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CHIEF WALTER O. NELSON
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the December 7, 2022 Meeting**

Chairman Chief Tim Nelson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and began the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:10 am on December 7, 2022, at the DFS Stow campus.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Jason Cardoso, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Chief Christopher Madden, Chief Justin Alexander, Lieutenant John Lombardo, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, Vice Chairman Firefighter Billy Cabral, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, and Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney, Operations Director David Clemons, DFS PIO Jake Wark, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Recruit Coordinator Dennis Ball, Special Hazards Coordinator Paul Betti, Curriculum Specialist Sara Walsh, Public Education Coordinator Tom Impey, Jeffrey Winn, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Chief Frank Barresi, Atty. Courtney Mayo, and Chief David Celino.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chief Justin Alexander made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2022 Training Council Meeting. The vote passed in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report – Deputy Marshal Fournier

The trust fund currently has a negative balance and we intend to make a mid-year adjustment in January. We have exceeded our estimated revenue for FY23 based on predicted contracts. We need to make some adjustments internally in order to pay the instructor staff and in turn the municipalities reimburse us. Contracts are coming in heavy this year due to AFG's to fire departments.

C. EOPSS Update – Undersecretary -Jeanne Thorpe

We are meeting weekly about the ASHER program working with several stakeholders. Full-time positions have been allocated here and with MPTC. We're going strong with the planning. Met with HSAs last week where federal agencies and White House folks were brought in to discuss their top priorities: crisis at border, active shooting and cyber security. FEMA changed the formula last

year based last year's data. Fortunately, we are level funded. A lot of the information the Marshal puts forward to EOPSS for funding, we try to get as much as we can from Homeland Security for equipment, training and curriculum for the ASHER project. We are getting ready for border control ordinances to be lifted at the end of year and we've been meeting weekly with many agencies to put the Governor's plan in place. The goal is to get processes in place for new administration.

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

- Chief Nelson--representing part paid/part call – nothing to report
- Chief Madden--representing metro Fire District 13 – District 13 held a TtT active shooter and included two fire department and police personnel from each community that attended. They hired a private company. Milton FD may be holding a recruit class in the June/July time frame.
- Chief Barresi--representing call – not present
- Chief Justin Alexander -representing full-time – When Easton did their Active Shooter program in August, one of the Chief's takeaway was that there was a lack of preparedness when it came to transport of victims to various hospitals.

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral—reported the passing of Bob McCarthy, a long-time Watertown Firefighter, legislative agent for PFFM as President for 25 years. A lot of rights and benefits that the firefighters have in the Commonwealth are because of Bob McCarthy.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller—nothing to report
- Assistant Chief Ruchala—nothing report

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Assistant Chief Connerty— nothing to report

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Lt. John Lombardo – Prevention has a role in some of the information that was shared by the Undersecretary and Marshal as far as identifying resiliencies for facilities and target hazards. Marshal noted that public education is a key component as well as fire prevention.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso— nothing to report

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief Dave Celino— not present

Citizen of the Commonwealth

- Attorney Courtney Mayo – not present

E. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- Updates to the NPFA 1 - 2021 amendments to the Fire Code will take effect on Friday, December 9. Fire Safety Division will be rolling out the training and the dates will be set soon. The official document will be available through the Secretary of State's office and an unofficial version on the DFS website. NFPA will be publishing a Fire Codes book in 4-5 months.

F. DFS Update – Deputy Marshal Fournier for Fire Marshal Ostroskey

- We remember those that have passed away during this time of the year. Bob McCarthy was certainly a key player in the development of the agency.
- Worcester is going through a tough time in December with several anniversaries of firefighter deaths. 12/14 is the 10th anniversary of Sandy Hook.
- As the Undersecretary mentioned, there's a lot of work going with ASHER planning.
- Many cities and towns have received fire equipment grants in the past and we will be announcing a new round. Fire departments are in need of equipment and we appreciate the executive office advocating for them.
- We are in the fire and electrical code home stretch.
- Paul Vigneau, Director of Fire Safety, is retiring at the end of January. Senior Engineer Jen Hoyt is leaving at the end of December.
- On Monday, we received certification of the Bridgewater study and we will continue on with the planning process. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades are happening which has created scrambling by staff for space.
- Wish you all the best in the holiday season.

G. Academy Activities Report – Deputy Fire Marshal Fournier

- Career Recruit Assignment list: Stow is filling July, Bridgewater is filling June, and Springfield is filling March.
- We continue to hire instructors – our last orientation had 29 new instructors. There currently is a posting for another 12.
- At our bi-annual coordinator meeting yesterday, it was reiterated that staffing is a big issue in all programs. One of the questions was, what if we don't have enough staff on the day of the class to run the class. Use discretion to decide if the course should be cancelled if it is a safety issue.
- MFA will be looking at people who have not been working in the last two years. We will contact them but will terminate them if they cannot commit to working.
- The Deputy Marshal announced Jeffrey Winn as the new Director of the MFA beginning January 3, 2023.

H. Old Business

I. New Business

- Approval of MFTC Annual Report per M.G.L. ch. 6, Sec 164 for submission to Governor's office – Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala made a motion, seconded by Lt. John Lombardo, to approve the 2022 annual report. The vote was unanimous in favor of the vote.
- Jonathan Miller asked about understanding the process of how a course gets allocated and where they will be held. The Deputy Marshal reported we ask the Program Coordinators to set their course budget yearly and we go line by line based on the online course request form completed by departments. The Council is asking for a MFA 101 presentation as part of their annual review of Academy courses and curriculum. The Deputy Marshal noted that information will be presented at the February MFTC meeting.

J. Policy Presentation/Adoption

K. Review of Correspondence

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, January 4 at 11:00 am at our Stow campus.

L. Public Comment

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Chief Justin Alexander made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.