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CHIEF WALTER O. NELSON  
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council  
Minutes of the September 7, 2022 Meeting  
DFS, 1 State Road, Stow**

Chairman Chief Tim Nelson opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:08 am on September 7, 2022.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Chief Frank Barresi, Chief Christopher Madden, Vice Chairman Firefighter Billy Cabral, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Justin Alexander, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe (late), Jason Cardoso, Lt. John Lombardo and Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, DFS Deputy Counsel John Dean, Director of Operations Dave Clemons, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Special Hazards Coordinator Paul Betti, Curriculum Specialist Sara Pragluski Walsh, PIO Jake Wark, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala and Chief Dave Celino.

Chairman Nelson welcomed the newest members of the Council: Lt. John Lombardo, representing FPAM, and Milton Chief Christopher Madden, representing FCAM Metro fire departments.

**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty made a motion, seconded by Firefighter Billy Cabral, to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2022 Training Council Meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. Fiscal Affairs Report**

Deputy Fire Marshal Fournier noted the Council received Trust Fund reports from over the summer and the current report. The Trust Fund received and used funds as a result of contract hires last fiscal year in addition to certification fees. For the new members, the Trust Fund is a pass-through account, thereby, contract training is paid and funds are received for that training. You will see at times, there will be a negative balance as a result of waiting for payment for training that was delivered.

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

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

- Chief Madden--representing metro - new member – 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—nothing to report.

#### **Mass Call/Vol**

- Assistant Chief Miller—The MCVFA western region had their first meeting in a while and it decided to bring back the annual meeting and training on November 5. More to come on that.
- Assistant Chief Ruchala—not present

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

- Assistant Chief Connerty—MFIDI – nothing to report

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

- Lt. John Lombardo – new member – nothing to report

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

- Jason Cardoso—there have been a number of large fires recently that has had a big impact on the insurance industry.

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

- Chief Dave Celino—not present

#### **Citizen of the Commonwealth**

- Open position

#### **D. Legislative Update –DFS Deputy Counsel John Dean**

- Currently there's not a lot of legislation on training. Residential sprinkler legislation passed the House and Bridgewater campus land transfer has been recorded.

#### **E. DFS Update – Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey**

- There have been several significant incidents that DFS has supported departments with as well as major planning events we've participated in.
- The agency is working diligently to fill staff vacancies.
- The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations voted to promulgate revision of the fire and building codes. We are optimistic that after the first of the year, we will have a new fire code. One significant area of discussion is new language on energy storage systems. In addition, there are updates to protecting construction sites. A lot of work has been done by the BFPR and staff. The new edition of the electrical code comes out in January; the sub-committee is working hard on that. There will be an impact to our Fire Prevention courses relative to the updates being made.
- To date, the agency has been successful in receiving AFG funds for big projects up to \$500K. This time around, we will receive \$300K for live fire training props.
- We have been working with the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security as they have adopted NFPA 3000 for Active Shooter/Hostile Events training. This involves a lot of work with sister agencies in the development of materials and training.

- Update on Bridgewater – we’re working closely with DCAMM – Search & Rescue building came online about a week ago. Reviewing the schematic design for the next phase which is the installation of the infrastructure and the burn building. We hope to break ground by the spring of next year.
- FY23 budget is in good shape; we’ve submitted our spending plan. FY24 is now in development.

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

- The MFA was extremely busy this summer delivering regular programs in addition to development of new and old programs that need updating.
- Our new Structural Collapse Training class will be delivered at the end of October.
- There is a new coordinator for Fire Instructor and he worked to deliver several courses over the summer. Several fall sessions are planned. We are combining communities, resulting in the offering of 27 sessions.
- Career Recruit – 259 on assignment list – we are booking into spring at our Stow and Bridgewater campuses and January in Springfield.
- We continue to hire 25-30 instructors every quarter with the goal of replenishing staffing. We also face the same challenges other employers have with hiring. Over last two years, we lost 124 instructors and have hired 117. In addition, we compete with fire departments as our staff are scheduled for overtime shifts.
- We have a potential candidate for the MFA Director and are currently going through the salary process.
- We are looking to expand our cancer program. We submitted a revised bid to include mobile CT scans and mammograms. The mobile scans would be helpful because right now Harrington Hospital in Southbridge and UMass Worcester are the only locations for firefighters to receive the scans.

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

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

- Review and Vote for Approval by Council on donation from Scituate Concrete Products (two concrete pipes) for use in various Technical Rescue training courses. Assistant Chief Connerty made a motion to approve the donation of two concrete pipes for use in Technical Rescue programs, seconded by Chief Justin Alexander. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- The Chairman requested a volunteer to chair the next meeting of the MFTC as he and the Vice Chairman will be out of town on October 5 – Chief Alexander volunteered. It was determined that the meeting will be virtual.
- Jonathan Miller asked if there would be a way to access Training Council policies. Deputy Marshal Fournier will explore and report back to the council.

#### **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, October 5, 2022 at 11:00 am on Microsoft Teams.

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

- Chief Barresi asked about an appeal process if a recruit fails the HRD physical due to eye test failure. Documents can be submitted from an eye specialist with the physical to be accepted.
- Fire Marshal Ostroskey announced that the National Association of State Fire Marshals Board will meet in November in Stow.
- Upcoming events: 1) Statewide memorial in Boston on 9/11 at 2:00 pm to honor the victims of the attack. 2) Fire and Life Safety Conference 9/21 & 22 at the Southbridge Hotel and Conference Center. 3) Hazardous Materials Conference in Plymouth is also 9/21 & 22. 4) On 9/22, Big E demonstration of the Sprinkler Prop at 4:00.
- Firefighter Cabral announced an event on 9/20 utilizing the MFA's burn trailer to bring Senator and Reps through.
- Firefighter of the Year is November 15 at Mechanics Hall in Worcester.

**M. Adjourn Meeting**

- Firefighter Billy Cabral made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Connerty, to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.