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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the November 3, 2021 Meeting
Stow Campus**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council with the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:07 am on November 3, 2021.

Attendance: Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Richard DeLorie, Chief Richard Donovan, Fire Marshal Michael Swain, Chief Dave Celino, Jason Cardoso, Firefighter Billy Cabral, Chief Tim Nelson, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, and Chief Frank Barresi.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, DFS Deputy Counsel Glenn Rooney, Special Hazards Coordinator Paul Betti, Curriculum Specialist Sara Walsh, Recruit Coordinator Dennis Ball, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala and Retired Chief Sheri Bemis.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Firefighter Billy Cabral made a motion, seconded by Chief Richard Donovan, to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2021 Training Council Meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

Deputy Marshal Maribel Fournier noted the trust fund is a rotating account for funding contracts. We're not seeing as many contracts but we're getting quite a few inquiries. The account is in the positive with no issues.

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

- Firefighter Cabral – attended PFFM conference and it was a success. Looking forward to legislative session coming up.
- Lieutenant Medeiros – there are concerns about the assignment list and getting recruits through the Academy.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller – The MCVFA had their annual meeting last month.
- Assistant Chief Ruchala –not present

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Assistant Chief Connerty – nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Fire Marshal Michael Swain – Nothing new with FPAM.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso – It continues to be slow as lots of folks are still working from home and are making home improvements. Other than the storm, it's been slow.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief Dave Celino- interesting year to date fire season; we're up around 800 wildland fires and acreage is up around 1,600 acres. A lot of changes going on nationally but we're going live with reporting module called INFORM. It's automated and will give us accuracy and a standardized reporting system. We have a new Acting Commissioner, Stephanie Cooper. She's been with the agency before and knows the fire and forestry operation.

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – not present

D. Legislative Update –Deputy Counsel Glenn Rooney

- Not much is coming out of committee. The number of bills have been going down each year since 2019, especially in the last couple of years.

E. DFS Update - Marshal

- On a sad note, former employee in the FIU division, Lt. Kevin McMahon passed away over weekend of brain cancer. Lt. McMahon was invested on the fire side.
- Steve Rourke has retired but will work part-time while we fill his position. Glenn has stepped in very nicely.
- MEMA Director Sam Phillips has stepped down and Interim Director, Dawn Brantley, started last Friday.
- Firefighter of the Year Awards will be held the Tuesday before Thanksgiving in person. The Governor and Lt. Governor will be the hosts.
- The department is working through the COVID vaccination executive order. Some contractors did not meet the requirement. We will miss these contractors but it will not impact our service.
- The MFA Director's position will be advertised again in the near future.
- There is continued progress on the Bridgewater master plan.
- A question was asked if students attending in person classes are required to be vaccinated – not required.

F. Academy Activities Report –Deputy Marshal Fournier

- The CT scan program has been awarded and we anticipate the program will be up and running soon. A PSA blood test will also be offered. UMass Harrington and UMass Memorial (waiting for contract) are the vendors.
- Ground has been broken in Bridgewater for the Search & Rescue prop.
- DFS has been awarded AFG funds for a new SCBA maze trailer and Driver Sim.

- A question regarding classroom capacities was raised. We are back to pre-COVID classroom capacities.
- Instructor staffing has been challenging in many of our programs. As a result of COVID vaccine mandate, we lost about 20 out of about 450 instructors.

G. Old Business

H. New Business

- Jonathan Miller asked if there is a way to have a shared location to store documents to review. MFA will look into it.
- Bridgewater Master Plan Presentation - Marshal Ostroskey presented the overall master plan for Bridgewater eventually becoming a full-service facility. There was input from all divisions and DCAMM that took a look at all aspects including minimizing impact on neighbors. We received donations of apparatus that will help until we receive the purchased apparatus. The Search & Rescue prop is scheduled to be completed in March, 2022. The diagram depicted great potential for expansion.

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

- Proposed Revisions to Career Recruit Rules & Regulations and Revisions to the Fit Testing Policy for the Career Recruit Firefighter Training Program— Chairman Medeiros reported that the Policy Sub-Committee met on October 20 to discuss revisions/updates to the Career Recruit R&Rs and Fit Test Policy. Some housekeeping changes were made along with removing specific mandatory dates and exam dates and made them more general for the Rules & Regulations. The Fit Test policy was updated to state that the Academy will provide a fit test for the incoming recruit. Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller made a motion, seconded by Chief Frank Barresi, to accept the recommendation of the Policy Sub-Committee to make these revisions/updates for both policies. The vote was unanimous 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 in-person on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 11:00 am on the Stow campus.

L. Public Comment

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Chief Richard Donovan made a motion, seconded by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe, to adjourn the meeting at 12:35. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.