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CHIEF WALTER O. NELSON
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the February 1, 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 11:05 am on February 1, 2023, at the DFS Stow campus.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, MFA Director Jeffrey Winn, Mr. Jason Cardoso, Chief Christopher Madden, Lieutenant John Lombardo, Attorney Courtney Mayo, Chief Justin Alexander, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, Chief David Celino, and Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Special Hazards Coordinator Paul Betti, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Firefighter Billy Cabral, Chief Frank Barresi and Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller made a motion, seconded by Chief Chris Madden, to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2023 Training Council Meeting. The vote passed in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report – MFA Director Winn

Director Winn reported no issues with the MFA Trust Fund.

C. EOPSS Update – Undersecretary -Jeanne Thorpe

- New Governor has asked some of EOPSS to stay and work through new processes. EOTSS is in place for cyber security. EOPSS will help them with on boarding. Important to keep moving forward with projects across the Secretariats.
- Homeland security grant process is kicking off and we have had multiple meetings with FEMA. The Homeland Security team is working on grants and are due mid- March. FEMA formulas went out and the State is back to close to what we were before.
- Boston Marathon – we're hoping to have the same security as prior years as a SERE 1.
- Active Shooter Training – working with stakeholders weekly.

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

- Chief Nelson--representing part paid/part call – nothing to report
- Chief Madden-- nothing to report
- Chief Barresi--representing call – not present
- Chief Justin Alexander – nothing to report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral— not present

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller—received a question regarding an EMS requirement for training. Chief Alexander's department is using the guidance from DPH. Fire Marshal Ostroskey noted EMS training is not tied to one particular course.
- Assistant Chief Ruchala—not present

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Position open

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Lt. John Lombardo – members are working on taking initial New Code Orientation training. Asked if additional training would be scheduled – yes, the agency is working on an online component.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso— nothing to report

Bureau of Forest Fire Control – Chief Dave Celino

- Reported that Scott Bassett retired as Fire Warden after 37 years. Fire occurrence numbers haven't changed from last month. Prescribed fires – 74 operations for 2022; 2,000 treated acres. Staffing – seven patrolmen filled. Target for seasonal is 46 this year. The department has a Deputy Chief position open. Volunteer fire assistance grants have gone out with increased funding from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for towns with a population of less than 10,000.

Citizen of the Commonwealth

- Attorney Courtney Mayo – nothing to report

E. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- We are tracking a number of bills for the fire service; a lot of refiles. New bills to promote cancer screenings require insurance coverage and municipalities to mandate the screenings. House bill 2054 -an act relative to sign language training. As one of the statutory duties of the Training Council, it would establish the training and on-going education courses that would cover basic understanding of American Sign Language by all levels of the fire service. It would amend the Training Council's current legislation. We will continue to track the progress and will update.
- Sprinkler bill – act relative to enhancing fire protection in new and one family dwellings.
- There will be a Fire Code update – polished version of the code will be out this Friday.

F. DFS Update – Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey

- January was Firefighter cancer awareness month. A lot of good information was passed on with some events that were held and ending with a skin cancer screening on the Stow campus. We continue to raise awareness and the level of consciousness to the Commonwealth's firefighter.
- We are spending a lot of time on active shooter/hostile event work. The Secretary adopted NFPA 3000 as the framework for the Commonwealth and has directed agencies to work through that. Many agencies are involved and we have a really good launching point for work we need to do.
- We had a meeting with fire service and public safety leadership under the direction of the Secretary of EOPSS and launched information and are engaging with the ALERT training program. MFA will be able to leverage ALERT's training. We are taking a positive step forward with this training and will be able to reach a broad spectrum of public safety organizations.
- Fire Code and Electrical Codes have been adopted. We continue to work on the training piece by incorporating the changes in Fire Prevention training. We're pushing out the new electrical codes and building codes continues to go through the administrative process. Working with NFPA to publish a combined document with NFPA with the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations.
- We're working diligently on a new budget; the Governor's budget will come out in late March. A Training Council annual budget presentation will be scheduled at that time.
- Bridgewater – we have couple of big projects in process; mechanical, electrical and plumbing. Contractor work is on track.
- Several employees have left or will be leaving and we're in the process of hiring. Paul Vigneau, Director of Fire Safety will be retiring at the end of February. The Public Education Coordinator's position is in process of being advertised. Looking for two Chief Fire Protection Engineers in the Fire Safety Division. In the final stages of hiring a Deputy Director for Special Operations and Technical Rescue. We have a new position for Statewide Director of ASHER programs to oversee all the ASHER activities for the Department; interviews starting next week. Reorganization and reclassifications are happening in the Fiscal Division. Deputy General Counsel position open. Bunch of hiring in support and instructor positions.

G. MFA report – Director Jeffrey Winn

- Been on the job for 30 days and have been to all three campuses. I've been at each campus' Career Recruit graduation including CFO. Listened to issues, challenges, strengths & weaknesses of each of the campuses and will bring back for further discussions.
- With the increase in instructor pay, we are seeing an increase in the number of instructors showing up for the Career Recruit training. We hired an additional 26 new instructors.
- I have had open dialogues with Chiefs around the state regarding getting recruits through training and keeping up the quality of training.
- Cancer Awareness – screened over 245 firefighters in January at 11 different sites. 45 members were referred for further screening.
- In March, we will be sending folks to the first two ASHER classes; we are selecting the right mix of instructors to do this training and development.
- Chief Celino noted that cancer awareness program has made an impression with his Department. People are taking advantage of the program.

H. Old Business

I. New Business

- Certification Appeal – The Certification Sub-Committee met with a student regarding a Fire Officer 1 Appeal. Student failed the practical portion and explained his position to the Sub-

Committee. The recommendation from Certification Sub-Committee is to support the student's appeal to pass the practical certification exam. Chief Justin Alexander made a motion, seconded by Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, to approve the Certification Sub-Committee's recommendation. The motion passed; Chief Madden abstained. A member asked what the Sub-Committee's rationale was behind the decision. The Chairman noted that through their discussion, they felt that there was a little gray area. The student could have done more but two of the points were a little gray. There was enough ambiguity to support his case.

J. Policy Presentation/Adoption

K. Review of Correspondence

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- FCAM conference is being held during the week of the next Training Council meeting. The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 11:00 am at our Stow campus.

L. Public Comment

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Assistant Chief Miller made a motion, seconded by Chief Alexander, to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.