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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the October 7, 2020 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 October 7, 2020.

Roll call attendance: Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, MFA Director Dave Evans, Undersecretary Jeanne Benicasa Thorpe, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Vice Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Retired Chief Sheri Bemis, Chief Richard DeLorie, Jason Cardoso, Chief Frank Barresi, Chief Richard Donovan, Firefighter William Cabral, and Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala.

Also present were Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Operations Director David Clemons, DFS Counsel Steven Rourke, DFS Deputy Counsel Glenn Rooney, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik and Call/Vol Program Coordinator Chris Norris.

Not present: Chief David Celino

New member: Fire Marshal Michael Swain, Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts (FPAM)

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chief Rick DeLorie made a motion, seconded by Chief Donovan, to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2020 Training Council Meeting. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

Director Evans presented the MFA Trust Fund report for the period of 08-23-20 through 09-26-2020. The trust fund continues to be fluid and will change every month.

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

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –nothing to report
- Chief Delorie - representing metro – nothing to report
- Chief Barresi - representing call – nothing to report
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time – nothing to report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Lt. Medeiros – Folks in Somerville were concerned that Academy will be able to sustain training through the new year.
- Firefighter Cabral – nothing to report

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller – typically around the 17th we have our annual meeting but don't know what will happen this year.
- Assistant Chief Ruchala – nothing to report

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Assistant Chief Connerty – nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Michael Swain - FPAM will start with a zoom meeting next Tuesday.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso – We sponsor the Arson Watch Program and had a hit in Somerville where we caught the arsonists. We sponsor a calendar contest and arson watch award up to \$5,000.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Not present

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update –Counsel Steve Rourke

- Proud to announce the land transfer from the DOC to DFS for the Bridgewater Academy was signed into law by the Governor on September 16, 2020. We are on track to build out the Academy in Bridgewater.
- Everything else is stuck in committee.

E. DFS Update –Fire Marshal Ostroskey

- Fire Prevention week – we continue to talk about home safety issues and its importance of emphasizing that cooking fires is the leading cause of fire in Massachusetts.
- We are sad to announce that Barbara Steele, long term executive assistant to the Marshal, passed away last week and the first director of the fire academy, Joe Donovan, also passed away last week. Joe became the director of the National Fire Academy.
- The bond bill passed with funding for the Bridgewater site.
- The department has capital investments that include apparatus for Stow.
- DCAMM is working with us on the construction of a search & rescue prop in Bridgewater that was an AFG project.
- We continue to see an uptick in the number of COVID cases in the Commonwealth and its important as ever the need for vigilance. Our staff continues to operate remotely with efforts to get training out to fire departments as best we can.
- The Fire Safety Division has commenced webex calls to work with departments as we navigate in the communities during COVID; we need to insure fire codes are being complied with.

- An update on our ongoing PFAS issue – excavation is completed, material has been removed from the site and disposed of. We have some water treatment for the training system.
- Assistant Chief Connerty thanked the DFS fire investigative unit and code enforcement; both units have been very helpful and useful to the Burlington Fire Department.

F. Academy Activities Report –Director Evans

- October is also an important month for Breast Cancer Awareness – we do pink Thursdays at the MFA.
- We will be graduating classes 285, BW04, S17 this Friday in a combined graduation in Bridgewater. We did a combined 9/11 and graduation ceremony with the last three groups and it worked very well. Classes 286, BW05, S18 are currently on day 28 and classes 287, BW06, S19 are in their 2nd week of virtual.
- BW07 and 288 are scheduled to begin 10/26. We had to merge S20 with S21 because there is not enough recruits to run a class.
- There are 148 recruits on career assignment: 36 in Bridgewater, 19 in Springfield, and 93 in Stow. Filling out to S21 beginning 11-23 with 6 seats open, BW08 on 11/23 with 1 seat open, and 292 beginning 2/22 with 2 seats open. By the end of December, we should have everyone through the Academy that was on hold when we closed down.
- The career recruit group is looking to make some modifications to the matrix.
- Call/Vol class 086 Stow is graduating on 11/5 and class 087 Fall River on 11/4. Class 088 in Springfield is graduating on 12/16. Essex county class 090 has orientation on 10/14. Sent out the advertisement for the spring class.
- Certification will be running the following exams: Bridgewater hosted FFI/II, Stow will host Fire Officer practical and Incident Safety Officer and Springfield will host open FFI/II, Fire Instructor, HazMat OLR and Water Rescue.
- MFA staff is working with Maribel Fournier to complete some of the training that began before the shutdown with departments using grant funding or recruit assistance. We send our EMS coordinator to inspect a site prior to starting the training.
- We also are working to get other courses up and running virtually: Fire Officer I, Cancer Awareness and Fire Instructor I.
- Weymouth requested a contract gas class training as a result of a gas storage unit being built in their community.
- Certification is updating skill sheets to the new NFPA 1001 standard for 7th edition of IFSTA Firefighter I/II.
- We have filled the position of Educational Specialist with Sara Praguski Walsh and are looking forward to getting her right into the work.
- We received notification from Dave Parr that SAFER grants were awarded to fire departments for hiring however the Academy has not received any new requests for SAFER holds.
- Chief DeLorie asked about dates for upcoming academies: Bridgewater, December is available and Springfield is available in November and February for Stow.
- The assignment list is going down and it appears departments are waiting for the civil service list. The Marshal noted that we probably won't see the certified list until the end of January which will be a significant impact to us.
- Assistant Chief Connerty asked if one of his firefighters that was signed up for a Fire Officer class would be notified of a new class. He should be on the notification list when the training becomes available. Where are recruits when they're doing their virtual training? The recruit may be in their home, at the station or another location that is

worked out with each department. For certification, are folks going past their one-year time limit to complete their projects? We have not seen any at this time.

G. Old Business

H. New Business

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

I. Review of Correspondence

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 11:00 am via webex call unless otherwise noted.

L. Public Comment

- One of Chief Delorie's firefighters just came back from battling cancer for the past year. Thank you to the PFFM and the Academy for bringing the Cancer Awareness program to us.

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Firefighter Bill Cabral, to adjourn the meeting at 12:10. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.