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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the October 2, 2019 Meeting**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:00 am on October 2, 2019 at the Department of Fire Services with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance were: Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Chief Richard Donovan, Vice Chairman Captain Rick Tustin, Jason Cardoso, Chief Frank Barresi, Captain Andrew Connerty, Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Chief Tim Nelson, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Dave Celino, MFA Director Dave Evans, Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis and Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe.

Also present were DFS Counsel Steve Rourke, DFS Deputy Counsel Glenn Rooney, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Call/Vol Program Coordinator Chris Norris, Special Hazards Program Coordinator Paul Betti, Director of Operations Dave Clemons and MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik.

Not present: Firefighter Billy Cabral

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller made a motion, seconded by Director Evans, to approve the minutes of the September 4, 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 8/26/2019 through 9/21/2019. You will see the trust fund ebbs and flows as the year goes on. Nothing outstanding to report.

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

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

D. Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Lt. Medeiros – Traveled to the International Brotherhood of Firefighters in Colorado Springs. Unfortunately, we added a name to the wall. On 9/11, I participated in an event in Boston. I attended a Surface Water Rescue class last week and was glad to participate in the class.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller – nothing to report
- Assistant Chief Ruchala – Annual meeting in South Hadley on Oct. 19

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Captain Connerty – Thanks to the Academy for hosting the last MIFDI meeting – presentations went well.

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Captain Tustin – The next meeting of the Fire Prevention Association will be October 8 in Auburn. Quarterly meeting updates on smoke alarm technology from UL and energy storage systems. Captain Tustin announced that he may be hired as Winchester chief or he may retire. This may be his last Training Council meeting. Mike Swain most likely will be his replacement. Chief Donovan can take his place for the 10-25 Career Recruit graduation.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso – Ron Meehan passed away this past July.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief David Celino – DCR fire season end this week because we haven't had much fire activity. Our fire program was busy; 75th anniversary of the smoke program and we've delivered over 160 programs across the state. We have a new acting commissioner, Jim Montgomery. We burned over 1,600 acres of prescribed fires. On the training front, we coordinated four national wildland fire 40-hour courses across the state. National Regional Wildland Cohesive Strategy Workshop will be taking place in Plymouth, MA October 22-24, 2019.

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update – Counsel Rourke

- A number of bills are coming out that the Marshal has provided written testimony:
 - Bill providing local option 1 & 2 family sprinklers, which we support. This bill gives cities and towns the option of mandating sprinklers in any new construction of single and 2 family homes.
 - Bill to change M.G.L. c. 148, Section 26I. SJC raised two issues - no convenient due process forum; looking to transfer back to the ASAB and the standard is substantial renovation that it would not be practical to enforce.
 - DFS supported a study of light frame construction.
 - Refiled bill regarding bonds. Worked with the Treasurer's Office to replace blasting bond requirement with insurance coverage, and mandatory notification to the State Fire Marshal.
- We opposed three bills legalizing novelty sparklers.
- Maribel Fournier – we testified on the \$10 million to bond bill regarding Bridgewater and the fire equipment grant – both received favorably.

- Question regarding if there is any legislation on batteries for e-cigarettes? Counsel Rourke noted that nothing has been presented in the state. The Marshal noted that there are not a lot of incidents to make it an issue.

E. DFS Update –Marshal

- Another big issue in Lawrence regarding natural gas problems – our team is well engaged.
- We seated the Tech Rescue Council; they are charged with overseeing the statewide response of tech rescue services. Chief Nord from Duxbury is the Chairperson.
- Bridgewater – the bond bill and land transfer legislation are progressing well and both are in the legislative process. We've had more than one hearing with support from EOPSS and governor's office. Career recruit training will begin in January. We have received \$500 thousand for a search and rescue building similar to Springfield from AFG. MFA and Facilities staff have been busy with recruitment and hiring for Bridgewater. Two career recruit classes will be held this fiscal year.
- Annual FY21 budget process is underway for the Department and Fire Academy.
- Fire and boiler codes are underway for amendments; there has been favorable reaction throughout the process. We received notification that both amendments were approved.
- Department has been working with MEMA on updating the state mobilization plan.
- Dealing with PFAS of groundwater from firefighting foam and other materials leading to groundwater remediation. The Town of Hudson had wells that were impacted and Stow had public water supplies affected. This site will be evaluated by the DEP and we are working to understand and address any issues.
- Fire Prevention Month – next week we will be engaged in public safety opportunities to further the message of fire prevention.

F. Academy Activities Report –Director Evans

- Career Recruit class 277 will graduate on 10/25; class 278 began last week; Springfield class S13 also began last week.
- Waitlist is 166 for Stow; 45 in Springfield; 27 in Bridgewater.
- We're running an RFO on 10/8 in Springfield and 10/17 in Stow.
- Call/Vol graduation for class 078 is 10/28; class 079 on 10/30
- Next Call/Vol class 080 in Leicester, 081 in Essex county, 082 in Bridgewater.
- We received notification that the Pro-board has awarded the Massachusetts Fire Training Council reaccreditation for all certifications. We are working on challenge exams for all certification.
- MFA staff services just completed the second round of instructor hiring with 26 new instructors bringing the total to 40 new instructors. Orientation will be on 10/30.
- NFA – Shaping the Future course is Tues & Wed.
- SFOF – Saving Those That Save Others seminar is being presented twice for our instructors and staff and students.
- FPO I, FPO II, Fire Instructor I, Incident Safety Officer all scheduled for the fall and spring.
- Maggie Crisham will retire on October 9 and Bob Rand is retiring November 30– two big positions to fill.
- The Marshal noted the Pro-board review panel was very impressed with submittal.
- Next round of instructors will be posted on MassCareers after orientation.

G. Old Business

- Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller suggested the Council write a letter to Mr. Seligman acknowledging his efforts and informing him of the Council's review of his request. Counsel Rourke will draft a letter from the Chairman to Mr. Seligman.

H. New Business

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

1) Training Non-Municipal Firefighters – The policy sub-committee met this morning and other questions were raised regarding naming and changing other policies. We will address a resolution next month.

J. Review of Correspondence

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

- Auburn – two seats for Springfield or Stow – Captain Connerty made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Ruchala, to approve Auburn's request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Holyoke – six seats for Springfield – – Chief Nelson made a motion, seconded by Captain Tustin, to approve Holyoke's request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Sharon – four seats for Stow in May, 2020 – – Captain Connerty made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Ruchala, to approve Sharon's request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Springfield – eight seats for Springfield – – Captain Tustin made a motion, seconded by Chief Nelson, to approve Springfield's request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Weymouth – four seats for Stow – – Assistant Chief Ruchala made a motion, seconded by Sheri Bemis, to approve Weymouth's request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Hopkinton – four seats for Stow – – Captain Tustin made a motion, seconded by Chief Donovan, to approve Auburn's request. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Marshal asked if the Council would consider authorizing the MFA Director to hold seats for departments with SAFER grants. If departments received notice at a time when the Council would not be meeting, it may be a detriment to the department to wait because of the performance period of the SAFER grant. The Director could place them in the next available class and inform the Council each month.

Chief Donovan made a motion, seconded by Chief Nelson, to bring a request to authorize the MFA Director to hold seats for departments with SAFER grants to the Policy Sub-committee. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, November 6 at 11:00 am tentatively at the Springfield campus. The Policy Sub-Committee will meet at 10:00 am

L. Public Comment

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Director Evans made a motion, seconded by Chief Donovan, to adjourn the meeting at 12:20. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.