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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS  
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council  
Minutes of the December 1, 2021 Meeting  
Stow Campus**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council with the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:05 am on December 1, 2021.

Members in attendance: Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Richard Donovan, Fire Marshal Michael Swain, Chief Dave Celino, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Chief Frank Barresi, and Retired Chief Sheri Bemis

Also present were DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney, Special Hazards Coordinator Paul Betti, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik (webex), Curriculum Specialist Sara Walsh (webex), Media Coordinator Christina Mitchell, Webex monitor Linda Crowley, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Jason Cardoso, Chief Richard DeLorie, Firefighter Billy Cabral, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, and Chief Tim Nelson.

**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Assistant Chief Connerty made a motion, seconded by Fire Marshal Swain, to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2021 Training Council Meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. Fiscal Affairs Report**

Deputy Marshal Maribel Fournier explained the trust fund is a revolving fund where we put our funding for certification and contract training. Open accounts receivable is about \$77 thousand which will end up overall in the positive. Funds go in the account from certification and contract training billing, then go out to pay for the training and other programs.

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

- Chief Nelson--representing part paid/part call – not present
- Chief Delorie--representing metro – not present
- Chief Barresi--representing call – Chiefs are happy with back-to-back Call/Vol classes. My department had 4 in the Fall River class and will have 3 in new class.
- Chief Donovan--representing full-time -Chief Donovan is retiring in December and this is last meeting. Chairman Medeiros thanked him for his input on the Council.

- Firefighter Cabral--not present
- Lieutenant Medeiros--We have been looking at the budget and hoping to get on-site funding as mental health issues are rising. Insurance doesn't cover housing that may be needed by our members. Took Planning Section Chief class and gained much knowledge about additional opportunities in Massachusetts.

### **Mass Call/Vol**

- Assistant Chief Miller--nothing to report
- 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--Our members have questions about reaccreditation and if there would be a New Code update class to take. Members have enough points but need the new code class as one of the requirements. Maribel will look into the question.

### **Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry**

- Jason Cardoso--not present

### **Bureau of Forest Fire Control**

- Chief Dave Celino--Next year, we're hoping to extend our seasonal employees into the fall. At the last meeting of the National Wildfire Training Coordinators group, a couple of interesting things came up. We passed the Recognition of Fire Learning document and will be published by the end of January. Full time firefighters can realize their years of experience qualifies them for a national qualification. We will probably come up with a regional level. There's been an effort to expand the National Fire Danger Rating System. The target audience would be Firefighter I's and II's and we think that local fire departments may be interested. This could possibly be incorporated into the Academy.

### **Citizens of the Commonwealth**

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis--nothing to present

### **D. Legislative Update –DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney**

- In a holding pattern until next session. Next session begins 1/7/2022.

### **E. DFS Update and Academy Activities Report - Deputy Marshal Fournier**

- Bridgewater update – we had a meeting regarding the search and rescue prop to go over the final details with the vendor. Ground has been broken and the goal is to have the prop in place by end of February to have it running by spring. That will bring a huge relief to the Stow campus.
- Master planning for BW – we are on a DCAMM call every week working on the infrastructure, burn building, and water reclamation system.
- FY23 budget was submitted and now we're going back and forth with ANF answering their questions.
- Cancer CT scan program has been awarded and we're working on the scheduling backlog. Two hospitals will be running the program.
- Glenn Rooney has accepted the position of DFS General Counsel. We will be posting his vacant position.
- MFA Director has been posted – we will be taking applications until after the first of the year. Right now there are about 12 applicants.

- MFA has posted for another 25 instructor openings for many of our programs. The goal is to fill these in the next month or so then post another 25 in February or so.
- COVID notifications –you received an email after last month’s meeting of a COVID positive on campus. The agency will notify whoever was on campus and try to give a little bit of information. It doesn’t mean you were in direct contact with the person.
- Recruit numbers are in the Academy Statistics report. We’re filling May class for Stow, March for Springfield, May for BW.
- There was a question regarding the cost recruits pay for certification. The typical cost is \$30 per exam. Recruits receive a discounted price of \$40 for both the FF I/II and HazMat OLR exams.

#### **F. Old Business**

- MFA will continue to work on a new Training Council shared folder with members of the Policy Sub-Committee and eventually the entire Council.

#### **G. New Business**

- Counsel Rooney cited Training Council legislation that an Annual Report be submitted to the Executive Office of Safety and Security. This would be a snapshot of Council business for the calendar year. He requested a motion be made to have agency staff compile the report for approval at the next Training Council meeting. Assistant Chief Connerty made a motion, seconded by Chief Donovan for DFS staff to compile this report to be presented at the next meeting for approval of the council. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Chairman Medeiros reminded the Council that election of Chairman and Vice Chairman take place in January.

#### **H. Policy Presentation/Adoption**

#### **I. Review of Correspondence**

#### **K. Determination of Next Date and Location**

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 11:00 am. The Chairman reminded members that attendance can be in person or online.

#### **L. Public Comment**

#### **M. Adjourn Meeting**

- Assistant Chief Miller made a motion, seconded by Chief Celino, to adjourn the meeting at 11:55. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.