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CHIEF WALTER O. NELSON
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the January 4, 2023 Meeting**

Vice Chairman Firefighter Billy Cabral opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and began the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:10 am on January 4, 2023, at the DFS Stow campus.

Members attendance: Vice Chairman Firefighter Billy Cabral, MFA Director Jeffrey Winn, Mr. Jason Cardoso, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Chief Christopher Madden, Lieutenant John Lombardo, Chief Frank Barresi, Atty. Courtney Mayo, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, and Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller.

Also present were DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney, Operations Director David Clemons, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Recruit Coordinator Dennis Ball, Special Hazards Coordinator Paul Betti, Curriculum Specialist Sara Walsh, DCR Rep. Scott Bassett, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Chief Justin Alexander, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, and Chief David Celino.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chief Chris Madden made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2022 Training Council Meeting. The vote passed in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report – Deputy Marshal Fournier

The trust fund has not changed much since last month. MFA continues to process contracts. You'll see the balance of roughly \$65,000.

C. EOPSS Update – Undersecretary -Jeanne Thorpe – not present

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

- Chief Nelson--representing part paid/part call – not present
- Chief Madden-- MetroFire is holding a recruit class at the end of February
- Chief Barresi--representing call – nothing to report
- Chief Justin Alexander – not present

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral— nothing to report

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller—nothing 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

- Lt. John Lombardo – working through rolling out the new code and the trainings associated with it. It is on-going.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso— nothing to report

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Scott Bassett for Forest Fire Control – 1,200 wildfires since beginning of the fiscal year, 1,074 acres that was burned for state and private lands, 205 wild fire responses requested by municipalities, 17 prescribed fire operations for 327 acres, 74 prescribed fires for landowners, 47 wild fires for training related to training for cities and towns. 35 cities and towns for volunteer fire assistance for \$90,000. Hired four new patrolmen for year round staff.

Citizen of the Commonwealth

- Attorney Courtney Mayo – nothing to report

E. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- New codes went live December 9th. We are filing a notice of correction this week for any corrections that need to be made and will take effect in two weeks when it's filed in the Massachusetts Register. The bulk of it is out there and enforceable but some of the sections need to be cleaned up. Will know what the corrections are at the end of today and will let Lt. Lombardo know what they are.
- The start of the new session and new administration will be starting. We will continue to keep our finger on the pulse of any new fire service/Training Council related bills that get filed. We use software that gives us real-time updates on legislation as it's filed.

F. DFS and MFA Update – Deputy Marshal Fournier

- The agency continues to try to fill a lot of open positions: Deputy Director of Facilities, Deputy Director of Special Ops, Director of ASHER. We will be reposting the Deputy General Counsel, Chief engineers, an Engineer and a couple of Fiscal positions. Like many organizations, we are struggling to fill positions for a variety of reasons.
- MFA Staff Services is finishing up reference checks. We posted 12 new instructor positions, received 36 applicants, and will be hiring 26. Their orientation will be at the end of January. We probably have hired as many instructors as we have let go. The MFA staff will be reviewing contractor work hours in the next couple of weeks and will be contacting those instructors that have not worked or have not worked a minimum of 200 hours in a two-year calendar period. We

post the instructor positions on MassCareers and we hire for any programs that we are looking for.

- To date, the new governor has not made changes at EOPSS.
- Mechanical work continues in Bridgewater and the Construction Manager process has begun.
- There has been a lot of discussion about our instructor pay rate and the agency recognizes that we are not competitive enough. With the support of EOPSS, as of 1-1-2023, contractors will receive a 2% COLA and 30% increase across the board.

G. Old Business

H. New Business

- Assistant Chief Connerty reported his last day is today because he will begin as Chief of Burlington Fire on January 9, 2023. Under the rules of the MIFDI group, he is not allowed to continue as Chief.
- Deputy Marshal Fournier reported that the review of Academy courses presentation will happen in the March meeting.
- DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney reported that the state's Open Meeting Law provisions for allowing virtual meetings are in effect until the end of March.
- The question was asked about the Marshal's FY24 budget review. Deputy Fournier noted that the review may happen in February, possibly joint with the Fire Commission.

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, February 1, 2023 at 11:00 am at our Stow campus.

K. Public Comment

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Lt. John Lombardo made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.