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CHIEF WALTER O. NELSON
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the December 6, 2023 Meeting**

Chairman Chief Tim Nelson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and began the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:02 am on December 6, 2023, at the DFS Stow campus.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Chief Frank Barresi, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Captain Drew Piemonte, Lieutenant John Lombardo, Chief Justin Alexander, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Director Jeffrey Winn, Chief Christopher Madden, Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey, Firefighter William Cabral.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Jon Davine, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney, MFA Deputy Director Dennis Ball, Educational Specialist Sara Pragluski Walsh, DFS Public Information Officer Jake Wark, and DFS Operations Sections Chief Dave Clemons.

Not present: Attorney Courtney Mayo, Jason Cardoso, Chief Fire Warden David Celino, Captain John Bonadio

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chief Justin Alexander made a motion, seconded by Chief Christopher Madden to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2023 Training Council Meeting. The vote passed in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report – Director Jeffrey Winn

- We are \$117k in the negative, we are still trending in the right direction. We are on track to be in the green come the end of the fiscal year.

C. EOPSS Update – Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey

- Nothing to report

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

- Chief Nelson--representing part paid/part call – nothing to report
- Chief Madden—metro fire got the training officers together, the met for the first-time last week. You might see an influx of program requests. They talked about sharing resources. Programs will be spread around metro.

- Chief Barresi--representing call – nothing to report
- Chief Justin Alexander – nothing to report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral— 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 – not present

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Lt. John Lombardo – the code books were delayed in getting out. Should be getting printed copies for the next meet to distribute them out.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso— not present

Bureau of Forest Fire Control –

- Chief Fire Warden Dave Celino – Not present

Citizen of the Commonwealth

- Attorney Courtney Mayo – not present

E. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- Not much new to report legislatively. Legislative leaflet and copies of the fire code, we received 375 copies from NFPA yesterday. We are requesting an additional 30 more. During the next FPAM and FCAM we will try to distribute them. At this point we have 1 per community as a complimentary copy, but we will work with NFPA to see if we can get those out sooner rather than later. Marianne Smith, the fire code administrator is working out a plan and the logistics of it all so if you have questions send them to me and I will send them to her.

DFS Update – Fire Marshal Jon Davine

- The Deputy and I met with the Undersecretary on Friday and got some news from her that we will be able to move forward with a Juvenile Youth Firesetter intervention program task force. We got a small working group. We are going to jump on that quick. Several chiefs reached out, they are getting these kids setting fires and they have nowhere to send them.
- Got a small working group together to look at some of the mental health issues throughout the fire service. Trying to get together some mental health providers and vet them through a small committee and make those a resource. Trying to make it a county wide system.
- **Deputy Marshal Maribel Fournier** – we have submitted our FY25 budget, we are going through the process now with the oversight agency. We have submitted our expansion budget.
- Director Winn has officially moved over to the Haz Mat division
- Our candidate for the MFA director is going through the background checks, so we can't discuss that

- A couple of Chiefs reached out about a 1-day Company Officer program, we do the Chief Fire Officer program here, but we really don't do anything at the Company Officer level. We got a few chiefs together and we are trying to kick around some ideas of doing a 1-day program at all 3 campuses for newly promoted Company Officers

MFA report – Director Jeffrey Winn

- Recruit programs class 318 starting on Monday is full. Still got vacancies in the January classes in Stow and Springfield. Bridgewater has 1 vacancy in the February class. Classes 320 and 321 in February and April in Stow will have the Haverhill safer grant seats.
- We are managing the RFO rosters more aggressively than we have in the past. We will be down to the 3 ½ - 4 month wait list by spring or summer of next year
- We are at 36 students in Stow, so we had to split days like the pool
- We still do a minimum of 210 recruits with the 7 Call/Vol classes. Minimum of 30 – 40 depending on where the Call/Vol construct is, sometimes we get the full 40 or we get 30
- Looking at the policies, the live burn was a big one to get out protect the agency. We will be looking at the policy on RFO to modernize that and updating it. We are also looking at updating the rehab policy from lessons learned from RABDO in the last couple of months.
- We have rolled out the bridge training for live burn instructors and crib staff. The new live burn class for new instructors will roll out in February
- January is firefighter cancer awareness month. Abby is going out to Hazardous Materials conference and FCAM and PFFM to conduct screenings

• Old Business -

- **New Business – Director Jeffrey Winn** – We will be presenting to the policy subcommittee in January, to update the Massachusetts Fire Service Personnel to include firefighters from military installations in the Commonwealth (to include Barnes Air Base, Westover Air Base, Hanscom Air Base and Joint Base Cape Cod. Right now, the policy says that to take the required training they must pay for the classes. We are looking to waive the fee until we can get the policy in front of the sub-committee in January.
- **Approval of Waiver** – Firefighter William Cabral motion to adopt the waiver, seconded by Chief Justin Alexander. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion
- **Director Jeffrey Winn** - We will also be proposing to the policy sub-committee to review in January Incident Safety Officer policy. The language that is written now on the Haz Mat side is not reflective of our current policies.
- **DFS General Counsel Glenn Rooney** – also for review by the policy sub-committee for January meeting, will be consideration of a Training Council Anti-Harassment Policy. This will bring us in line with our sister academies that have a specific harassment policy, that being the MPTC and State Police. This is more training council and MFA specific as a parallel to that myself and Rachel Perlman will deliver training to all the instructors. It closely mirrors the policies at our sister organizations.

• Policy Presentation/Adoption –

• Review of Correspondence

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 11:00 am at our Stow campus.

- **Public Comment**

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Chief Frank Barresi Motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala at 11:45 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.