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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the September 1, 2021 Meeting
Bridgewater Campus**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council with the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:05 am on September 1, 2021. The Chairman asked for all to remember the 13 fallen military service members.

Attendance: Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Richard DeLorie, Chief Frank Barresi, Chief Tim Nelson, Chief Richard Donovan, and Retired Chief Sheri Bemis.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, DFS Counsel Steven Rourke, DFS Deputy Counsel Glenn Rooney, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Recruit Assistant Coordinator Mike Moriarty, Call/Vol Program Coordinator Chris Norris, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Fire Marshal Michael Swain, Chief David Celino, Jason Cardoso, Firefighter Billy Cabral, and Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chief Richard Donovan made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2021 Training Council Meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

Deputy Fire Marshal Fournier presented the MFA Trust Fund report for the last three months 5-16-2021 to 8-14-2021. Departments are requesting contract training as they are receiving AFG funding. There are no issues with the trust fund this fiscal year.

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

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –nothing to report
- Chief Delorie – representing metro - no report
- Chief Barresi - representing call – no updates
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time – no updates

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral – not present
- Lieutenant Medeiros – There's been an uptick in training due to AFG funding in addition to civil service exams for recruit firefighters. We continue to work through the budget. September 11 ceremony will be held at the state house. Firefighter of the year awards are also coming up. Things haven't slowed down from the PFFM's perspective.

Mass Call/Vol

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

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Assistant Chief Connerty – nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Fire Marshal Michael Swain – not present

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso – not present

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief Celino – not present

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update –Counsel Steve Rourke

- Nothing to report at this time; most items are in committee. Will keep you updated.
- Joint Committee on Public Safety has had several hearings already in FY22.

E. DFS Update - State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey

- Fallen Firefighter Memorial will take place at Ashburton Park on September 11 – outside only. RSVP to Melissa Hurley. The Ring of Honor roll call of names will be read as part of this year's ceremony.
- The agency has sent an invitation to the 9/11 ceremony in Stow on Saturday to all staff, boards & commissions and Chiefs.
- The Firefighter of the Year contract is in place and the Heroic Awards Committee will meet to review several applications for recognition. The ceremony is scheduled for the Tuesday before Thanksgiving at Mechanics Hall. Last year, a video of the awards ceremony was available for viewing. This year, the event will be live. If necessary, the back-up plan would be to have the recipients at the live event but not the public. Recognition of the 2020 recipients is being discussed.
- The agency is in good shape with the budget process for FY23. We have a signed budget for FY22 and are in the process of implementing it. Great support has been given from the EOPSS Secretary and administration.
- For your information, Secretary Turco has retired; Terrance Reidy is new Secretary. The agency has worked with Secretary Reidy in the past and look forward to working with him going forward.

- Plans are underway for the master plan for Bridgewater with DCAMM. The final land purchase has been made. Dorr & Whittier has been contracted with for construction. The Marshal will walk the Council through the master plan at next month's meeting. Bond funding was dedicated the master plan, including a study. We are happy with the progress and plan. Included in the plan is a dedicated space for technical rescue.
- Folks are returning to work part-time and full-time after COVID. There have been several retirements and resignations within the agency. With that, comes hiring of new employees. We are hiring a new Public Education Coordinator and Public Information Officer, and in other areas of DFS administration.
- We will be re-advertising the MFA Director's position later this month. Asked about the recent candidates, three moved on to second round, and each one had certain attributes but not one of them had the all the attributes we are looking for.
- Chief Donovan expressed gratitude for the help his recruit received after it was found in his progress report that he was not doing well. He requested an increase in the amount of progress reports citing challenges if recruit failed out of the program.
- Chief Donovan suggested a possible pre-test to see where the recruit stands in the program. Marshal suggests that we take it back to the Academy and noted that the failure rate is very, very low. The Marshal also noted that the Council be aware of relationship they have with Pro-board with regard to pre-testing. The Deputy Marshal noted that our Curriculum Specialist is notified when a recruit is not doing do well. It is usually that they don't have good study skills. Perhaps offer an online prep course on study habits for a further discussion with the Academy.

E. Academy Activities Report –Deputy Fire Marshal Fournier

- The Academy Statistics report is not always current at the time of the Training Council meeting. You'll note the current assignment list statistics on page 4. As of 8-27-21, 205 recruits are on the Academy assignment; Stow – 114; filling class 301 3-7-22; Bridgewater 55; filling class BW18 1-31-22; Springfield 36; filling class S26 12-20-21.
- We have seen large hires in some communities and that has kicked up assignment list for the Stow campus. Recruit registration always gives the option to go to either of our campuses.
- Last year's AFG project is Search & Rescue prop for Bridgewater. Construction is taking place next Friday and plans are to start construction in a month. Our goal is to be completed by spring. Our next AFG award is for an emergency vehicle driver SIM and a SCBA maze trailer.
- Relative to Academy operations, program coordinators were asked to schedule classes beginning in July. They are looking at course requests and booking into this fiscal year.
- PFAS update –DCAMM will take over responsibility for EOPSS; DFS will keep the DFS portion. The bulk of the environmental clean up project will be DCAMM's responsibility.
- CT Scan program was a great success in FY21. The Governor has approved \$79,000 be pushed into FY22. The bid is out and we will reinstitute the program, hopefully in October.
- Question – Will the planned Driver SIM be designed to go on the road. Yes
- Question - Do the Fire instructor and Officer classes have a waitlist? It's frustrating to firefighters when they see the notification and the class is filled by the time they try to register. The only solution MFA has to offer is a LMS notification list. Folks are notified just before the course is opened. You will be informed of an opportunity. Notification

and waitlist are one in the same. Unfortunately, MFA cannot keep a waitlist similar to Career Recruit.

F. Old Business

G. New Business

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

- Proposed Revisions to Instructor Employment Policy –Chairman Medeiros presented the results of a Policy Sub-Committee that met on August 13. The discussion was around hiring various Program Coordinator position in the MFA. It has been challenging to fill positions such as Fire Prevention Coordinator, Public Educator Coordinator and Chief Fire Officer Coordinator. These positions require specific qualifications from subject matter experts. Many courses in these areas do not require certification. In the best interest of the Academy, it has been recommended that these positions require different minimum requirements. Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller made a motion, seconded by Chief Richard DeLorie to adopt the revised Instructor Employment Policy effective September 1, 2021. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Proposed Removal of Fire Instructor I Training Waiver Policy– The MFA Director is recommending the removal of the Fire Instructor I Training Waiver Policy as it has only been used one time and is now obsolete. The Instructor Employment Policy consolidates this policy into it. Retired Chief Sheri Bemis made a motion, seconded by Chief Frank Barresi to remove the policy. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

H. Review of Correspondence

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 11:00 am in Springfield campus.

L. Public Comment

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Chief DeLorie made a motion, seconded by Chief Nelson, to adjourn the meeting at 12:45. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.