit classes as the class size increases? Whoever is next in the queue is being offered a move up. With cancer screening, is there any way we can get the word out more: we can make a push through social media and through other chiefs’ meeting. We had a podcast with the Cambridge FD promoting their and our program.
- Jonathan Miller – what is the general plan for shifting training back to in-person? We are having discussions now about that and have a request into the Executive Office. We’re probably looking at a blended format. Impact classes we can deliver very successfully virtually. We have 48 virtual sessions uploaded with 22 in development. Goal would be to have some type of normal in July.
- Undersecretary Thorpe – we had a back to work presentation last week; governor put together a team to see what that would look like. A lot of conferences are starting back in September. Business travel will be looked at in June.
- Recruit graduations are starting back on May 7 – not open to the public but will record and post on FaceBook for families.

G. Old Business

H. New Business

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

I. Review of Correspondence

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, June2, 2021 at 11:00 am via webex call unless otherwise noted.

L. Public Comment

- Marshal Ostroskey noted the 2021 Firefighter Safety Standdown week is June 20-26– theme is physical and psychological rehab.

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Assistant Chief Connerty made a motion, seconded by Chief Barresi, to adjourn the meeting at 12:10. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.