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CHIEF CHRISTOPHER MADDEN
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the January 15, 2025 Meeting**

Chairman Chief Christopher Madden opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and began the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 2 pm on January 15, 2025, via Microsoft Teams.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Christopher Madden, Chief Francis Barresi, Capt. John Bonadio, Capt. John Lombardo, Asst. Chief Jonathan Miller, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Deputy Fire Warden Andy Regan, Mary Clare Higgins, Chief Andrew Puntini, Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey and Acting MFA Director, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier

Also present: State Fire Marshal Jon Davine, DFS General Counsel Glenn Rooney, Deputy Director of Operations David Clemons, MFA Deputy Director of Training Dennis Ball and Administrative Secretary Christine Dansereau.

Not present: Firefighter William Cabral, Captain Drew Piemonte and Chief Justin Alexander.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mary Clare Higgins made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2024, Training Council Meeting, seconded by Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey. The vote passed all in favor of the motion by roll call.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report – Acting MFA Director, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier

- **Trust Fund Report:** The Trust Fund Report goes from November 16, 2024 through December. We are \$144,000 in the negative but we will end in the positive at the end of the fiscal year.

EOPSS Update – Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey – Keeping an eye on the new legislative session. The bills need to be filed by this Friday to get into the new session. Excited for the Governor’s State of the State address tomorrow night.

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

- Chief Madden – had correspondence with the General Counsel Glenn Rooney and the Assistant Solicitor for the City of Cambridge about the cadet program. Metro Fire is interested in finding out what is going on with the Civil Service list.
- Chief Barresi – nothing to report
- Chief Justin Alexander – not present
- Chief Andrew Puntini (part call/part paid)— nothing to report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral— not present
- Capt. Piemonte – 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 – was reappointed to the MFTC on January 7, 2025. My appointment is until August of 2027. MIFDI will have their monthly meeting next week at NFPA in Quincy. The topic will be EV fires.

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Lt. John Lombardo – we had our meeting yesterday, there is a lot going on with the Accessory Dwelling Unit clause in the building code that will take effect next month. Still a lot of questions regarding how it will be addressed in the building code. Coming from the BBR's, single means of egress in buildings up to six stories. It is a big concern right now, needing to create additional dwelling space that would normally be an egress space, which everyone in the fire service understands that it is probably not a good idea. FPAM is ramping up to prepare for the educational conference in May.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Community Action

- Mary Clare Higgins— nothing to report

Bureau of Forest Fire Control -- Deputy Fire Warden Andy Regan – We have had 22 fires for three acres burned in Massachusetts starting on January 1, 2025. Chief Fire Warden David Celino is having discussions with the Marshal about having red card trainings at all three campuses.

Citizen of the Commonwealth

- Vacant

D. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- A couple of bills that have been filed that directly speak to the Training Council. House docket 75, an act relative to American Sign Language, this was filed in the last session regarding some level of sign language being a component in Academy training.
- Rep. Megan Kilcoyne filed a bill relative to the Training Council that will change the language for the membership from full call fire department to at large fire department. There is difficulty in finding a representative from a full call department.

- Another bill that seeks to extend the maximum hours that instructors can work for the academy.

E. DFS Update – State Fire Marshal Jon Davine –

- We are waiting on the Governor’s budget, hopefully that will be out by the end of next week.
- We have an Active Shooter Incident Management class for the Chief Officers that is full.
- We have several instructors doing the ALERTT training around the Commonwealth. One of our instructors Rich Craven has been named an adjunct faculty for them.
- We are going to start the first-round interviews for the MFA Director next week.

DFS and MFA Updates – Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier

- Career Recruit class S41 will be delayed five weeks, with a start date of April 28, 2025, because of low student enrollment.
- Our Stow class just had an RFO this week and they will start on March 10, 2025.
- Our Stow class 331 that was scheduled to start on April 14, 2025, will now start on May 27, 2025. That will be a five-week delay because of low student enrollment.
- We will be reposting the full-time position for Program Coordinator for Career Recruit.
- We are in the final stages of replacing Chris Norris, the Program Coordinator for the Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program.
- We are in the process of posting the Assistant Program Coordinator position for the Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program, to fill the vacancy Mike Dupuis left.
- The ProBoard will be on site to do their accreditation visit on January 28th and 29th. I will update the council on how that visit went.
- Bridgewater Project update, the project is on schedule. The burn building has everything poured. They will finish up by next week. They are going to be removing the shoring on it. They are doing some additional concrete work in the beginning of February. They are going to be mobilizing for all the masonry work and the scaffolding. The perimeter of the building should be done by the end of January. They will continue with the electrical work for the duct banks that pertain to the permanent power for the search and rescue prop and for the pump lift stations.

- G. Old Business – Chief Christopher Madden –** would like to recognize the retirement of recruit instructor Rick Goodard. He has worked for DFS for 50 years, which is quite a feat.

H. New Business – Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier

- The Marshal has talked with Commissioner Calvi from the Springfield Fire Department, he has a total of 23 recruits that could be in class S41. Per training council policy, the max student enrollment per department is 1/4 of the seats and Springfield would be above that. We are requesting from the council that Springfield Fire Department be allowed to go over the seat allotment, so we don’t have to move or cancel this class.
- **Chief Christopher Madden made a motion to approve Springfield Fire Department 23 spots into class S41, seconded by Captain John Bonadio. The vote passed all in favor of the motion by roll call.**
- As mentioned previously, Training Council Policy states that fire departments are allowed 1/4 of the seats in a recruit class. Since the student numbers are so volatile, we are asking the Council to allow me as the Acting Director of the Fire Academy, to work with Departments if they have more than the allowed 1/4 of the seats until the end of this fiscal year.
- **Chief Christopher Madden made a motion to waive the 1/4 of the class attendance for a single department until the end of the fiscal year, seconded by Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey. The vote passed all in favor of the motion by roll call.**

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption –

J. Review of Correspondence – Letter from Chief Owen Thompson, Town of Middleborough

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at 11 am at the DFS Stow Campus.

L. Public Comment -- none

M. Adjourn Meeting

Chief Christopher Madden motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Capt. John Lombardo.
Voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn at 2:34 pm.