



MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TERRENCE M. REIDY
SECRETARY

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Massachusetts Fire Training Council*

P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775

(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3229



CHIEF CHRISTOPHER MADDEN
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the October 1, 2025 Meeting**

Chairman Chief Christopher Madden opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and began the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 10:56 am on October 1, 2025, in the Boards and Commissions Room, Stow Campus.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Christopher Madden, Capt. John Lombardo, Asst. Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Andrew Puntini, and Chief Justin Alexander, Captain John Bonadio, Chief Fire Warden David Celino, Gerard Medua, MFA Director Jonpaul Seivane, Capt. Drew Piemonte, Mary Clare Higgins, Firefighter William Cabral and Dr. Michael Goldstein and Interim Secretary Susan Terrey

Also present: Fire Marshal Jon Davine, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, DFS General Counsel Glenn Rooney, Instructional Specialist Sara Praguski Walsh, Deputy Director Joanne Gardiner, Easthampton Fire Chief Christopher Norris, Recruit Programs Coordinator Dean Babineau and Administrative Secretary Christine Dansereau.

Not present: everyone was present

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chief Justin Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes of September 9, 2025, Training Council Meeting, seconded by Firefighter William Cabral. The vote passed all in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report – Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier

- We received from the month of August through September the Safe Funds that go through the MFA trust and that is how we pay for all the things associated with that conference. The current revenue is \$513k, that is what we believe will be budgeted for with contracts running through FY26.

EOPSS Update – Interim Secretary Susan Terrey – nothing to report

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

- Chief Madden – the Senior Fire Officer Forum seems to always fall on the same day as our Metro Fire Chiefs meeting, which is the first Thursday of every month. Metro fire is asking that those classes move to different days.
- Vacant
- Chief Justin Alexander – nothing to report
- Chief Andrew Puntini (part call/part paid) – nothing to report, but at the end of the last meeting was great. He appreciated the Deputy Marshal's presentation at the last meeting, which was very informative.

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral— Quincy went and bought a bunch of sets of PFAS free turnout gear. The president of the union in Quincy asked the mayor to take one set of gear and have it tested for PFAS. The results came back that it was loaded with PFAS. Morning Pride is saying that it was that lot of fabric that had the PFAS in it.
- Capt. Piemonte – nothing to report

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller— nothing to report
- Dr. Michael Goldstein— our annual meeting is Saturday, October 18th in Upton. You are all welcome to attend but not expected.

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Capt. John Bonadio – MIFDI had their meeting last week, we had Northeast Rescue there with a Morning Pride rep. They spoke about the Quincy gear, and they think it was a lot of fabric that had the PFAS in it. PFAS is added when the fabric spins to make the big rolls to ship to the manufacturers. They are still not sure where it came from. The biggest problem was with the seam tape. It wasn't sticking because of the chemicals. They fixed it with the way they stitch the gear.

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Capt. John Lombardo – Fire Prevention week is coming up; it is a busy time of year for us.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Community Action

- Mary Clare Higgins— the state, spends a significant amount of money on the fuel assistance program. The money comes from the federal government to the state government and then out to the cities and towns. When we don't have that money people do things that aren't safe and that is a concern that we need to keep an eye on it. We don't know what the level of money it will be, and they laid off the people who monitor that.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control – Chief Fire Warden David Celino –

- A little over 1,000 fires year to date. The initial attack has been light. Today and tomorrow, we are looking at winds for an elevated fire risk. Our fire towers are up and running. We have pre-positioned aircraft in Lebanon NH, it is a 2500-gallon tanker ship.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Massachusetts Property Insurance Underwriting Assn.

- Gerard Medua – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- Not much is moving but we are starting to see some bills come out of committees and go to ways and means. Senate bill 1896, that is the restriction on wage and hours for retirees to be able to work at the academy, a hearing was scheduled for September 17th with public service. The American Sign Language bill, that would require the MFTC to put together a policy to implement those changes. That was still on the committee and had a hearing in July.

E. DFS Update – State Fire Marshal Jon Davine –

- We hope to have someone selected for the Intel Analysis, we are doing the background check now.
- We have 372 departments not onboarded on NERIS. If you have any issues, please reach out to Derryl Dion or myself.
- We had our Bridgewater burn building opening ceremony last week.
- Haz Mat and JHIRT members just finished up the Big E.
- We are onto FIFA world cup planning.
- We are going to require all of our full-time staff to attend the CRASE training. We have 2 dates scheduled, one in October and one in November. It will be mandatory.
- Firefighter of the Year will be on November 25th at Mechanics Hall in Worcester.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier – update on the Bridgewater campus, package a is pretty much completed. Simultaneously we have been working on package b which is the firehouse and the crib, we are close to finishing up the design and hope to certify the study over the winter months and get a construction manager on board. Hopefully we will be breaking ground by late 2026 early 2027.

F. MFA Updates – MFA Director Jonpaul Seivane

- The next Stow class on December 1st is full, the Bridgewater class starting in mid-December is full, the class starting in Springfield in late December is expected to be full.
- We have a Call/Vol class starting in late October in Essex County in Hamilton, and a Stow class. Bridgewater starts in January.
- We still have full-time vacancies, 2 office support specialists, and 1 administrative secretary to the Director.
- The Special Hazards programs just brought on 15 new instructors, the fire officer professional development programs interviews are happening now.
- Our CFO class just started.
- There is a lot of strain happening right now with our LMS system, there are various issues going on. The Fire Marshal sent something out to the chiefs to notify them of the issues we are having. We are actively working on getting a new LMS system, Director of Operations Dave Clemons is spearheading this.
- I went to the NAFTD conference in Canada, it was excellent.

G. Old Business –

- **Follow-up on Cambridge FD Cadet Program (HRD) – General Counsel Glenn Rooney** – once the recommendation was made from the training council the packet was then forwarded to HRD for their approval. Two of the points made by HRD where the guidance was outdated by HRD and the physical fitness portion and HRD says that should only be applied when hiring a full-time firefighter and not a cadet. As of yesterday, Cambridge submitted the updated forms to HRD.
- **Discussion of Legislative Subcommittee of MFTC – Chief Christopher Madden** – there is an overlap on the legislation on how were governed and how the Marshal is governed. So, we want to clean that up. We want to create a subcommittee to work on that. We are going to put Chief Fire Warden Dave Celino, Firefighter William Cabral, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller and Chief Andrew Puntini, they have reached out with interest in this.

H. New Business –

- **MFA Curriculum Timeline Presentation – Dr. Sara Praguski Walsh, Instructional Specialist –** she presented a timeline on how programs are developed and how her staff goes through the process.

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption – Review Revisions to the No Show Policy – when the student gets notified for the second time, the chief will also be notified.

Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller made a motion to approve the sub-committee recommendations and was seconded by Chief Justin Alexander. Vote unanimously passed.

J. Review of Correspondence –

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 11 am at the DFS Springfield Campus.

L. Public Comment -- none

M. Adjourn Meeting

Chief Andrew Puntini motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Firefighter William Cabral. Voted unanimously adjourn at 1:35pm.