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CHIEF CHRISTOPHER MADDEN
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the December 3, 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 11:01 am on December 3, 2025, on Microsoft Teams.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Christopher Madden, Capt. John Lombardo, Chief Andrew Puntini, Chief Justin Alexander, Captain John Bonadio, Chief Fire Warden David Celino, Gerard Medua, Capt. Drew Piemonte, Mary Clare Higgins, Firefighter William Cabral, Dr. Michael Goldstein, MFA Director Jonpaul Seivane and Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey

Also present: Fire Marshal Jon Davine, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, DFS General Counsel Glenn Rooney, Operations Sections Chief Dave Clemons, Instructional Specialist Sara Pragluski Walsh, Registration Coordinator Helgi Olgeirsson, Recruit Programs Coordinator Dean Babineau, MFA Deputy Director Joanne Gardiner, Easthampton Fire Chief Christopher Norris and Administrative Secretary Christine Dansereau.

Not present: Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chief Justin Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes of November 5, 2025, 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 – Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier

- The trust fund report goes through the middle of November. We had some payments come in to lower the ending balance, which brings us to \$157,303k in the red. We have multiple deliveries scheduled for the remainder of FY26, which should bring us to the black by June 2026.

EOPSS Update – Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey – nothing to report

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

- Chief Madden – one of the things we have been having issues with is when people apply for the career recruit program and it was taking an excessively long time for a response. I noticed in the packet for today's meeting that there will be a presentation on the new way to apply for the career recruit program. We went from an average of 130 – 150 applications to 370 or 350 received in October. So we appreciate the efforts to get a new system in place.
- Vacant
- Chief Justin Alexander – nothing to report
- Chief Andrew Puntini (part call/part paid) – I watched the Kurt Veron vlog this past week about a line of duty death in Illinois. There was a lawsuit for \$1M. There is a lot that went wrong there, but one of the things that came out of it was the chiefs were asked how often that they've trained themselves on their department RIT policy. I look at a small department like mine in Southborough, and I think probably a lot of us are in the same boat. I know we have a great statewide RIT program, but has there been any talk about a recommended policy that can go out to departments. We should all be on the same page about training, procedures etc.

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral— nothing to report
- Capt. Piemonte – nothing to report

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller— not present
- Dr. Michael Goldstein— nothing to report

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Capt. John Bonadio – nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Capt. John Lombardo – we will have a change in leadership in the coming months.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Community Action

- Mary Clare Higgins— the money for fuel assistance is now back in the states, so if people need fuel help you can now apply and get it, and if your department members are in homes that are cold, they can tell them to reach out to the fuel assistance people and get some heat in their house in a safe environment.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control – Chief Fire Warden David Celino –

- I just wanted to express our thanks again to the Marshall and his staff and the selection Committee on the firefighter of the year, the state fire Marshall's award that was awarded to our program for the 2024 fire event. So, we're probably not even going to hit 1000 acres this year, however, if we're only relating it to 2024, big difference, but we're still at about average and maybe a little bit above average for a 5-to-8-year average. We are looking at over 2000 firefighters training and that is local, state and federal firefighters.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Massachusetts Property Insurance Underwriting Assn.

- Gerard Medua – nothing to report

D. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- Nothing new to report. I have continued to reach out to HRD on the Cambridge Cadet program and in fact, I reached out prior to this meeting. I assume it has been approved but I am trying to close that loop.

E. DFS Update – State Fire Marshal Jon Davine –

- We have 86 departments that have made the transition to NERIS and are reporting 33,627 incidents.
- Our new intel analyst, the Deputy Marshal and myself met at the Fusion Center a couple of weeks ago. They are going to be focused on fire, EMS, and HazMat.
- We are heavily involved in the FIFA World Cup planning.
- Several months ago, we had an injury to an instructor at the Bridgewater campus that fell through the Hatch. We talked about it briefly at one of the meetings. DOL came out and did an inspection. There were some items that we had to meet and all those items we just got to sign off on DOL. As far as that goes, we met all the recommendations that they had made. To prevent anything like that from happening again.
- The Bridgewater A package is pretty much done. We are going to package B now; we are at the point in the project where we are designing the rooms. We have included some MFA and Cribroom staff from all 3 campuses. We are going into details like where electrical outlets should go and do we need a closet here for the floor cleaning machine etc.

F. DFS and MFA Updates – Director Jonpaul Seivane

- The Springfield 45 class that was starting in March just recently filled. So we're now taking spots for openings for the Springfield 46, which starts in the middle of June. There's a handful of enrolled candidates currently there
- Next Bridgewater, Class 40 starting May 18th is just about full. Future applications for Bridgewater. Those are your areas that are likely to go into Bridgewater 41, which would start in August.
- Regarding Stow classes, the May start date class just filled, so openings are now being put into Class 341, which would be June 8th. So, there is a pretty low number in that June 8th start date.
- We are still short one deputy of training, two office support specialists and the Director's administrative assistant are also vacant. There is still a hiring freeze. I give major kudos to the MFA Group that's over here doing a lot of work with very minimal staffing.

- G. Old Business – Chief Christopher Madden -** we had the certification PC3 or certification director out to kind of show us exactly what goes into certification, but I would love to see another PC3 come out and give a presentation every other quarter or you know once a quarter or something like that.

- H. New Business –** Presentation by Registration Coordinator Helgi Olgeirsson and Recruit Programs Coordinator Dean Babineau about the new application process for the Career Recruit Program.

- I. Policy Presentation/Adoption –** nothing to report

- J. Review of Correspondence –** nothing to report

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 11 am in the Boards and Commissions room.

L. Public Comment -- none

M. Adjourn Meeting

Chief Justin Alexander motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Firefighter William Cabral. Voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn at 12:26 pm.