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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the January 6, 2021 Meeting**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council via webex with the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:05 am on January 6, 2021.

Roll call attendance: Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Chief David Celino, Fire Marshal Michael Swain, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller (arrived after roll call), Vice Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Retired Chief Sheri Bemis, Jason Cardoso, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Firefighter William Cabral (left early), Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Chief Frank Barresi (arrived after roll call), and Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe.

Also present were Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Operations Director David Clemons, DFS Counsel Steven Rourke, DFS Deputy Counsel Glen Rooney, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Assistant Chief Tim Choate, Educational Specialist Sara Praguski Walsh, and Call/Vol Program Coordinator Chris Norris.

Not present: Chief Richard Donovan and Chief Richard DeLorie.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Firefighter William Cabral made a motion, seconded by Chief Dave Celino, to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2020 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 11-22-20 through 12-26-2020. The report indicates a negative balance \$113,000. When the report came out, about \$100 thousand was signed off for billing. We are currently looking to exceed our projected \$369,000 in contract training. Departments are doing specific contract training due to COVID.

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

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –nothing to report
- Chief Delorie - representing metro – not present
- Chief Barresi - representing call – nothing to report
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time – not present

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral – COVID numbers around the state for firefighters are rising; waiting to receive vaccinations. Chief Barresi noted that the delay in setting up vaccine locations was due to the lack of facilities to store the vaccine. In addition, flame retardant legislation was passed for the removal of toxic chemicals in various materials.
- Lieutenant Medeiros – looking forward to vaccine distribution and is pleased the flame retardant legislation was signed by the governor.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller – nothing to report
- Assistant Chief Ruchala –Noted that Chief Bob Craig passed away in December.

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Assistant Chief Connerty – nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Fire Marshal Michael Swain – We continue to hold our monthly meetings and training sessions. Over 100 people have signed up the last couple of months.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso – nothing to report

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- The department's focus through the end of the month will be reconciling fire reporting. The fire mobilization committee asked me to share that District 9 wildland fire crew completed basic wildland training. The next level to roll out is the 13-hour leadership training for those that want to be crew bosses. We're also starting the hiring process for the spring season.

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update –Counsel Steve Rourke

- Nothing new except for the passage of the Flame Retardant bill. There is a provision that the manufacturer must notify retailers that they have six months to sell through their product and law will take effect by 2022.

E. DFS Update –Fire Marshal Ostroskey

- The department continues to see a steady stream in the student and instructor body of COVID cases. We haven't seen cases spread through a particular class and are working hard to stay safe and to communicate to training council.
- We are working with EOPSS daily for the deployment of the vaccine. As soon as we have further information, we will pass that on.
- The governor has approved a \$5 million bond bill over the next five years. This fiscal year's grant program has produced over 75 applications and are due next Monday.
- The AFG has opened up for grant funding. The period for applications is January 4 through February 12 and we will help schedule workshops for Dave Parr.

- The state mobilization committee has been actively working on a revised Statewide Fire Mobilization plan. Chief Hurlbut from Sterling is the new chairperson. We are working to procure a contract for training and will be offering the training soon.
- Regarding the recent church fire in Springfield, we are working with the Executive Office and a team that are putting together training and collecting resources to be shared with faith-based organizations.
- Making final design plans for the Search & Rescue prop in Bridgewater funded under AFG and will go out to bid soon. We are working closely with DCAMM on the master plan for Bridgewater.

F. Academy Activities Report –Deputy Fire Marshal Fournier

- On 12/28, we started a new recruit class at all three campuses. We will start a new matrix for Career Recruit beginning in February, however, Springfield numbers are extremely low and we are not able to fill that class. We have reached out to the western mass chiefs association and I have heard from the Chicopee chief. Chicopee will have six students for the May class as they were awarded a SAFER grant. Many chiefs are waiting for the new civil service list which is scheduled to be out in the spring. Bridgewater and Stow classes for February through June are almost full.
- Last fiscal year we received a \$100,000 cancer initiative grant but was unable to get it off the ground due to COVID. As soon as we could, we put the contract out to bid and have contracted with UMass. This means we will be able to offer up to 800 CT scans to firefighters. We're looking to announce the program by next week.
- MFA has 22 trainings offered virtually with 19 more in development.
- The Director's position is going through the approval process and will hopefully be approved in the next 5-7 days.
- Chief Barresi asked for an update on the Call/Vol list. Maribel will get an update.
- The number of recruits on the Career Recruit assignment list from February until June is 109.
- Assistant Chief Choate asked for information regarding the change in the matrix for Career Recruit. With the current schedule, students learn remotely for two weeks then come on campus for four weeks. We've learned that it's difficult for a student to remember what they've learned on day 2 then use the skill on day 16. The change in schedule for students will be to come on campus four days and one day remote. When they are on campus they are not in the classroom and lunch for more than 90 minutes, then they will go on the drill yard for an activity. Each week the remote day is Friday, but we can have the flexibility to move to another day if we have to. The 7th edition of IFSTA Basic Firefighting will begin with the February classes.

G. Old Business

H. New Business

- Election of Training Council Chairperson and Vice Chairperson: Dave Celino nominated Paul Medeiros for Chairperson, seconded by Andrew Connerty. Mr. Medeiros accepted the nomination. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the nomination. Paul Medeiros nominated Tim Nelson for Vice Chairperson, seconded by Jonathan Miller. Mr. Nelson accepted the nomination. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the nomination.

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 February 3, 2021 at 11:00 am via webex call unless otherwise noted.

L. Public Comment

- Chairman Medeiros requested a moment of silence to remember former Training Council member Retired Chief Robert Craig who passed away on December 11, 2020. He will be remembered for his calm and steady leadership.
- The Chairman also recognized Cindy Ouellette's retirement and thanked her for hosting the Training Council meetings on Webex.

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Lieutenant Medeiros made a motion, seconded by Chief Barresi, to adjourn the meeting at 12:05. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.