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CHIEF CHRISTOPHER MADDEN
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the January 7, 2026 Meeting**

Chairman Chief Christopher Madden opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and began the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:20 am on January 7, 2025, at the DFS Stow Campus, in the Boards and Commissions room.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Christopher Madden, Asst. Chief Jonathan Miller, Capt. Drew Piemonte, Deputy Fire Warden Andy Regan, Captain John Bonadio, Dr. Michael Goldstein, Gerard Medua, MFA Acting Director Maribel Fournier, Mary Clare Higgins, Firefighter William Cabral and Dr. Michael Goldstein

Also present: Operations Sections Chief Dave Clemons, General Counsel Glenn Rooney, Registration Coordinator Helgi Olgeirsson, MFA Deputy Director Joanne Gardiner, Recruit Programs Coordinator Dean Babineau and Administrative Secretary Christine Dansereau.

Not present: Capt. John Lombardo, Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey, Chief Andrew Puntini, Chief Justin Alexander

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Firefighter William Cabral made a motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2025, Training Council Meeting, seconded by Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller. The vote passed all in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report – MFA Acting Director Maribel Fournier

- The beginning revenue balance is \$545k. We received \$38k in revenue. We are doing a mid-year analysis of the trust fund and contracts will be conducted to ensure a positive balance at the end of the fiscal year.

EOPSS Update – Interim Secretary Susan Terrey – not present

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

- Chief Madden – nothing to report
- Vacant
- Chief Justin Alexander – not present
- Chief Andrew Puntini (part call/part paid) – not present

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral— nothing to report
- Capt. Piemonte – nothing to report

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller— nothing to report
- Dr. Michael Goldstein – nothing to report

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Capt. John Bonadio – nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Capt. John Lombardo – not present

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Community Action

- Mary Clare Higgins— the fuel assistance program is up and running. If people see space heaters in a home during an inspection, they should tell the residents to call for fuel assistance.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control – Deputy Fire Warden Andy Regan –

- 926.68 acres have been burned in 1153 fires in 2025. There were at least 2 fires every month. 6 fires were caused by lightning.
- We have trained 2139 individuals in 146 courses.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Massachusetts Property Insurance Underwriting Assn.

- Gerard Medua – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update – General Counsel Glenn Rooney

- The legislature was on winter recess from November 19th until today. No new bills have progressed.

E. DFS/MFA Update – Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier –

- An email went out earlier this week about the new application process presented to the council in December, which will be effective January 15th.
- Springfield S46 (June 15th class) has six spots available, Stow 342 (July 20th class) has 31 seats available, and Bridgewater BW41 (August 3rd class) has about 20 spots available.
- The next 2 call/vol classes should be opening at the end of January beginning of February.
- The state is under a hiring freeze with FTE caps, so the agency is prioritizing vacancies.
 - The director's position is not included in the hiring freeze.
 - The agency has 32 vacancies and is determining which positions are most critical to fill.
- MFA has two employees down in registration, leaving only three out of five.
- The administrative assistant positions to the Director and Deputy of Training remain vacant.

- The governor is expected to release her budget around mid-January.
 - The Marshall will present the Governor's Recommendation to the Council and Fire Service Commission for review.
- The agency is currently going through its FY26 mid-year budget review.
 - Each division will review its budget and shift funds as needed based on course demand and offerings.
- January 1st was the deadline for NERIS.
 - Daryl Dion is working with less than 20 communities that have not signed on.
- The LMS project team is working with the project manager and looking at other systems.
- The accreditation team is going to Florida next week to accept accreditation from forward.

G. Old Business – A subcommittee meeting was held to discuss the MFTC legislation, with an update on the history and role of the organization. The legislation is revisited every 10 years and hasn't been updated in a long time. The goal is to ensure the legislation benefits the fire service, with collaboration from FCAM and potentially PFFM. The dialogue is in the early states, with input being sought.

H. New Business –

- **MFTC Annual Report – General Counsel Glenn Rooney** – Chapter 6, Section 164 requires the Training Council to produce an annual report. The report should include notable movement in membership and council activities. The report is due at the start of 2026 and should be reviewed and finalized.
- **Mary Clare Higgins made a motion to approve the 2025 MFTC Annual Report, seconded by Firefighter William Cabral. The vote passed all in favor of the motion.**
- **Chairman and Vice Chairman Elections – General Counsel Glenn Rooney – Firefighter William Cabral made a motion to nominate Chief Christopher Madden as Chairman of the MFTC, seconded by Captain John Bonadio; no discussion; no other nominations; Chief Christopher Madden accepted the nomination. Voted unanimously to appoint Chief Christopher Madden as Chairman until the next election cycle.**

Captain Drew Piemonte made a motion to nominate Firefighter William Cabral as Vice Chairman of the MFTC, seconded by Chief Christopher Madden; no discussion; no other nominations; Firefighter William Cabral accepted the nomination. Voted unanimously to appoint Firefighter William Cabral as Vice Chairman until the next election.

- **Discuss the local register option for hiring new firefighters – General Counsel Glenn Rooney –**
- A southeast fire department inquired about the local register program established by civil service.
 - The program puts responsibility on the training council to evaluate out-of-state experience and certifications.
 - The department wants to know if the council has a pre-approved list of academies/programs that would be acceptable.
- The inquiry was about accepting the Rhode Island Fire Academy's curriculum and pro board certificate.
 - Concern that evaluating each case individually would slow down the hiring process.
 - Discussion of whether to look at other state academies in New England.
- The local register program is a limited avenue through civil service.
 - It is not a blanket approval of every other academy.
 - It is a route through a newly created statute.

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption – Live Burn Policy Revision – Acting MFA Director Maribel Fournier – The live burn policy was updated to add the Bridgewater Campus burn building. The subcommittee approved moving the live fire policy forward to the full training council. **Captain Drew Piemonte made a motion to accept the revisions to the Live Burn Policy, seconded by Firefighter William Cabral.** The vote passed all in favor of the motion.

J. Review of Correspondence –

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 11 am at the DFS Stow Campus.

L. Public Comment -

M. Adjourn Meeting

Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Captain Drew Piemonte. Voted unanimously adjourn at 12:41 pm.