



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 WALTER O. NELSON
CHAIRMAN

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

Chairman Chief Tim Nelson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and began the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:05 am on October 4, 2023, at the DFS Stow campus.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Chief Frank Barresi, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Fire Warden David Celino, Captain Drew Piemonte, Lieutenant John Lombardo, MFA Chief Justin Alexander, Captain John Bonadio, Jason Cardoso, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Jon Davine, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney, Recruit Program Coordinator Dennis Ball, Andrew Regan from DCR.

Not present: Firefighter William Cabral, Attorney Courtney Mayo, Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey, Chief Christopher Madden, Director Jeffrey Winn.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Captain Drew Piemonte made a motion, seconded by Lieutenant John Lombardo to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2023 Training Council Meeting. The vote passed in favor of the motion, Chief Justin Alexander abstained.

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

- Director Jeff Winn is off so Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier will be doing the Fiscal Affairs report on behalf of the MFA.
- We are in the negative of \$167k. At the beginning of the fiscal year, we have to predict based on previous years contracts that we had, so our prediction is that we will bring in \$547,000 in revenue. At the end of the fiscal year, we will end in the positive. If we have to make an adjustment at mid-year based on the flow of contracts we will do that.

C. EOPSS Update – Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey

- Not present

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

- Chief Nelson--representing part paid/part call – nothing to report
- Chief Madden—not present

- Chief Barresi--representing call – Call Vol packet came out on Monday. He started to get several phone calls and emails about scheduling changes that were done. He spoke with Chief Chris Norris about that. Hazardous Materials has been moved up to the beginning of the program. A good part of the virtual classes went away, that was a recruitment tool for Chiefs. Scheduling changes should be going through the MFTC.
- Chief Justin Alexander – not present

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral— not present

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller— nothing to report
- Assistant Chief Ruchala— nothing to report

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Capt. John Bonadio – sworn in representing MIFDI on Friday of last week. It has been a long process. Application sent in in January after Chief Connerty vacated the seat. First meeting at the table. There was a MIFDI meeting last week, Brockton Fire Department Deputy Chief Joe Marchetti retired. He is working with Detect Together on Cancer Screening Program.

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Lt. John Lombardo – like last month, they are gearing up for fire prevention week next week.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso— about 2 years ago that the president of his company was retiring but he didn't retire, he will retire this January. He was a big proponent of the fire services, he has been with the company for 50 years, Jack Holembeski. A large chunk of the budget comes from insurance, a bit of your insurance payments goes to the operating budget for DFS. They don't foresee anything changing. They should know who will be replacing the president at the end of the month.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control – Chief Dave Celino –

- He has 2 staff notices; Andy Regan is the new Deputy Chief Fire Warden. First time in 32 years, one has been appointed. There is a new Commissioner Brian Rego, has been at the helm of DCR since late June or July. 968 fires in the books for 2023, where about 1400 acres burned. Gave out \$90,000 to 41 towns for volunteer fire assistance grants. Would like to run a 305, Command a General Staff training here at the Fire Academy.

Citizen of the Commonwealth

- Attorney Courtney Mayo – not present

E. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- Not much new to report. There is a lot of stuff still in committee. The good thing is that the committees are hearing the bills. September was a fairly active month for public safety, but nothing has been reported out. There were fire related bills to be heard yesterday and today, those will be tracked. A lot of the hearings are taking place virtually, they are getting attendance and participation.

DFS Update – Fire Marshal Jon Davine

- Gearing up next week for fire prevention week, lithium-ion battery symposium starts next week, 148 signed up.
- Fire Safety Flyer regarding the immigrants and refugees. It was sent out in 11 different languages but they requested it in a 2 more languages.
- Deputy Secretary Terrey wants a flyer to go out for smoke detectors, in the top 5 languages, Haitian Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Spanish and Portuguese.
- Starting interviews for academy director

- **MFA report – Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier**
- As of this Monday, 2 full classes of 36 here in Stow, we started that transition in August. This is the first time they are all on campus.
- Currently filling 317 with a couple of vacancies, class 319 that starts January 22nd, Springfield starts January 29th, Bridgewater starts February 5th.
- The 2 Deputies of Admin and Training are scheduled to start later this month, on one October 8th and the other will start on October 16th.
- Dennis Ball will be taking the Deputy Director of training, he will be doing double duty for a while until we can backfill his position.
- Our registration Program Coordinator III will be starting on October 16th to back fill Lori Williams position. They will be overseeing registration staff and budgeting for MFA.
- Paul Betti position will be reposting that, hopefully we can get some candidates for that.
- MFA just concluded round 2 interviews for 2 vacant registration staff. Hoping they will start by the end of October.
- Process of hiring 45 instructor spots, breaking up into 4 orientations.
- Chief in Haverhill has safer grant for 16 firefighters. We are working on get him those spots.

- **Old Business -**

- **New Business –**
- Chief Warden David Celino - Pre COVID the Call/Volunteer Program did a 4-hour wildland firefighter course. There haven't been any requests for that since.

- **Policy Presentation/Adoption –**

- **Review of Correspondence**

- K. Determination of Next Date and Location**
- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 11:00 am at our Stow campus.

- **Public Comment**

- M. Adjourn Meeting**
- Chief Frank Barresi Motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Chief David Celino at 11:40 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.