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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the November 6, 2019 Meeting

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:05 am on November 6, 2019 at the Department of Fire Services with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance were: Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Chief Richard Donovan, Jason Cardoso, Chief Frank Barresi, Captain Andrew Connerty, Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Chief Tim Nelson, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, MFA Director Dave Evans, and Firefighter Billy Cabral.

Also present were DFS Deputy Counsel Glenn Rooney, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Director of Operations Dave Clemons, District Chief Mike Swain and MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik.

Not present: Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Chief Barresi, to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2019 Training Council Meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

Director Evans presented the MFA Trust Fund report for the period of 9/22/2019 through 10/31/2019. You will see that the balance fluctuates throughout the year.

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

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –nothing to report
- Position open - representing metro
- Chief Barresi - representing call – asked why the Fall River Call/Vol class filled up so quickly. Director Evans noted that we're seeing folks from Plymouth county that normally have their own training class.
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time - nothing to report

D. Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Lt. Medeiros – nothing to report
- Firefighter Cabral – tracking a bunch of bills at the state house.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller – Elections of officers were held at conference

- Assistant Chief Ruchala – Annual conference in South Hadley was on Oct. 19 and was a success.

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Captain Connerty – nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Position open

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso – nothing to report

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief David Celino – not present

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – not present

D. Legislative Update – Deputy Counsel Rooney

- The bills Counsel Rourke updated you on are still stuck in committee.
- The Bridgewater land transfer from DOC to DFS is picking up momentum.

E. DFS Update –Deputy Marshal Fournier

- We mentioned last month that we are offering two grants that closed on November 4th: 1) PPE gear - \$500,000 - 151 applicants received; 2) Extractor - \$420,000 - 75 applicants received. It looks like we will exhaust those funds. We'll be awarding these contracts some time this month.
- Besides the land transfer of Bridgewater, we have done painting and removing of fencing. We will be pouring concrete pads for the roof prop and pipe prop to be used by recruit and tech rescue.
- We had our second Homemade Explosive training on Monday. We will be hosting training for firefighters from Martha's Vineyard over the winter months in addition to recruit.
- Rich Fredette, a 10-year employee, has passed away from a long battle with cancer. He was our Code and Compliance Manager.
- PFAS update – we've been working with DEP regarding an inquiry from the Town of Hudson. Testing has concluded and we received a notice of responsibility from DEP. There are traces of PFAS on the site. We hired an LSP to work with DEP on a verbal response by 11/7 and to submit a written report by 12/23. DFS' drinking and kitchen water come from Sudbury so employees are not affected. The governor's office has assigned us a PFAS task force person and we've had conversations regarding funding for clean-up. Going forward, we will wait for the LSP to make recommendations. At this time, Springfield and Bridgewater sites are not affected.

F. Academy Activities Report –Director Evans

- The Career Recruit waitlist is now named Career Recruit assignment list.
- There are 165 recruits on the Stow assignment list; we're filling June, 2020; 54 in Springfield, filling July, 2020; 35 in Bridgewater, filling June, 2020
- We just finished two Call/Vol classes. Classes in Essex county and Leicester are running now. The February Fall River class is full.
- Turners Falls has donated a ladder truck for use in Bridgewater. Roof prop foundation has been poured. Some of us spent the day walking through the buildings figuring out where to put props. The academic building looks great.
- We received an AFG for a search & rescue building for Bridgewater.
- The search & rescue prop dedication in Springfield took place yesterday and was attended by members of the legislature.

- Mass Maritime Academy is working with MFA and the executive office to bring back the Maritime Program. In the month of December, we're working to get the senior class trained in live burn.
- We just completed the second round of hiring of new instructors for the Bridgewater campus. There's one more round of 36 new instructors scheduled for posting and will bring the total to 75 instructors.
- We're working with HR and the executive office to replace the certification staff. Joe Klucznik will be the certification manager until Maggie's position is filled.
- Lt. Medeiros received a phone call from a chief regarding the SAFER grant holds taking over the class assignment list. He assured him that is not the case.

G. Old Business

- A letter drafted by DFS Legal to Mr. Seligman was sent expressing the training council's position relative to his request.

H. New Business

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

The Policy Sub-committee met to review six (6) policies and recommended approval of all changes.

- 1) Massachusetts Fire Service Personnel - Add 'Massachusetts' before 'fire service personnel' for clarification. Assistant Chief Miller made a motion, seconded by Director Evans, to approve the addition. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- 2) Fees for Out of State Firefighters – Add the words 'and federal' after 'out of state' to distinguish between in-state and state/municipal-employed personnel. Chief Donovan made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Miller, to approve the addition. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- 3) Training Out of State Firefighters – added 'and federal' after 'out of state' to distinguish between in-state and state/municipal-employed personnel. Chief Donovan made a motion, seconded by Chief Barresi, to approve the addition. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- 4) Career Recruit Reserved Seat Application Policy– updates were made to #3, 4 and 5. A change was made to campus size and an addition of MFA Director authorization of department SAFER grant hold requests. The Director noted that it will help departments to have information up front and he will bring the information to the monthly training council meeting. Chief Barresi made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Miller, to approve the revisions/changes. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- 5) Maximum Career Recruit Training Class Size – class size will depend on individual campus accommodations including staffing and equipment availability. Assistant Chief Miller made a motion, seconded by Director Evans, to approve the changes. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- 6) Attendance/Cancellation/No Show- updated for more clarification. Captain Connerty made a motion, seconded by Chief Nelson, to approve the modifications. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

J. Review of Correspondence

The Chairman received a letter of resignation from Captain Rick Tustin as he became Chief of the Winchester Fire Department. Rick has been on the training council for approximately seven years. Thank you for service.

We received six requests for SAFER grant seat holds for upcoming Career Recruit classes:

- 1) Ashland Fire requests four (4) seats in an upcoming Stow class –placed in class 284
- 2) Randolph Fire requests four (4) seats in an upcoming Stow class – placed in class 284

- 3) Wrentham Fire requests six (6) seats in an upcoming Stow class – two (2) placed in 284, four (4) placed in 285.
 - 4) Quincy Fire requests (12) seats in an upcoming Stow or Bridgewater class – nine (9) placed in class 285, three (3) placed in BW03.
- The Director's office will notify each department.

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, December 4 at 11:00 am at the Stow campus.

L. Public Comment

- Firefighter of the Year is being held on November 26 at 10 am at Mechanics Hall, 321 Main Street Worcester.
- Notice has been sent out regarding Firefighter Assistance Grant classes.

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Ruchala, to adjourn the meeting at 11:45. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.