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Massachusetts Fire Training Council*

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CHIEF WALTER O. NELSON
CHAIRMAN

**Massachusetts Fire Training Council
Minutes of the February 7, 2024 Meeting**

Chairman Chief Tim Nelson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and began the meeting of the Massachusetts Fire Training Council at 11:08 am on February 7, 2024, in the Boards and Commissions room.

Members attendance: Chairman Chief Tim Nelson, Firefighter William Cabral, Assistant Chief Jonathan Miller, Chief Justin Alexander, Deputy Chief Fire Warden Andrew Regan, Chief Christopher Madden, Lieutenant John Lombardo, Captain John Bonadio, Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey, Director Eric Littmann, Jason Cardoso and Administrative Secretary Christine Dansereau.

Also present were State Fire Marshal Jon Davine, Deputy Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier, DFS Operations Sections Chief Dave Clemons, DFS Counsel Rachel Perlman, Instructional Design and Curriculum Development Specialist, Sara Pragluski Walsh,

Not present: Chief Frank Barresi, Chief Fire Warden David Celino, Courtney Mayo Esquire, Assistant Chief Kurt Ruchala

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Deputy Secretary Susan Terrey made a motion, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2024 Training Council Meeting, seconded by Chief Justin Alexander. The vote passed in favor of the motion.

B. Fiscal Affairs Report – Deputy State Fire Marshal Maribel Fournier

- We are very heavy on contracts going until the end of June. Our beginning revenue is \$500k, it exceeds what we have closed since the beginning of the fiscal year. We have some outstanding encumbrances and as you can see, we are in the positive.

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 – we are continuing to move forward with all our training coordinators in for all departments in metro fire. They formed a group and have a president; they have monthly meetings. We will be using the Academy more with classes.

- Chief Barresi – not present
- Chief Justin Alexander – nothing to report

Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

- Firefighter Cabral— waiting to see what bills get released from committee.

Mass Call/Vol

- Assistant Chief Miller— we have a fairly new president Michael Goldstein who had been very active in trying to get the organization back from Covid years.
- Assistant Chief Ruchala— not present

Massachusetts Institute of Fire Department Instructors

- Capt. John Bonadio – next meeting is 2/28 in Burlington. The topic for the month will be PFAS.

Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts

- Lt. John Lombardo – we are still in the development stage for our seminar in May. If you have anyone in the Prevention world that would like to present at the seminar, please let me know

Citizen of the Commonwealth – Insurance Industry

- Jason Cardoso— thank you to the Marshal for coming to the retirement party for the outgoing President. He was very involved with the fire service community.

Bureau of Forest Fire Control – Deputy Chief Fire Warden Andrew Regan –

- We have an aggressive training schedule for Lynn fire to cover all their shifts in 3 days, that is about 200 people prior to the fire season.
- We are developing a training on how to use leaf blowers at wildfires

Citizen of the Commonwealth

- Attorney Courtney Mayo – nothing to report

E. Legislative Update – DFS Counsel Rachel Perlman

- The hospital 2550 and senate bill 1715 which is an act relative to firefighter training which is the bill that would waive the 960-hour restriction for retired firefighters who are employed by DFS, that was reported out favorably by the joint committee on public safety as of yesterday.

DFS Update – Marshal Jon Davine

- Fire equipment grants went out yesterday. We got a lot of positive feedback about that.
- We had a meeting yesterday about our Bridgewater package A, so we will be mobilizing in April to start work down there. Package A includes infrastructure, our water reclamation system and the new burn building.
- At the March training council meeting I will be presenting the Governor's recommended FY25 budget.
- Internally we have posted for a Fire Protection Engineer position, we are hoping we can attract some quality candidates.
- We are also working with DCAM on some work here in Stow regarding our PFAS issue. We are looking to find a permanent solution to contain that.
- The deadline for the Safe grant is next Thursday, February 15th at 5pm.

MFA Update – Director Eric Littmann

- Update on recruit classes, we are currently filling April 8th in Springfield, April 20th in Bridgewater and May 13th in Stow. Right now, on the waiting list we have 130 total.
- Dr. Sara Praguski Walsh and Kevin Robinson recently traveled to Florida for the ProBoard Conference, so they can be fully prepared for the reaccreditation process beginning in March.
- Last month was cancer awareness month, there were 7 deliveries in Taking Action Against Cancer, we had 2 members for mammograms screenings, 28 firefighters sent to vendors for CT scans, 14 were sent for PSA screenings, 6 cancer screenings were offered, and we had 131 firefighters across the state that participated. We also had 1 diagnosis of melanoma that came out of that.
- Program Coordinator hires, we have hired a Coordinator for Special Hazards, he will be starting on 2/20. The Coordinator for recruit was chosen and is currently in reference checks.
- We completed our mid-year internal review and are on track with all the projected allocations.
- The anti-harassment classes, we delivered 2 classes to date.
- **Old Business – Deputy Chief Fire Warden Andrew Regan** - at the December meeting Chief Celino asked about being involved in the CV program again. Director Littman will be checking on that for the next meeting.

- **New Business – Lt. John Lombardo** – there is a news article about a certain town utilizing door locking mechanism in their schools for ASHER based scenarios. It does not conform to fire code/building code etc. This will probably be discussed next week at our monthly meeting. We are looking at the previous Marshals issuance in 2018 regarding the fact that after market devices are often not in compliance with the building code or fire code.

Marshal Jon Davine – that is still correct, they are still not compliant.

- **Annual/Nominations and Elections – DFS Counsel Rachel Perlman** - It is that time of year to nominate the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Training Council for next year. I open the floor for nominations for the Chairperson of the Training Council. Chief Justin Alexander nominates Chief Nelson and seconded by Chief Christopher Madden. The vote passed in favor of the motion.
- I will open the floor for the nomination of the Vice Chairman. Chief Christopher Madden nominates Firefighter Bill Cabral and seconded by Director Eric Littmann. The vote passed in favor of the motion.
- **Review of the 2023 MFTC Annual Report** – Firefighter Bill Cabral made a motion to accept the 2023 MFTC Annual Report and seconded by Director Eric Littmann. The vote passed in favor of the motion.

- **Policy Presentation/Adoption**

- **Review of Correspondence**

K. Determination of Next Date and Location

- The next meeting of the Training Council will be on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 11:00 am at our Stow campus.
- **Public Comment**

M. Adjourn Meeting

- Chief Justin Alexander motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Chief Christopher Madden at 12:06 p.m. The vote passed in favor of the motion