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LIEUTENANT PAUL J. MEDEIROS  
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council  
Minutes of the February 5, 2020 Meeting**

Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros opened the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:10 am on February 5, 2020 at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance were: Jason Cardoso, Firefighter Billy Cabral, Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty, Chairman Lieutenant Paul Medeiros, Chief Rick DeLorie, Chief Richard Donovan, Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Frank Barresi, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala, and Chief Fire Warden Dave Celino.

Also present were DFS Counsel Steven Rourke, Director of Operations Dave Clemons, State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, Special Hazards Program Coordinator Paul Betti, Call/Vol Program Coordinator Chris Norris, Certification Assistant Coordinator Kevin Robinson, and MFA Deputy Director Joseph Klucznik.

Not present: Vice Chairman Tim Nelson, Director Dave Evans and Undersecretary Jeanne Benincasa Thorpe.

**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Assistant Chief Andrew Connerty made a motion, seconded by Chief Rick DeLorie, to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2020 Training Council Meeting. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. Fiscal Affairs Report**

Deputy Director Klucznik presented the MFA Trust Fund report for the period of 12/22/19 through 1/25/20. The trust fund has no abnormalities and is healthy.

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

- Chief Nelson –representing part paid/part call –not present
- Chief Delorie - representing metro – noting to report
- Chief Barresi - representing call - nothing to report
- Chief Donovan – representing full-time – nothing to report

**Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts**

- Lt. Medeiros – AFG period from the federal government is open with emphasis on health and safety and equipment.
- Firefighter Cabral – Legislation is starting to come out on a couple of important topics.

### **Mass Call/Vol**

- Assistant Chief Miller – The next Region 4 MCVFA meeting is February 19 in Goshen
- Assistant Chief Ruchala – nothing to report

### **Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors**

- Assistant Chief Connerty – nothing to report

### **Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts**

- Position open

### **Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry**

- Jason Cardoso – nothing to report

### **Bureau of Forest Fire Control**

- Chief David Celino – I spent the last couple of weeks in meetings around the country. The Wildland Fire Leadership Council provides direction on a national level. The message received from that meeting was folks around the country are on board with prescribed fires. Met with folks involved with the town of Paradise, CA; many lessons learned from that incident. Training – we will be rolling out the NWCG S131 entry-level fireline leadership course. We are going to meet to refine the delivery of the course. We would like to couple this with the mobilization plan creating local incidents. It is a 12-hour course with a national certificate.

### **Citizens of the Commonwealth**

- Ret. Chief Sheri Bemis – nothing to report

### **D. Legislative Update –Counsel Steve Rourke**

- Transfer of Bridgewater is working its way through the process.
- An act relative to firefighter training that would waive the 960 hours for any firefighter was reported out favorably.

### **E. DFS Update –Fire Marshal Ostroskey**

- Mobilization plan went through a rewrite and we are seeking input for the reconstituted plan. We're in the process of assembling scope and developing training. We're in the procurement process for securing training for the plan. The format is dramatically different.
- FCAM will be hosting a presentation on the Las Vegas shooting at the conference on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. DFS is working with many stakeholders on active shooter protocols. It's a good opportunity for us to review our protocols.
- DFS will be participating in a meeting regarding fire service suicides. It's a critical issue that the department wants to work with anyone that we can work with as there are no clear answers.
- The department pushed out round 2 of the washer/extractor grant program – application period closed on Monday. We will award the grant early next week. The administration has been very supportive with funding.
- Next month, the Deputy Marshal and I will be giving our annual presentation on the FY21 budget. Preliminary results look very favorable.
- Everyone has worked really hard on the Bridgewater facility and there is praise for the team. We started a 14-person recruit class on time. Facilities has transformed the facility and MFA made modifications to the recruit lesson plans.
- PFAS – We have a LSP under contract and field report with DEP on time. We will request for funding for needs we have relative to soil contamination extraction and removal. The agency receives its drinking water from the Town of Sudbury.

#### **F. Academy Activities Report – Deputy Director Klucznik**

- Career Recruit Graduation for call S14 on February 7 and Assistant Chief Miller is presenting the outstanding student award. Stow class 280 is graduation on February 14 and Lieutenant Medeiros is presenting.
- Career Recruit assignment list number is 269. Stow is 178, filling July 16 with 6 seats open; Springfield is 50 filling July 9 with 15 seats open; Bridgewater is 41 filling August 6 with 1 seat open. One SAFER hold for Wrentham was moved from April to July and five (5) seats have been assigned to Saugus in July in Stow.
- Call/Vol class 080 graduation is February 24 at 7:00 in Stow and class 081 graduation is February 27 at 7:00 in Boxford.
- Call/Vol Fall River class 082 will begin February 29 and graduate on June 29; Stow class 083 will begin March 1 and graduate June 30.
- Chief Fire Officer program just graduated 37 on January 31.
- AFG – funding for search & rescue – in conceptual design phase.
- We have had very good start in Bridgewater with good feedback. The recruits have been positive and have had good grades.
- We're in the process of hiring 36 new instructors to help back fill Bridgewater.
- We have received four applicants for Certification Coordinator.
- We have extended offers for the Advanced FF Skills and Maritime Coordinator positions.
- We have received 33 applications for Education Specialist.
- Bridgewater burn days will be March 17-20 at the Milford FD.
- There was a question regarding if a burn building will be built in Bridgewater. The Marshal indicated that the priorities with the \$10 million bond bill is 1) a water reclamation system; 2) burn building; 3) fire house.

#### **G. Old Business**

#### **G. New Business**

- Certification Appeal – The Chairman reported to the Council that a student appeared before the Certification Sub-Committee to hear an appeal regarding denial of his Fire Instructor I exam. He stated his case and reviewed his answers for the mandatory skills station. After July 1, 2019, through the Pro Board, there's been additional skill stations added to the exam. In the candidate's opinion, there was a flaw in the testing procedure that produced confusion on his part. The program was taken somewhere else. The candidate was denied his request based on insufficient reason for his failure. The person is scheduled to retake the exam and the staff will inform the candidate of the denial. The first appeal goes to the Certification Coordinator, then to the MFA Director, then to the Certification Sub-Committee with the final decision.

#### **I. Policy Presentation/Adoption**

#### **J. Review of Correspondence**

#### **K. Determination of Next Date and Location**

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be Wednesday, March 11 at 11:00 am at the Bridgewater campus.

#### **L. Public Comment**

#### **M. Adjourn Meeting**

- Chief Barresi made a motion, seconded by Chief Donovan, to adjourn the meeting at 12:00. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.