



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR

TERRENCE M. REIDY
SECRETARY

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
Massachusetts Fire Training Council*

P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775

(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3229



LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the February 2, 2022 Meeting
Webex**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council with the Pledge of Allegiance at 11:10 am on February 2, 2022.

Members roll call attendance: Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Fire Marshal Michael Swain, Chief Dave Celino, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, Chief Frank Barresi, Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe, Chief Sheri Bemis, Ret., Chief Tim Nelson and Jason Cardoso.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney, Director of Operations Dave Clemons, Special Hazards Coordinator Paul Betti, MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik, Curriculum Specialist Sara Walsh, Recruit Coordinator Dennis Ball, Call/Vol Coordinator Chris Norris, Assistant Chief Tim Choate, Webex monitor Linda Crowley, and Administrative Assistant Susan Neaz.

Not present: Chief Richard DeLorie, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Assistant Kurt Ruchala, and Firefighter Billy Cabral.

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis made a motion, seconded by Chief Frank Barresi, to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2022 Training Council Meeting. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report

Deputy Marshal Maribel Fournier noted that the MFA continues to be very busy with contract training. Communities are receiving funds through various funding sources. Training is paid for up front and when completed departments are billed and deposited to the trust fund. There are no concerns with the fund.

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

- Chief Nelson--representing part paid/part call – nothing to report
- Chief Delorie--representing metro – not present

- Chief Barresi--representing call – nothing to report
- Position open -representing full-time

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral—not present.
- Lieutenant Medeiros—Committees are going to report today on what is still pending. Some members are in Baltimore attending a service for fallen first responders.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller—not present
- Assistant Chief Ruchala—not present

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Assistant Chief Connerty—no MIFDI meeting this month

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Fire Marshal Michael Swain—nothing new to report; the next FPAM meeting is next week.

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso—nothing to report. Concern about upcoming ice storm and potential damage from it.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control

- Chief Dave Celino—The good news is all our seasonal staff will begin on March 13 and end on November 5 with a total of 48 members. This will give us a lot of horsepower with doing prescribed fires and hitting any fall fire season issues. Of interest for training – 1) UAS training offering certification probably in 2023. 2) The National Wildfire Coordinating Group Standards for Recognition of Prior Learning: These standards establish the use of a formal competency-based qualification process that allows any credentialing authority to recognize and account for competence acquired through life-long learning and experience. This is a big accomplishment for us. Link to [**NWCG Standards for Recognition of Prior Learning \(RPL\) | NWCG**](#)

Citizens of the Commonwealth

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis—nothing to report

D. Legislative Update –DFS Counsel Glenn Rooney

- The legislative session just began a couple of weeks ago and we will continue to track any fire service legislation. Following last meeting, we sent the annual report to the Governor’s office.

E. DFS Update – Fire Marshal Ostroskey

- The Governor’s budget has been filed – thanks to the support and effort of EOPSS, DFS has done well.
- The department had some vacancies from retirements that have been filled. There are number of other positions we’re looking to fill including the MFA Director’s position.
- Although fire deaths are down from the previous year, the unfortunate news is that the senior population deaths have risen. We are working with stakeholders to raise awareness for seniors by taking advantage of the Senior SAFE program.

F. Academy Activities Report - Deputy Marshal Fournier

- The Director's position is posted and will be until the end of March.
- The Academy is extremely busy scheduling and delivering courses and certification exams.
- We have made changes in the curriculum to make it possible to hold the recruit classes virtually if there is a snow emergency.
- COVID seems to be slowing down at DFS and it has not impacted any programs.
- We have backfilled Registration Coordinator Lorie Anderson's position and she will stay on until March to train her replacement. In addition, the Recruit Registration Assistant position has also been filled and she is in training as well.
- We are wrapping up interviews for the 25 instructor positions this week. MassCareers tasks are being done and HR will receive packets next week. We'll see where we're at with instructors teaching in various programs and probably do another round of hiring in mid to late March for another 25 instructors.
- CT scans – UMass has asked us to put scheduling scans on hold as they are having staffing issues and are busy with COVID patients. We will hopefully restart the scheduling within the next week or two.
- Update on PFAS at Stow – we have a procured a water filter system and will be cleaning our own water on site.
- Assignment list is at 222. Stow class filling August, Bridgewater filling August, Springfield filling May.

G. Old Business

- Vice Chairman nomination – Assistant Chief Connerty made a motion, seconded by Lieutenant Medeiros, to nominate Chief Tim Nelson for Vice Chairman. No other nominations were made. Chief Celino made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Undersecretary Benincasa Thorpe. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. On the motion to nominate Chief Nelson to Vice Chairman, the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.
- Deputy Marshal Fournier explained that because of a concern regarding the notification list, we tested different ways of notifying students when a course will be opening up for registration. She noted the number of people on the notification list does not necessarily mean they want to take the class. Registration will now notify people two days before the course opens up. Assistant Chief Connerty thanked the Academy for sending notification emails. The question was asked if people could make up any day that is missed for the Fire Instructor class– Deputy Marshal indicated there are no make ups.

H. New Business

I. Policy Presentation/Adoption

- Proposed Revision of Call/Volunteer Rules & Regulations – The Policy Sub-Committee met to discuss the updates and approved the changes to bring to the full council. Deputy Marshal Fournier explained that some housekeeping revisions were made regarding electronic devices and is the same language as Career Recruit. On page 4 under Attendance, section H – we have updated the language to include an avenue of returning to the program if a student is withdrawn due to injury or illness, similar to the Career Recruit program. Currently, there is no way of re-entry back into the Call/Vol program. After discussion with the Recruit and Call/Vol Coordinators and Deputy Klucznik, we came to agreement that if a student is withdrawn due to injury or illness after the final exam, there will be an opportunity for them to return to an

upcoming class. The classes to be made up need to be the exact days the student previously missed. Chief Barresi made a motion, seconded by Marshal Swain, to approve the revisions suggested by the MFA. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

J. Review of Correspondence

- Chelsea Fire Department request for 10-year old gear waiver – Deputy Marshal Fournier responded that the agency is not inclined to waive the gear requirement as it is an NFPA standard. Counsel Rooney noted a substantial amount of thought and time has gone into the development of the well-reasoned standard and it would put the Agency, the Council, and the Chelsea Fire Department at risk if a recruit were to get hurt using older gear. We understand the difficulties departments are having with supply chain issues however we are suggesting that there are options for departments to utilize. Assistant Chief Connerty made a motion, seconded by Chief Nelson, to deny the request for a waiver and would ask the Academy to draft a response to the Chelsea Fire Department. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 11:00 am on Webex.

L. Public Comment

- Chairman Medeiros read a letter of resignation from Michael Swain and thanked him for his service on the Council and wished him the best in his retirement.

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Assistant Chief Connerty made a motion, seconded by Chief Celino, to adjourn the meeting at 12:05. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.